

HOUSING & HOSTELS - T. V. L

1990

JULY - SEPT.

Don't pay says SCA

By PHANGISILE
MTSHALI

THE Soweto Civic Association has advised Diepkloof and Meadowlands rent defaulters to ignore letters sent to them by the Diepmeadow Council's lawyers demanding that they pay their rent arrears.

The letters were sent to defaulters by Florida lawyers Scholtz and Botha as the council tries to end the on-going rent boycott and recover more than R37 million owed by residents. (2) (127)

In a statement released at the weekend, SCA president Mr Isaac Mogase said: "Residents must ignore the letter sent to them by Scholtz and Botha." *Sowetan 2/17/90*

Mogase told *Sowetan* that the people of Soweto were not opposed to paying their rent, but were not prepared to pay the arrears.

Relax building regulations — councillor

NATIONAL building regulations will have to be relaxed to allow for low cost housing in the light of SA's serious housing crisis, says Johannesburg councillor Christopher Newton Thompson

Interviewed last week, he said low income groups could simply not afford houses costing R70 000 and more

Newton Thompson said Johannesburg did not have enough available land to redress its housing shortage

The only large areas of available land were south of Johannesburg and building there would only scratch the surface of the problem

About 62 000 units were needed just to relieve existing overcrowding in Soweto and coloured and Indian areas, he said

TANIA LEVY

In addition there was high population growth and continuing urbanisation with many squatters already living in Johannesburg and on its borders

About 7 000 houses could be built on council and trust-owned land south of Johannesburg

There was some land available west of Soweto, east of Lenasia and near to Ennerdale although these were outside Johannesburg's municipal boundaries

The northward movement of whites would allow people from overcrowded areas to move into vacant houses but would only slightly help the housing backlog, he said

The two new towns planned south of Soweto would not do much to

relieve Johannesburg's housing shortage, he said

While Rietfontein and Stretford would house about 1,2 million people, these would not be people working in Johannesburg.

Newton Thompson said to house Johannesburg's workers, land would have to be found no more than 20km outside the city.

The Johannesburg City Council in conjunction with the private sector and its metropolitan neighbours had to start building houses as soon as possible

The Regional Services Council would also have to fund infrastructure and help identify land

Proclamation of townships had to be speeded up and new financing methods introduced, he said

... believes the
reaping the benefits of

Pta council slaps ban on the use of facilities

Sowetan 4/7/90

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THE Atteridgeville Town Council, which has already lost R4 million in revenue since the rent boycott started four months ago, has temporarily banned political and civic organisations from using its facilities.

By MONK
NKOMO

Acting town clerk Mr Daan Mouton said yesterday the ban will be reviewed as soon as the rent boycott has been resolved

Political and civic organisations have been barred from using the

football grounds and halls

The Atteridgeville Saulsville, Residents' Organisation, which called for the rent boycott and the resignation of councillors at a public meeting at the Super Stadium on April 1, yesterday threatened to file an urgent application in the Pretoria Supreme Court to challenge the council's decision.

The council, at its meeting on June 27, turned down an application by Asro to hold a public meeting at the Super Stadium on Saturday. Mouton said the coun-

cil also rejected an application by the ANC for the use of the stadium

A spokesman for Asro said they had already briefed a lawyer to have the council's decision set aside

Supporters

Mouton acknowledged the right of organisations to communicate with its supporters.

He said he agreed that negotiations to improve and stabilise the present situation, particularly in black townships, were important.

"However, in the light of the fact that the council

is locked in a struggle to brake the present rent boycott, it has resolved that no organisations will be allowed to hold meetings in this regard at the stadium or at any other facilities of the council"

The rent boycott, however, seems to be far from being resolved. Councillors have refused to resign and Asro has vowed to continue the boycott until the councillors quit. "Residents will pay affordable rent or a flat rate for essential services rendered by the council but only after the councillors have resigned," a spokesman for Asro said.

Population explosion among blacks

Sowetan 4/7/90

THE engineering department of the Katlehong Town Council was yesterday attending to a cave-in in the East Rand township

Katlehong town secretary Mr H Grobblers confirmed the cave-in, saying residents had reported it to the council on Monday.

"Yes, it was reported to the council yesterday but there was nobody to do the job because of the stayaway"

Reported

Katlehong Civic Association chairman Mr Oupa Thibile said on

Council works on 'Spruit cave-in'

Monday the cave-in had been reported to the council

The cause of the cave-in was not known.

It was also not known whether the ground - the cave-in was said to be the size of a four-room house

- had stopped crumbling. "Unfortunately I cannot say whether it still caves in," said Grobblers.

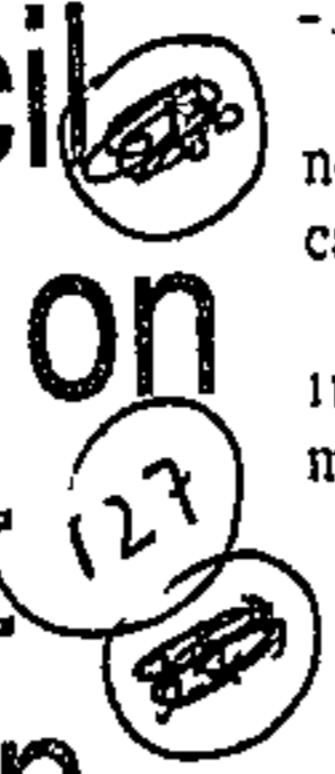
Thibile said the cave-in continued every minute.

Safety

For the safety of residents, it had been cordoned off by members of street committees in the area around Motloun and Moshoeshoe sections.

It was similar to the cave-in that reportedly occurred years ago in the area between the Westonaria and Carletonville, said Thibile - Sapa

Sowetan 4/7/90



SAP action at Mamelodi questioned

By Mckeed Kotlolo, (127)
9/11/90 Pretoria Bureau

Organisers of yesterday's Mamelodi rent meeting are to demand an explanation for police action which resulted in 255 people being injured.

Representations are to be made to Adriaan Vlok, Minister of Law and Order.

UDF leader Moss Chikane charged today that right-wing elements within the police force had been responsible for the disruption of the meeting.

Mr Chikane, who chaired the meeting, said because of the seriousness of the matter, it would be referred to ANC officials, who would, he believed, de-

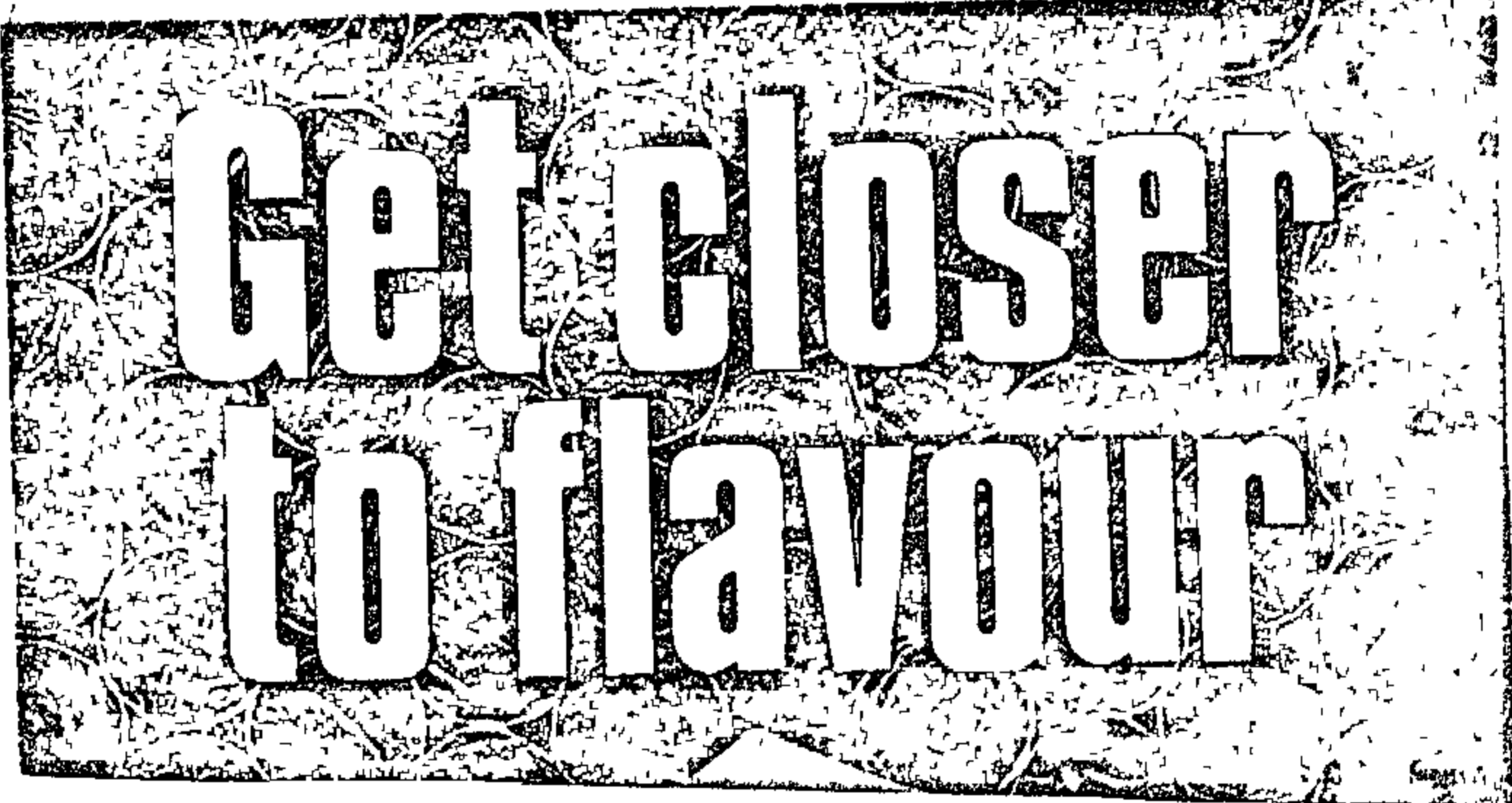
mand an explanation from President de Klerk and Mr Vlok.

He said by late last night the list of injured people had increased to 255.

When the police action started at 12.05 pm, many people inside the stadium were already seized, listening to publicity secretary Nyobo Malefo. People outside began shouting that the police had arrived.

Mr Malefo left the podium to speak to the police but before he could do so, eyewitnesses said, a teargas cannister landed in front of the podium. Many others followed.

There was pandemonium as people fought to get away.



100 are injured in clash with police

MORE than 100 people were injured in confrontations with police in Mamelodi yesterday, according to Pretoria United Democratic Front leader Mr Moss Chikane.

Police surrounded Mamelodi's HM Pitje Stadium where UDF officials were addressing a report-back meeting on the ongoing rents boycott in the area.

Chikane claimed the meeting had the backing of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

He said police blocked the main gate before firing teargas at a crowd of about 1 000 people in the stadium.

Kalafong Hospital spokeswoman Dr M Kelly said more than 100 people were admitted to the hospital and a clinic in the township.

Police spokesman Major Billy Vlotman denied police had blocked the gates.

He said the commanding officer ordered his men back after giving an order to disperse. The order was ignored.

Police say 12 people were arrested after they tried to burn the stadium and a minibus and a bus were gutted in petrol bomb attacks.

The UDF says it will make a formal complaint to Law and Order Minister Admaan Vlok.

MONK NKOMO reports that Attendgeville town councillors were yesterday warned that should electricity and water be cut because of the four-month-old rent boycott they should vacate their houses and go and live in town.

About 150 residents who attended a rowdy public meeting in the township, convened by the council to resolve the

rent crisis, called on councillors to resign immediately.

Councillor E Ntuba urged residents to pay rents and said arrears would be written off if residents started paying from this month.

Ntuba and councillor Mr Justice Tshungu and mayor Mr Velaphi Math-

ebula, said the council no longer had money to pay for essential services and feared that electricity and water may be cut soon.

The councillors were heckled at the meeting, which was called off at about 10.30am when police, led by a Colonel Kellerman, interrupted and stopped civic leader Mr Chippa Chidi from

responding to comments made by the councillors.

Before he was stopped, Chidi, an executive member of the Attendgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation, said councillors were refusing to resign because of the "fat allowances" of up to R2 000 they each received every month.

He said a commission of inquiry had recommended the dissolution of the council because of misuse of public funds and had not submitted financial statements.

Chidi said councillors should stop confusing residents about electricity and water cuts if rents were not paid.

5 comments
19/11/76
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Pay or be cut off — mayor

By Abel Mabelane,
East Rand Bureau

Tembisa mayor Solomon More has warned rent boycotters that unless water and electricity accounts were paid, supplies would be cut off on July 15.

He said in a television interview that Eskom and the Rand Water Board had warned the council that if it did not pay its debt by July 15 they would cut off supplies.

He appealed to rent boycotters to at least pay for water and electricity.

A meeting to have been held between a TPA official and local structures on June 28 to discuss the boycott failed to take place. A meeting is planned for some time this week.

Acting town clerk Willem Relihan said it had not yet been decided whether to allow residents to pay a flat rate for rent.

Evicted tenant may embark on sidewalk protest

By SONTI MASEKO ^{Soweto} 1017190

MORE than 200 tenants are uncertain about their occupancy of a block of flats in Johannesburg following the eviction of one and the summoning of 18 others.

The evicted tenant, Mr Ely Dingi (50), had his furniture and other belongings thrown out yesterday by a messenger of court following a court order to vacate the flat from the beginning of last month.

Other tenants believe their fate will also be the same and have vowed to help Dingi put up a tent in front of the building to protest against the eviction. (127)

Dingi was chairman of a tenants committee, affiliated to the anti-eviction group Actstop.

The building is under the care of a Mr Barry Cohen.

A Johannesburg lawyer who acted for Cohen said although he felt sorry for Dingi, he and other tenants were given enough time to find alternative accommodation.

He said all the tenants had to go as the building was to be refurbished and used for business purposes.

Another tenant, Mr George Sejaphala, said that last month the landlord had refused to accept their rent money which they were paying through Actstop's lawyers.

Since April 1988 the tenants had decided to pay R88 a month, a figure determined by the Rent Control Board.

Before then they were charged about R250 each for a bachelor flat.

Tenants said they have had to maintain the flats, repair lifts, hire plumbers, clean the building and fix

the lights because the owner would not maintain the building since they started paying the lower rent.

Mr Mahomed Dangor of Actstop said yesterday the affair showed that in this country justice was for people who could afford it.

He challenged the Johannesburg City Council not to take action against Dingi and other tenants who will be putting up tents in front of the building.

Evicted couple, kids spend night in tent

Sowetan 11/7/90

SOWETAN Reporter

ACTSTOP member Mr Ely Dingi, his wife Beatrice and their three children spent Monday night in a tent on the pavement outside a block of flats where they were evicted through a court order.

Angry tenants supported by Actstop placed placards on the tent demanding the re-imposition of rent control, affordable housing for all and the scrapping of the Separate Amenities Act.

Eighteen other tenants have been served with summonses to appear in court and lawyers acting for the landlord, a Mr Bloc Cohen, said all 51 tenants would eventually have to go because the building was to be refurbished and used for letting.

Tenants said they had been paying between R250 and R300 a month for a bachelor flat until April 1988.

They had decided to pay R88 a month because the building was under rent control.

Last month the landlord refused to accept their money.

Yesterday the caretaker of the building, Mr Leslie Kuppen, said the R88 monthly rentals added up to only R4 400 a month, which was not enough to maintain the building.

Conflict at Mamelodi: key inquest policeman in charge

Star 12/7/90

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Pretoria Correspondent

A key figure in the inquest into the death of 12 Mamelodi residents in 1985 was in charge of the riot squad in the township on Sunday when police fired tear-gas and rubber bullets at a rent meeting at the H M Pitje Stadium.

Captain Hermanus Arnoldus le Roux, district support officer at Pretoria Moot, was last month described as "a liar" in the Pretoria North Magistrate's Court by Mr Morris Basslian, counsel for the families of the 1985 shootings.

Shooting

Captain le Roux had told the inquest that he shot dead a demonstrator with his R-1 semi-automatic rifle in Mamelodi on the day of the shooting.

He said he shot another man to prevent him throwing an object at a passing defence force vehicle.

The presiding magistrate at the inquest, Mr J N Pretorius, said he was unable to make a finding and referred the evidence to the Attorney-General.

Mr Pretorius said that due to the conflicting evidence given during the inquest and the time lapse, it was difficult to determine whether the deaths were brought about by any acts or an omission amounting to an offence on the part of any person.

Documents

The Attorney-General, Mr Don Brunette, said yesterday he had not yet received the magistrate's findings.

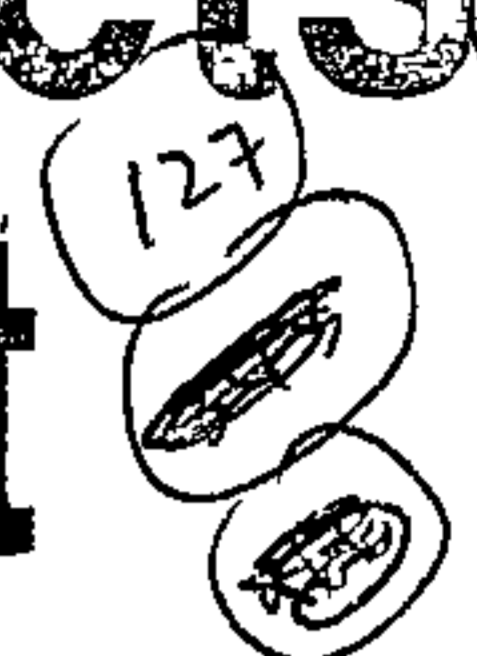
The matter would be considered as soon as he had received the documents.

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Directorate said yesterday Captain le Roux had not been suspended since the Mamelodi shootings in 1985.

Police and organisers of Sunday's report-back meeting in Mamelodi differ on the crucial aspects which led to teargas and rubber bullets being fired to disperse more than 16 000 residents and diplomats. — Sapa.

Tembisa plan gets council support

Sowetan 13/7/90



THE Tembisa Town Council on the East Rand has supported joint action between the council and local organisations to redress the township's socio-economic and political problems.

In a hard-hitting statement on Wednesday, Tembisa's mayor Mr SB More called for a meeting between the council and representatives of wide-ranging local organisations, in an endeavour to

develop a strategy for the problems

"The council regrets the fact that black towns and cities up until now is an area which has not received the attention it deserves

"Some of these issues include lack of adequate services, housing, inappropriate rentals and service charges," said More

It was therefore neces-

sary that "we as organisations and individuals of Tembisa affected by the issues mentioned above, should sit together to discuss the strategies, address and possibly resolve these matters" - Sapa.



... up ... police walk through the congested offices of lawyer SD Fanaroff during a sit-in by Polly Lodge residents.

Picture JUSTIN SHOLK

150 Polly Lodge tenants sit in at lawyer's offices

WMAZ 13/7 16/7/90
 ABOUT 150 Polly Lodge tenants staging a sit-in at the offices of Johannesburg lawyers were given 10 minutes to disperse by police yesterday.

The tenants from the central Johannesburg block of flats staged the sit-in to protest against the eviction of Eli Dinge and his family on Monday.

The lawyer, SD Fanaroff, represented Polly Lodge's landlord in a court application to evict Dinge.

Johannesburg's deputy sheriff on Monday served an eviction order on Dinge effectively moving him out of the Polly Street building.

He subsequently set up a tent on the pavement outside. (127) (10)

Actstop executive member George Sejaphala said the tenants were demanding an explanation from the attorney and the landlord for the eviction and impending eviction of other tenants.

"We will continue the sit-in until they meet us or seek a court order to evict us," they said.

Fanaroff said he was suprised that the tenants were staging a sit-in in his offices.

He said the Supreme Court gave an order for the eviction and he had only submitted the facts in favour of the eviction.

(127)

Tembisa warns that conflict looms over cuts

w/ Mail 13/7-16/7/90

By MONDLI MAKHANYA

COMMUNITY leaders in Tembisa have warned of a major confrontation if the township council carries out its threat to cut electricity and water supplies, on Sunday in order to force residents to abandon the four-year-old rent boycott.

At a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday called in response to mayor Sam More's threat, the Tembisa Residents' Association said "if the town council proceeds with its strategy of confrontation we will have no alternative but to fight to the bitter end to defend the interests of residents".

The TRA also denied More's claim that Eskom and the Rand Water Board had threatened to cut off the electricity supply to Tembisa. "The council is merely responding to pressure from their authorities that funds will be withdrawn if they do not act to stop the rent boycott."

The Tembisa town clerk told *The Weekly Mail* that the council had no option but to cut the electricity. "If people want to use the services then they must pay for them. You cannot just enjoy something for which have not paid," he said.

TRA deputy president Amon Msane said the organisation was negotiating with Eskom and the Rand Water Board about the possibility of the township dealing directly with the two bodies. This was necessary because "although council workers never read meters we still get high bills at the end of the month".

The threat by the council to cut essential services comes in the wake of signs from the Transvaal Provincial Administration that it is prepared to consider scrapping the R800-million rent arrears owed by black municipalities.

The TPA-appointed administrator of Tsakane, near Springs, has already reached such an agreement with the Tsakane Civic Association and the TPA is also involved in similar negotiations with the Mamelodi People's Delegation.

TPA officials have also met representatives of the Tokoza Civic Association and indicated that the township's debt could be scrapped if the association sets up a liaison committee with the council to work out an affordable rent scale.

Several meetings have also been held with the Soweto People's Delegation.

The matter is also being considered at cabinet level.

BACKGROUND

Rent boycott bomb could explode into violence

8/10 19/7/80 2 121

Pressure on township residents to break the rent boycott in the Transvaal could unleash an unprecedented wave of violence and threaten the peace negotiations process under way in South Africa, community leaders, politicians and academics agree.

And they regard plans by the Transvaal Provincial Administration to cut bridging funds to black councils as untimely and potentially dangerous.

Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Heruus Kriel said yesterday that the Government was aware of the sensitivity of the issue and was involved in urgent, confidential negotiations to find a solution.

But, he said, "No government can subsidise millions of people with rent, electricity, water, refuse removal and other municipal services."

"We have to take steps to balance the books. Citizens have to play their part, we cannot continue pumping in money ad infinitum."

The TPA has set July 31 as the date on which it will stop bridging costs to black councils.

It says it is running out of funds and cannot continue subsidising rent and service costs for the 47 Transvaal townships, where boycotts are in progress.

"Bridging money" is money given by the TPA to black local authorities to enable them to pay running costs, subsidising the non-payment of rent and/or services.

TPA spokesman Jan van der Walt estimates a backlog of R787 million in rent and service payments in the Transvaal has been accumulated since the boycott started in 1980.

He said the TPA's budget for 1980 was R428 million, but requests for roughly R60 million were coming in monthly.

"We are not withdrawing funds, we simply cannot supply the demand and there are indications further funds from central government will not be forthcoming," he said.

In 1988 it was estimated that 4 million people throughout South Africa were boycotting. Mr van der Walt said the current number was "millions and millions".

There have been sporadic boycotts in the Transvaal, concentrated mainly in the Vaal Triangle, Soweto and Diepsmeadow in February/March 1980, however, the situation took a dramatic turn spreading to 47 of the 82 black townships in the Transvaal.

Although negotiations to address the Transvaal township rent and service boycott are in progress at local levels, analysts believe the issue should be tackled on a national front, warning that ham-handed action could spark an uprising worse than that of the mid 1980s and could jeopardise peace negotiations in South Africa. DAWN BARKHUIZEN reports.

Mr van der Walt declared to comment on the possibility of a backlash, but agreed that previous strong-arm attempts to recover rent had caused unrest.

People were killed and scores injured in violence that erupted after municipal police attempted to evict rent defaulters in the past.

"We are not being prescriptive," Mr van der Walt said. "We will deal with every case on merit, but we have only R17 million to spend each month. If the boycott continues the administration of some towns could be seriously affected."

The question of electricity cuts is crucial, if bills go unpaid.

Eskom spokesman Johan du Plessis said. "All accounts are currently up to date. We are reluctant to speculate on the possibility of power cuts, but the ball is in our court and we have to deal with it."

Discussions

He said discussions with the TPA were under way Eskom would negotiate with all town councils involved. While reluctant to consider cutting electricity supplies, Eskom's approach was businesslike — it needed revenue from its product.

While there is conjecture over the relevance and efficacy of the boycott, there is a general consensus that, unless the issue is delicately and intelligently handled, it could explode into national unrest.

Research officer for the Centre for Policy Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand Johannes Rantete believes the rent boycott issue is South Africa's biggest time bomb.

"It has been ticking away for years with little done to defuse it. It is a grassroots issue which affects everybody. Touch it and you touch a nerve. The potential for an explosion is great, particularly now when political cor-

sciousness is high. If incorrectly handled this could unleash an outbreak of violence the like of which we have never seen before," he said.

In his view, the current approach is lethal. "This issue needs to be resolved at top level government, not local level. The councils are a sore point, many township residents regard them as illegitimate. It is all very well for top leaders to interact, but you cannot expect to reconcile people on the lower levels where the wounds are still raw."

He said. "The rent boycott cannot be looked at in isolation or resolved in a piecemeal way. It is part of the greater problem, along with poverty, housing shortages, group areas and unemployment. Civil issues need to be part of the current transition initiative."

Soweto community stalwart Leonard Mosala warned. "Any attempts to cut off basic services would not only lead to a serious health problems, but also a dangerous political situation."

"A great deal of discipline and foresight is required. It is crucial that both sides — true community representatives and the Government — seriously negotiate a resolution," he said.

Soweto Civic Association spokesman, Patrick Lephunya believes the steps taken by the TPA could put the national process negotiations at risk.

Democratic Party MP Robin Carlisle said it was inevitable that subsidisation would end because financial resources were limited.

"People need to understand that the money has to come from somewhere. They have to work out their priorities. If subsidising electricity is a priority then other areas of expenditure have to be cut."

"A new deal needs to be negotiated by community bodies — otherwise there will be a bloody disaster."

Mr Rantete said the boycott had essentially been designed. "To make the State aware of real poverty (many people were genuinely too poor to pay) and halt the high in-

creases that councils began implementing when they were established in late 1983.

As a medium of expression against the authorities, particularly the councils, which are regarded as corrupt, incompetent and non-representative.

Residents also contended that the houses in which they had lived for years had been paid for many times over and should be transferred to them. These points still applied today, Mr Rantete said.

Mr Lephunya said residents did not object to paying service charges, but they regarded as corrupt and non-representative.

The SCA was also demanding. The immediate scrapping of black councils and all other apartheid councils (including the Johannesburg City Council, which, the SCA felt, obviously had too much money if it could employ spy rings).

Individual electricity bills instead of flat rates payable to the council.

Implications

Mr Mosala said commercialisation of land for private houses had exacerbated the problem because huge bribes had been paid and most black people had been priced right out of the market.

Mr Carlisle said it was time to end rent and service boycotts because they were being violently enforced.

The implications for the future were grave for residents, whatever government was in power. It would be difficult to reverse the trend of non-payment in the future.

Their impact was making township life even more miserable. In Tembisa, for example, a thick crust of sewage had covered much of the township.

Development was grinding to a halt in Knyalitsba 14 of the 17 developers had withdrawn in the last year fearing non-payment of rents or loans.

The grievances are real and important, the councils remain corrupt and the services are generally very bad, but boycotts are worsening these problems and have not proved to be a solution," he said.

There is a danger that as boycotts become anarchic they will overtake any process acceptable to local authorities.



Powerless — crucial to the issue of rent boycotts is the question of electricity cuts if bills go unpaid — previous strong-arm attempts to recover payments have sparked off unrest in the townships.

Shock housing subsidy cutback

By SOPHIE TEMA

(127) (128) c/press
15/7/90

THE government shock cutback on subsidies for first-time homebuyers has sent property developers into a panic – they will hold an urgent meeting tomorrow with Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel.

According to the new measures, black households with joint incomes of more than R2 000 will no longer qualify for the subsidy.

Representatives of the construction industry will meet Kriel to discuss the matter, because they argue that a lot of people in the middle- and higher-income bracket will no longer afford to buy houses – particularly blacks.

A spokesman for a major building firm said this was why some big property developers moved out of the building industry in the past 12 months, while others reduced their activities.

The spokesman said the government did away with subsidies for white first-time home buyers two years ago and, because of the growing demand of housing in the sub-economic sector, the measure was now affecting blacks.

Kriel confirmed the new limits for subsidies were introduced on July 2 and building societies, banks and developers were informed in a circular which set out the new requirements.

Aco policy on resale of stands

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1617190

THE Alexandra Civic Organisation has presented Alexandra Town Council with its policy regarding the resale of old stands or yards to private landlords, an ACO statement said.

ACO said its policy is intended to resolve the conflict that surrounds the

By DON SEOKANE

illegal resale of yards and old houses by Alexandra City Council to private landlords

Original

The policy includes the following proposals.

* The stand will be offered for sale to the original owner or his/her

descendant who is living on the stand

* If there is no such person, the stand will be offered for sale to the person who has been living for the longest period on the stand

* A stand or part of it cannot be sold unless the people living there have agreed to it

* If some of the tenants oppose the sale, the council should try to divide the stand so that part of it can be sold

* If part of the stand is sold, it should be done in such way that existing occupants are not deprived of services such as water,

access to a toilet, or electricity

"It has been some time that the Alex community have been fighting this illicit sale. They won a Supreme Court order stating the sale was illegal.

Refund

"However, after the court order, the council continued to sell houses and did not refund those who had bought stands illegally until Aco clarified the effects of the court order to the council

"We are still waiting for a response from the council," said ACO

rises in Lebowa's s GaMashashane

The hardest hit were the surrounding villages where there had never been provision for water

ment was not available for comment yesterday

A civic association spokesman said a mass

Spwefan 1617190

Moteong to continue boycott

A residents' meeting at Moteong Section in Tembisa yesterday resolved to continue with the rent boycott in spite of threats by the mayor, Solomon More, that water and electricity may be cut ~~for~~ 16/7/90

The residents said if the council dared cut off power and water they would reconnect them

The power and water cuts which Mr More said could be made yesterday if residents did not pay rent were not done

Last week, local structures warned the council that cutting essential services may lead to violence

The council has called a meeting with various committees on Saturday to discuss the lack of adequate facilities, services and houses, and inappropriate rentals and service charges — East Rand Bureau

144 families may be kicked out of flats

By SY MAKARINGE (127)

A TOTAL of 144 families living in two blocks of flats in central Johannesburg may soon find themselves on the streets after the owners of the buildings were granted a court order to evict the holder of a head lease.

Mr David Gorfil, co-director of Gorfil Brothers Investments, said he was granted the order by the Rand Supreme Court on June 19 to eject Mr Stanley Kubheka, of Kubheka Investments, following difficulties in collecting rents.

The eviction of Kubheka from Argyle Court, at the corner of Wanderers and Smit streets, and Branksome Towers, in Wanderers Street, will result in 144 black families becoming homeless.

Gorfil, whose company also owns five other blocks of flats in central Johannesburg, said yesterday he was owed more than R300 000 in unpaid rent by tenants.

He said the decision followed several meetings his company held with executive members of Actstop to address tenants' grievances.

After the meetings his company embarked on an extensive maintenance programme but rent collection did

● To Page 2

Flats tenants may be homeless (127)

● To Page 2

not improve.

Mr Pressage Nkosi, general secretary of Actstop, said negotiations between Actstop and Gorfil Investments were still going on.

He said, however, he did not take the pending action lightly, adding

Sowetan 17/7/90
"We'll cross the bridge when we get to it"

Conditions

Gorfil said he spent more than R155 000 over the past six months to improve the conditions of the buildings, which he took over from other landlords.

He said tenants living

in Argyle Court, for instance, were more than R35 000 in arrears.

"The matter is aggravated by the fact that more than 600 people living in these flats refuse to give us their names. We don't know who to deal with. There's nobody to send summons or accounts to," he said.

TPA official called me a crook - porter

Pretoria Correspondent

A porter at the Ga-Rankuwa Hospital told the Cillie Commission yesterday that she was called a "crook" by a Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) official who accused her of lying about her marital status in order to qualify for a housing loan.

Mavis Kheswa (44) said she received a R35 000 housing loan through the TPA in 1988, which she used to build a house in Soshanguve. About four months after the house was completed she was told to report to H Swanepoel.

She said Mr Swanepoel called her a "crook" and told her she was not entitled to the loan as she was married. He then opened her personal file and discovered a copy of her divorce decree, granted in 1986, she said.

Miss Kheswa said she was then called into the office of another official, A J Boshoff, who repeated the accusation.

She said both men, who have been accused of being "racists", threatened to confiscate her house and have her arrested.

The commission is investigating allegations that 23 premature babies

died as a result of an eight-day strike at the hospital in April this year, allegedly sparked by the TPA's refusal to suspend Mr Boshoff and Mr Swanepoel pending an inquiry into their conduct.

Miss Kheswa said she had not been forced into joining the strike, but had joined other protesting workers as a result of the accusations voiced by the two officials.

Prior to her taking the stand, a member of the hospital workers' committee, A Sibande, was accused of being a "troublemaker" who nobody wanted in their department" by the legal representative for the TPA, J K Wessels.

Mr Sibande admitted his superiors, who included Mr Boshoff and Mr Swanepoel, viewed him as a "troublemaker". However, he said this was because he stood up for his rights.

Mr Wessels produced various letters from former chief medical superintendents at the hospital, warning Mr Sibande that if his conduct did not improve, certain disciplinary steps would have to be taken.

The inquiry continues.

Sit-in sequel to threats of eviction

127

Sowetan
17/7/90

ABOUT 180 men, women and children yesterday staged a peaceful sit-in in the downtown Johannesburg building occupied by attorney Stan Fanaroff acting on behalf of the owner of Polly Lodge.

The placard-carrying tenants, who face eviction from the block of flats, arrived at 9am, dancing the toyi-toyi.

After occupying the entire reception area, they requested a meeting.

Jokes by other occupants of 149 President Street such as "Take the drinks order" and (by a soccer-playing attorney) "I'd like to take you with me on Sunday, at least I'd have people watching my

Sowetan Reporter

game", were met with stony silence.

Police carrying tear gas canisters entered the building half an hour later, to be told by Actstop spokesman Mr George Sejaphala that the people would not leave before seeing Fanaroff.

As tension mounted, police re-entered the premises and ordered tenants to disperse within 10 minutes or be forcibly removed.

Tenants replied that Polly Lodge owner Mance Cohen had refused to see them, referring them to his lawyer.

Under these circumstances, they they said they would rather be ar-

rested than leave the building voluntarily.

As police reinforcements gathered at the back of the building, five tenants' representatives were invited to discuss their grievances with the attorney.

An hour later spokesman Mr Titus Mkrazuli told tenants "Comrades, Mr Cohen has agreed to meet us on Monday

Silent

'But the position of Ely Dingi, who has been living in a tent, is different and cannot be altered as it has been finalised by the court," he said as the tenants silently filed out of the building.

* Actstop argues that tenants occupied the building while it was rent-controlled and rents of R89 to R99 a month at the time should only have gone up by 10 percent a year after rent control fell away in 1987.

Instead, rents had trebled. While the owner was legally correct, he was morally wrong as the tenants had nowhere to go.

Following a series of court cases, the owner says he has given the tenants fair warning dating back about two years as he wanted to sell the property.

One of the conditions of sale was that it should be empty.

KwaGuga rent arrears to be frozen

THE Witbank Town Council has announced plans to freeze rent arrears in KwaGuga township in an effort to break the four-month-old rent boycott, writes

WALTER LUKHULENI

Town clerk Mr Adam Engelbrecht said this was an attempt to avoid elec-

tricity cuts ^{South African 17/7/90}

He said: "We implore residents to pay or our supplier will cut our power at the end of July."

Negotiations with residents have been held twice already, but no conclusive agreement was reached as the residents were insisting that the

rent arrears be written off

Responding to the residents demand, Engelbrecht said

"Unfortunately the rent arrears cannot be written off without the approval of both the council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration's resolutions" (127) (3/2/90)

Plan to freeze rent arrears

Sowetan 17/7/90

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[scribble]

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration is to curtail bridging finance to local authorities from the end of this month and is also considering freezing rent and service arrears in an at-

tempt to encourage residents to pay current charges.

If it goes ahead with this plan, the TPA must inherit the black local authorities debt of about R730 million, according to United Municipalities

of South Africa leader Mr Tom Boya

Reacting to the TPA's "clean-slate" plans, Boya said yesterday such a move, while welcome, would leave councils with no means of meeting debts

"If they go ahead with this plan, they must pay our debts," he said

The estimated R730 million owed by Transvaal councils was due not only to the TPA - which would write off its share in terms of the plan - but also to private financial institutions and companies, Boya said

Five East Rand townships alone owed R123 million to financial institutions after money was borrowed to finance an electricity master plan for the areas, he said

Arrears

The arrears plan is apparently to be discussed at Cabinet level.

A spokesman for the TPA said yesterday many factors had to be considered before a decision could be taken.

Boya also predicted "chaos" in black Transvaal townships next month if the TPA carried out its threat to cut bridging finance to councils, who use the money to provide essential services such as water, electricity and refuse removal

Sowetan Correspondent

Wednesday July 17 1990

Police invited to talks

THE Mamelodi Civic Association has responded to the police message of "let's talk" by inviting them to a meeting.

An MCA spokesman, Mr. Pasty Malefo, said the police, the Security Police and the South African Defence Force will be invited along with the Mamelodi Town Council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration to a meeting.

At the meeting a programme of action over recent issues will be discussed. *Sweletan 17/7/90*

Malefo, however, said the MCA would not discuss the police action during last Sunday's meeting, which left 230 people injured, with the police as a final decision would be taken today on whether civil action will be taken against Law and Order Minister ~~Mr. Adriaan Vlok~~ *(127)*

He said the MCA appreciated the police message but thought it strange it was conveyed through the Press and not directly to the MCA.

Tsakane housing scheme

By Abel Mabelane, East Rand Bureau

Sta 17/7/90
127

About 1 200 low cost houses, which will be sold to residents for R21 000 each, will be built by the South African Housing Trust in Tsakane soon, said Jim Vining, chairman of Tsakane Administrators

Mr Vining said although Tsakane had about 3 000 squatter families, the new houses were not meant for them, although they could also buy the houses.

He said the squatters would be provided with houses under a different housing scheme which would provide low cost housing at a cost of R7 000 a house

Mr Vining said about 120 squatters on the land where the houses were to be built were moved peacefully to another area at the weekend

12.7 Sp 13/7/92

Boksburg suburb in housing dilemma

By Anna Louw
East Rand Bureau

Estate Agents in Dawn Park, Boksburg, are facing a dilemma — they do not know whether to market the houses in the suburb to coloureds or whites

One agent, Lauretta Featherstone-Cobbaert has written a letter to Deputy Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Andre Fourie, and submitted a copy of a letter to Minister of Housing in the House of Repre-

sentatives, David Curry, to try and clarify the issue.

According to Mrs Featherstone-Cobbaert agents do not know to which race to market the houses in Dawn Park, despite a recent referendum held by residents in the suburbs which was in favour of having the area opened to coloureds.

Mrs Featherstone-Cobbaert said there was a 10-year waiting list of at least 400 000 coloureds wanting to buy houses. She said if an agent intro-

duced a coloured buyer to a white seller the buyer has no guarantee that a permit allowing him to live in the area would be issued in three months.

She said the salaries of the average coloured buyers enabled them to qualify for a house between R60 000 and R65 000. There was a government subsidy for first time home buyers of up to R65 000, but it was not applicable to coloureds.

● According to Mrs Feather-

stone-Cobbaert, a coloured buyer has offered a white seller R90 000 for his house. The owner has accepted the offer but the problem now is that a permit has to be issued before the buyer's bond is approved within a period of three months.

It has been established that the official who issues the permits in Germiston, is helping out in Midrand and will not be available for another month, which compounds the permit problem for the buyer.

NE

Officials quit as rent protests spread in E Tvl

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

There is growing turmoil in black townships in the eastern Transvaal as rent boycotts spread and more councillors resign.

The town clerk of Middelburg's Mhluzi township, Lehlo honolo Makae, confirmed that a number of councillors had resigned during the past week.

However he was not able to give any details before tomorrow's council meeting.

Last month three new Mhluzi councillors were elected in by-elections which attracted less than 5 percent of registered voters in each ward.

Mr Makae said that unrest in the township had resulted in

several projects being halted because contractors felt it was unsafe to be in the area.

The projects included the building of roads, the upgrading of a sewage outfall and the installation of services at new extensions.

A spokesman for Secunda's Emablenhle township said a rent boycott had been started three weeks ago. Two of the council's nine councillors resigned earlier this year.

No electricity

Witbank's huge kwaGuqa township (population 115 000) is now being run by three Transvaal Provincial Administration-appointed administrators after the resignation of most the

township's councillors in April.

There has been a rent boycott in kwaGuqa and the nearby coloured township of Schoongezicht since earlier this year.

Schoongezicht's 2 500 residents have been without electricity since April 27 when the Witbank Town Council cut the supply after substations were tampered with.

In Ermelo's Wesselton township residents have been boycotting rentals since late last year. Town clerk Charles Maseko said there had been a slight pick-up in payments since last week's announcement that arrears were to be frozen.

Four of Wesselton's councillors had resigned in the past few months.

Nov 19/7/90

(127)

NE

D-day looms for township rent crisis

By Claire Robertson,
Pretoria Bureau

Crucial negotiations on the rent crisis in black townships are in progress as the deadline for the Transvaal Provincial Administration's bridging finance "austerity measures" nears

In two weeks, the TPA will implement its R16 million-a-month bridging finance package to black local authorities in an effort to make the available funds last the year

The budgeted sum of R26 million for the 1990/91 fiscal year has been eroded by payments of up to R75 million a month in the first half of the year

Councils which do not manage to negotiate a resumption of rent and services payments in the next month may have essential services cut off

"The timing is critical," Transvaal MEC for local government Olaus van Zyl said yesterday. The cutting-off of services "may be unavoidable in some areas", Mr van Zyl said

Encouraged

Province had appealed to the Government for additional funds for the past "two or three months" but he doubted these would be available

He was, however, encouraged by the negotiations between residents' organisations — local people's delegations and civic associations — and councils taking place in about 30 townships

In at least 10 townships, negotiations have been successful in halting boycotts. "I am still confident we will be able to reach an amicable solution," he said. Province had also contacted

bulk suppliers of services in an attempt to minimise the effect on essential services such as water, and sewage and refuse removal, which, if stopped, would present a health hazard

"The tragic thing is that cutting off services may affect people who have paid and it could affect areas such as health clinics that are essential," said Mr van Zyl.

In some cases the bulk supplier was the adjoining white town or city, many of which realised "that if it goes bad there (in black townships) it will affect them, too", Mr van Zyl said

"In general, the funding situation hasn't improved, and strictly speaking there won't be additional funds. But the aim is not to curtail funds, and not even to stop the boycott, but to find the problems in local authorities and thus to stop the boycott."

'Indaba' to defuse tension

Got 19/7/90

By Stan Hlophe

The Tembisa Town Council has invited interested bodies to an "indaba" at the local council chambers on Saturday in a bid to defuse tensions in the area.

Among those invited are the civic association, traders, educationists, and members of youth organisations

The meeting will address lack of housing, inadequate facilities and services, inappropriate rentals and service charges, and "insensitive town planning".

A rent and services boycott has been staged since April

The mayor, Solomon More, has been informed that if the council was unable to pay its debts by the of this week,

Eskom would be forced to cut off electricity to the township

The council is owed R17,3 million for electricity and sewage and refuse removal. Rent payments have dropped from a monthly average of R4 million to R1 million during June

Mr More said the council had acknowledged political forces in an effort to address the problems affecting the community

"It is therefore in this spirit that we as organisations and individuals of Tembisa affected by the issues should sit together to discuss strategies to resolve them.

"In this spirit even the most opposing political ideologies should heed reason and co-operate," Mr More said

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Flat dwellers set for eviction after deadlock in talks

By Marguerite Moody

Residents of Argyle Court in Wanderers Street, Johannesburg, are likely to be evicted before the weekend after no agreement was reached at a meeting on Tuesday between residents and the owners of the building.

Residents have vowed to spend the night on the pavement if evicted.

The meeting between Gorfil Brothers Investments, the owners of seven buildings in Johannesburg, and a delegation of residents' representatives "broke up in disarray", according to David Gorfil.

"Since no settlement could be reached, I have no alternative but to put them out," the owner of Argyle Court, Claridges Court, Protea Mansions, Branksome Towers, Stanhope Mansions, Margate Court and Manhattan Court said yesterday.

Residents of Argyle Court say the owners' threats to evict

them had been prompted by a dispute over rentals, which they and tenants of other buildings had not paid for several months in protest against poor living conditions.

"We would be prepared to pay a part of our rent arrears, which have been paid into a private account, if we received an undertaking that conditions at the buildings would improve. However, no such undertaking was given last night," Actstop general secretary Cas Coovadia told The Star.

Mr Gorfil told The Star he had kept his part of an agreement reached between him and residents in February, in terms of which he had undertaken to improve living conditions at the buildings in exchange for a 10 percent rent increase.

"However, residents have not paid rent since then, and by the end of this month arrears at Argyle Court will amount to over R60 000."

2. 71

127
2411

Council's offer on arrears rejected

The Witbank Interim Civic Association has rejected the kwaGuqa town council's offer of a freeze on rent arrears and a R100 flat rate for rent and services for each householder

The association demanded that in future the TPA and the kwaGuqa town council should make decisions in consultation with the "popularly elected leaders of the people".

The association called for the following flat rates for rent and services

- Squatters on improved sites — R5, pensioners, no charge
- Houses with electricity R30 — and houses without R10 — Highveld Bureau.

Townships have no water, power

TWO East Rand townships had neither electricity nor water supplies as of yesterday, according to a Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) spokesman.

In a statement, the TPA said a high-voltage cable at the electricity supply sub-station burned out on Tuesday probably because of an "overload" at the weekend.

Funds to repair the damage, estimated at about R450 000 and affecting 2 575 houses, were not immediately available because of the five-month-old rent boycott, the TPA said.

The TPA said Tokoza and a part of Katlehong had had no running water for the past 24 hours after a lorry had

127

WILSON ZWANE

damaged the water mains.

However, water tanks had already been placed at strategic places and the technical staff were busy repairing the mains.

Tokoza and Katlehong civic leaders yesterday confirmed that township residents had no water following the damage.

Katlehong Civic Association official Ken Moetsi said that since Tuesday people had been "searching for water".

A civic leader said the people of Tokoza would meet the TPA next week in a bid to resolve the boycott.

'Indaba' to defuse tension

Sat 19/7/90

By Stan Hlophe

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"It is therefore in this spirit that we as organisations and individuals of Tembisa affected by the issues should sit together to discuss strategies to resolve them

"In this spirit even the most opposing political ideologies should heed reason and co-operate," Mr More said

WR call for rents boycott

By MATSHUBE

~~27~~ MFOLOE (127)

THE Bekkersdal Environmental Awareness Campaign has called for an indefinite rents boycott in the West Rand township until the local town committee and the Transvaal Provincial Administration respond to the community's demands.

A spokesman for the BEAC, Mr Vuyisile Ndabeni, said the protest was called because of the TPA's and the town committee's delay in responding to the community's grievances.

He warned that the boycott would continue "until our grievances and demands are addressed".

Demands which were brought to the attention of the TPA and the local authorities include:

* The reduction of rents for shack dwellers in units to a flat rate of R25 from August 1;

* No shack dwellers should pay rents to registered tenants during the rent boycott,

* The rents boycott includes the homeless communities of Spook Town, Silver City and X areas

A community meeting has been planned for July 30 when the BEAC will evaluate the effect of the boycott.

50 refer 20/7/90

We'll talk, but ⁽¹²⁷⁾ that's no invite, says the SAP

Mamelodi 207-227190
THE South African Police has denied it invited the Mamelodi Civic Association to a meeting following police action at the HM Pitje stadium, which left about 250 people injured a fortnight ago.

Police liaison officer Colonel Steve van Rooyen said yesterday police were prepared to discuss the issue with residents, but that this did not mean they were issuing an invitation.

An invitation from police to the Mamelodi Civic Association was definitely not offered, he said.

Mamelodi Civic Association chairman Moss Chukane said although they were prepared to meet the police, they were not going to discuss events at the stadium because the matter was now in the hands of their legal advisers.

He said his association had planned a meeting with the Transvaal Provincial Administration, and if the police were interested in discussions, they should attend the planned meeting.

More than 250 people were injured in a stampede after teargas was fired. Police claimed the meeting was illegal, while the organisers claimed it was legal because they had a permit — Sapa



SYDNEY HILIZA

THE Alexandra Civic Association will hold a mass meeting at the local stadium on August 4.

The ACA will reaffirm its existence and explain its policy on property owners and tenants, the general secretary, Mr Sydney Hiliza, said yesterday

Hiliza said among issues on the agenda will be problems resulting from the sale of old stands to landlords.

"The issue is re-emerging because the Alexandra Civic Organisation announced its contradictory policy on the resale of stands," Hiliza said

Stands

"While ACO is accusing the town council of selling stands illegally, the criteria used by the council is almost the same as the ACO's.

"Except for social problems created by the Government, conflict problems in the area have been caused by organisational differences.

"This area will be addressed at the meeting, with the hope that people will break the barriers of division existing in the

Mass meeting planned for Alex

By DON SEOKANE

township," Hiliza said

Hiliza squashed rumours that the ACA had died four years ago.

He said it was the ACA which made it possible for the "bus people" to get homes after a decade of misery

Rent pamphlets aren't ours, says Witbank Civic

By TSHOKOLO MOLAKENG

THE Witbank Interim Civic Association has disassociated itself from pamphlets claiming that it agreed to new rent rates, which were distributed in townships last week by the town council.

The association's publicity secretary, Dominic Mdluli, said "the pamphlets have not only antagonised us, but have angered the whole community."

In the pamphlets, dated July 17 but distributed on July 10, the council stated that Hlalanikahle squatters should pay R30 and Vosman squatters should pay R15 rent a month, registered pensioners should pay R30 rent, all unelectrified house-owners pay R25, and electrified house occupants should pay R100.

Mdluli said the council had acted arbitrarily. He added that they had held a meeting with the council last month. "They asked us whether they could issue the pamphlets, but we told them that we had to consult with our constituency."

The association's proposed standard rates state that registered pensioners should pay "absolutely nothing" and R5 for squatters in all areas. Mdluli added that they wanted electrified home-owners to pay R30 and R10 for unelectrified houses.

Although the civic body wanted the Witbank councillors to resign, Mdluli said the association demanded that the local authorities make decisions "in consultation with the leaders of the people."

The town council could not be reached for comment.

Deadline set for end of rent boycott

Political Staff and Sapa
Black local communities in the Transvaal have been given a month in which to end their rent boycotts

The deadline for the communities to resume rent payments has been set nationally at August 31.

The Government is looking urgently at the problem of financing services.

A statement from the office

of the President announced last night that communities which had not paid rent and service charges would have to "take purposeful steps" to resume payment to ensure that their councils would be in a financial position to continue to provide such services

President de Klerk expressed this view after discussions in Pretoria yesterday with the administrators of the

Star 20/7/90
four provinces, MECs and senior officials. He was assisted by Cabinet colleagues Barend du Plessis, Adriaan Vlok, Amie Venter and HERNUS KRIEL

The statement said that any additional bridging finance which might be necessary would have to be found from sources other than those of communities which were meeting their obligations.

Talks on boycott

127
123

Source: Jan 26/3190
By MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organisation will meet the local town council tonight to discuss crucial issues, including the four-month-old rents boycott in the township.

A spokesman for Asro said another issue likely to be discussed will be the reluctance by councillors to heed the call to resign before the rent problem could be resolved.

Asro had indicated that a flat rate for essential services could be determined but only if councillors resigned before such a move was taken.

Tonight's meeting will be chaired by the regional director of the Transvaal Provincial Administration and will be held at the TPA's conference room in Pretoria from 6pm.

Also on the agenda will be the council's recent decision to temporarily ban political and civic organisations from using its facilities.

Committee seeks boycott solutions

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Soweto City Council and the Soweto People's Delegation have set up a joint technical committee to make proposals on how to resolve five demands pertinent to ending the rent boycott

The creation of the committee follows a meeting of the three parties in Johannesburg on Friday

A joint statement from the parties said the technical committee was constituted with five terms of reference

- The writing off of arrears in respect of municipal charges and rents,
- The upgrading of municipal services in Soweto,
- Affordable tariffs for municipal services,
- Transfer of rented housing stock, and
- A common fiscal base for the cities of Soweto and Johannesburg

The committee will meet tomorrow and

EDYTH BULBRING

has been asked to report back to a meeting of the parties concerned on August 9, the statement said

At this report back meeting the committee must come up with firm proposals on how each of the issues could be resolved and lines of further action, if required

Priority

As a matter of priority the committee must urgently formulate proposals on the writing off of arrears, the statement says. The committee is allowed to co-opt the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Johannesburg City Council and any other local government body that it believes should be consulted or involved in addressing these issues, the statement said

● Comment. Page 4

Call to hostel dwellers

THE ANC, Cosatu and UDF alliance has called on all hostel residents to elect committees to unite hostel dwellers

Journalist
11/5/90 (123)

A joint statement from the three said there were people who went to hostels to recruit people to fight other oppressed people by claiming that Zulu people were being attacked and that the ANC, Cosatu and UDF wanted to kill the Zulu people

By **DON SEOKANE**

"Agents of apartheid offer money to people without jobs to get them to fight other oppressed people. We call on you to reject these people as they want to spread the Natal war throughout South Africa."

Apartheid

"This is why these people created bantustans and hostels to keep black

people divided

'Apartheid has forced us to live in hostels without our families, to share a room with many other people without privacy and to live in poverty with no proper houses and low wages,' the organisations said

The organisations also urged hostel residents to work with civic organisations to build understanding between hostel and township residents

1/5/90

End of rent crisis?

From MONO BADELA (127) JOHANNESBURG. — THE four-year-old Soweto rent crisis may be resolved this month. *South 2/8 - 8/8/90*
This emerged after meetings between the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) and the Soweto City Council.

Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, a spokesperson for the seven-member SPD, in an interview this week said three key organisations had agreed to form a technical committee in an effort to resolve the rent boycott

Other members of the SPD include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Rev

Frank Chikane of the SACC, the Rev Lebamang Sebidi, Mrs Albertina Sisulu and Mrs Allen Khuzwayo

Transvaal Administrator Mr Danie Hough, his executive, the Soweto City Council and the SPD agreed to form the committee after a closed meeting last Friday

Ramaphosa said the terms of reference for the technical committee were.

- The writing off of arrears,
- The transfer of ownership of council houses to long-term residents,
- The upgrading of services, and
- A common financial base for Johannesburg and Soweto.

"We are hopeful a solution will be found," said Ramaphosa.

Arrears

He said the discussions between the three bodies were "cordial" and that the SPD presented the residents' viewpoint directly.

"We emphasised that the rent arrears must be written off. At no point will we agree that arrears should be paid by residents. We also demanded that the town council system be done away with," Ramaphosa added.

In the meantime the rent boycott would continue "until all our demands have been met."

Soweto residents owe about R570-m in rent arrears

Ramaphosa said. "Our demand is for a common, single financial base between Johannesburg and Soweto

"Millions of Soweto residents earn their wages and salary in Johannesburg and spend almost 90 percent of their income there," Ramaphosa said

Katlehong introduces new rates

Sowetan 2/8/90

127

Sowetan Reporter

THE Katlehong City Council has introduced new temporary flat rates payable from next month

The East-Rand township residents in electrified houses will pay a flat rate of R50 a month while those in un-electrified houses will pay R30 a month

Shopkeepers will pay R130 a month.

A council spokesman said the new rates will provide funds for the purchase of bulk services such as water, electricity, sewerage and solid waste removal and salaries for staff

Wattville plans protest march

Sowetan 6/8/90
WATTVILLE residents are to march on the local municipal offices tomorrow to protest against attempts by the council to meddle in the development of the newly declared Tamboville squatter camp, south of the township.

A spokesman for Wattville Concerned Residents' Committee said that, in an historic decision, his committee and the Benoni Town Council had agreed to develop Tamboville for informal housing without the involvement of the Wattville Town Council.

"The Wattville Town Council now wishes to sabotage this process by spreading slanderous rumours about WCRC. It is also issuing their supporters with waiting list numbers for plots in Tamboville despite the fact that the land is owned and controlled by the Benoni Town Council," he said.

The march will start at Tamboville and proceed to the Wattville administration offices.

UDF meets Kriel

210
127

By DON SEOKANE

THE national executive committee of the UDF has decided to meet the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel, to discuss the organisation's land-protest campaign and to highlight the national housing crisis

Mr Paul Mashatile, the general secretary of the UDF's southern Transvaal region, yesterday said a date for the meeting has not yet been finalised.

However, he said, a decision has been taken

by the committee at a special meeting to prepare for the start of the campaign.

Mashatile said the meeting was not intended to stop the campaign unless the Minister adequately addressed the objectives of the campaign.

He said: "The aim of the protest action is to move homeless people, whose shacks have been destroyed and have become

homeless in the country of their birth, in areas where land is unused in residential areas.

"We have commissioned our civic organisations to identify unused land so that the campaign can go ahead as planned"

Mr John Mavuso, the MEC for housing and community development, said he deplored the fact that "irresponsible calls" were being made to people to squat on any open land.

"It is the priority of the TPA to cater for the needs of homeless people and to provide serviced stands for informal housing, which is upgradable, with assistance of the town councils concerned," he said

6/8/90
Sokele

Council to act over rents

By MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville Council has resolved to take drastic action against residents in an effort to break the rents boycott which began on April 1

Acting town clerk Mr Daan Mouton said yesterday the council would soon meet with the Transvaal Provincial Administration to discuss the action they contemplated taking against residents

Mouton said the council had also resolved to either stop rendering certain essential services or would hand over accounts of rent defaulters to their lawyers to force residents to pay.

Should residents decide to start paying rent now, the council would consider the freezing of certain arrears.

He said the council's meeting with the Atteridgeville/Saulville Residents Organisation two weeks ago to discuss the boycott ended in deadlock because Asro wanted the council to allow political and civic organisations to use council facilities.

The ban was implemented by the council two months ago

Mouton said the council reiterated their stance that facilities would remain closed to these organisations until the boycott was resolved

Mandate

Sowetan 27/90 (127)
A spokesman for Asro said they needed facilities such as the Super Stadium to report back and get a mandate from residents on decisions they may reach with the council

Mouton added that although the council did not have funds, they had approved a 20 percent increase of councillors' allowances retrospective from January this year

The allowances are expected to be paid by the TPA through its bridging finances on salaries and allowances

Evaton residents plan demo march

A CIVIC association in the Vaal Triangle area, which has seen a number of incidents of political violence in recent weeks will, together with two ANC-aligned organisations, stage a protest march on Saturday

A spokesman for the Evaton branch of the Vaal Civic Association said the Congress of SA Students and the SA Youth Congress would also take part.

The marchers will present a memorandum of residents' grievances to representatives of the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Evaton Town Council

Vaal Civic Association spokesman Mr Sithembiso Radebe said residents wanted to negotiate with the TPA about its alleged threats to cut water and electricity supplies to compensate for unpaid rents

Radebe said the action was not directed at Inkatha members on the town council.

The march starts at the Zone 7 soccer stadium and ends at the Evaton town council offices - Sapa.

Source: 7/8/90 (127)

W D	AMND	INCR	# D	INCR	INCR	AMND	INCR
7/73	8/77	8/78	11/81	5/82	11/82	4/84	4/85
Packer F							
17 25	27 50	29 50	49 60	52 30	55 00	66 00	72 50
26 06	38 57	37 06	40 79	40 14	39 60	40 77	38 69
Current Hours 46							
Hourly Change 1977 to date							
Nominal +320 3%							
Real +13 6%							
Real Weekly Wage at 12/86 R 29 60							
Process Hand F							
19 32	30 00	32 00	53 00	55 50	58 00	69 50	76 50
29 18	42 08	40 20	43 59	42 59	41 76	42 93	40 82
Current Hours 46							
Hourly Change 1977 to date							
Nominal +296 0%							
Real +7 0%							
Real Weekly Wage at 12/86 R 31 24							

Health services at risk

8/8/90
If the rent boycott in Tokoza, Alberton, continues, health services provided by the Alberton municipality could be cut off, according to Gert Muller, chairman of the Tokoza Administrators.

Mr Muller said Tokoza depended on the municipality for the provision of health facilities at clinics. "If we don't pay them for the services, they are likely to stop providing health facilities to our residents."

The cutting-off of health facilities would be tragic, especially because the new Tokoza clinic, built at a cost of about R400 000, would be completed within the next three months, he added.

If the TPA halted bridging finance at the end of the month, electricity supply provided by the municipality could also be cut off. — East Rand Bureau.

Stern warning on rents to residents

Sowetan 9/8/90

127

By ALINAH DUBE

THE Mamelodi Council has issued a stern warning to local residents to pay their monthly rents and service charges or be prepared to face "unpleasant consequences"

The warning was made by local mayor Mr Simon "Drie" Mokone at a Press briefing yesterday

He said as his council was faced with a responsibility of paying for essential services, rent defaulters were inconveniencing other residents who paid their dues

Mokone said the council an-

nounced last month the possibility of freezing some rent arrears on condition residents paid their current accounts

This was after the Transvaal Provincial Administration promised to support such a decision by the council provided residents paid their current accounts "punctually and faithfully"

The council has also undertaken to suspend any action such as the switching off of lights and the handing over of de-

faulters' cases to lawyers against people who are in arrears, pending the decision by the higher authorities

However, a wrong impression has been created among residents that rent arrears had been scrapped

Decision

Some went as far as claiming that rent and services would no longer be paid for, Mokone said

He added that the council would be left with no option but to revert to its earlier method of obtaining money from those in ar-

rears to enable it to pay suppliers of vital services such as water, electricity and sewerage

The decision followed the TPA announcement that no bridging finance would be available as from the end of this month and its denial on Friday that it had frozen arrears in Mamelodi, he said

Meanwhile, the council has made a piece of land available for the temporary resettlement of squatters in Mamelodi

The council has already set aside 760 sites for housing squatters. About 200 sites will be ready for occupation within a week

310

Natal congress gaining momentum...
 "top heavy" public service to be cut down.
 A delegate from the NP's Vrheid branch which tabled...
 The gunmen are considered extremely...
 Ironically, the ambush scene in a Toyota Cressida...
 mont and Westbury with "every available...
 man" taking part...
 Industry, Industrial...
 CITY NATIONAL

Rent arrears reprieve for Soweto residents

127



IN HAND: Mrs Arendse, back with principal Lilian Cubeka, and the creche children.
ANDREW INGRAM

Gifts stream in for embattled Guguletu creche

By VUYO BAVUMA, Staff Reporter

GIFTS are streaming in for the embattled Guguletu creche whose 102 children were forced to sleep on the cement floor after thieves broke in and stole their blankets and food.

Thieves broke into the creche through a newly sealed window and took educational toys and carpets and damaged the stove while trying to remove it.

A report in The Argus on the burglary and the plight of the children at St Mary Magdalene Church in NY3 brought an immediate response. Mrs Ivy Arendse of Wynberg gave groceries and blankets worth R1 000.

"When I saw the story I decided to act immediately. There was an obvious need. It's important to look after the children," Mrs Arendse said.

She also promised to get an electrician to...

JOHANNESBURG — The Transvaal Provincial Administration, Soweto People's Delegation and the Greater Soweto Councils have agreed in principle to write off R516-million in rent and services arrears and to introduce a flat rate of R23 a household for rent only.

This follows a 15-hour meeting yesterday — the sixth since July — between the five bodies at the administration's Johannesburg regional offices.

The parties agreed to introduce a flat rate of R55 a household for rent for September only.

From October 1 an interim service charge of R23, plus electricity on metered consumption of 12c a unit, subject to discounts, will be applicable. This will apply until new affordable tariffs have been established in consultation with a joint technical committee appointed by the principal bodies.

The tentative agreement would be referred to various parties' constituencies for ratification and another meeting has been scheduled for September 24 for the formal agreement.

In another development the Conservative Party-controlled town council of Carolina in the Eastern Transvaal has restored power and water supplies to Sibolela after the TPA decided to pay the black township's outstanding bill of R25 000.

Sibolela had been without water and electricity since Tuesday after the town council cut the services, declaring the move a financial decision that had nothing to do with politics.

Today is D-Day for up to 50 rent boycotting townships throughout the Transvaal where millions of residents now risk having their electricity and in some cases water and sewerage systems disconnected.

In July the government announced it would stop bridging finance to boycotting townships from today.

The rent boycott crisis spotlight moves to Witbank where the white town council's bulk services account with Kwaguqa township (population 115 000) falls due today.

Yesterday a spokesman for the Witbank town council said no action would be taken against Kwaguqa before Monday. He said the council was not considering cutting the township's water supply at this stage. Kwaguqa residents have been boycotting rents and services since March.

Earlier this year the Witbank town council switched off the power supply to Schoongezicht coloured township for three months after ratepayers stopped payments. The Argus Correspondent and Sapa.

Time to pay ¹²⁷ ~~128~~

The ANC is to encourage Soweto residents to begin paying their electricity bills

ANC legal & constitutional affairs director Zola Skweyiya says "We hope to be able to convince people to pay for electricity very soon"

An ANC-sponsored consultative conference will be held next month to discuss local government issues and, organisers hope, to break the political impasse which has seen Soweto accumulate a R300m debt, of which electricity consumption is a major part.

The Soweto People's Delegation claims electricity bills are disproportionately higher than Johannesburg's Planact, a private body which advises the delegation, attributes higher bills to Soweto's weak industrial base, which is a direct consequence of the Group Areas Act and other apartheid laws

The weight of infrastructural funding rests on consumers rather than large companies which buy in bulk and lower the average unit price

In March Soweto City Council — which distributes the power — imposed a flat rate of R50 plus R22,50 for service charges on most of Soweto's 80 000 households. Residents are, however, refusing to pay

Residents also claim the metering is inaccurate. The delegation says the meters — in mini-substations each serving several houses — often give faulty readings. This is because vandals have tampered with some meters. "If we are charged the right amount we'll

pay," says delegation co-ordinator Nat Ramokgopa

This week provincial authorities are expected to meet the delegation and council to present proposals regarding demands that arrears should be scrapped

Jan Wolmarans, chief director of regional and local government promotion, says. "Black local authorities cannot survive if new revenue is not created" ■

10/8/90

Meeting offers promise of end to rent boycott

Staff Reporters

A meeting yesterday between the Transvaal Provincial Administration and two Soweto delegations could signal an end to the four-year rent boycott in Soweto.

Cyril Ramaphosa of the Soweto People's Delegation said he was optimistic that if his organisation's demands were met the boycott could be called off.

Soweto City Council chairman Mbutana Tshabalala said the council was hopeful that an agreement would soon be reached.

The TPA's MEC for housing, Olaus van Zyl, said the three parties had made progress.

It was agreed that Diepmeadow and Dobsonville councils would be included in the negotiations which resume on Tuesday.

The meeting will focus on:

- Writing-off an outstanding amount of R570-million
- Upgrading municipal services
- Affordable tariffs for services
- The transfer of rented houses.
- A common fiscal tax base for Soweto and Johannesburg

According to the TPA, of the R428-million budgeted for 1990/1, only R99-million is left.

It has launched a massive advertising campaign. In a series of four advertisements in The Star today, the TPA sends this message.

"It's no bluff, it's no threat, it's no joke. There is no more money. There can be no more services."

id paign

sparks new rent wrangle

By SANDILE MEMELA

TALKS this week between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) aimed at ending the four-year-old rent boycott may spark a renewal of the issue.

In a newspaper advertising campaign, the TPA has given Soweto residents until the end of August "to decide what should happen with rent and services".

At the same time, hundreds of Dobsonville rent-defaulters were served with eviction notices for rent arrears, site and service charges.

The local advice office and Azapo branch have advised residents to ignore the notices.

The advertisement in *City Press* today reads: "It's no bluff, it's no threat, it's no joke. There is no more money. There can be no more services.

"Whoever you are, wherever you live, if you want something, you pay for it. Or you don't get it. Simple as that."

Azapo spokesman Molantoa Mavi cautioned this could result in violence among residents if any were evicted.

A key meeting this week between the TPA and the SPD will, for the first time, include representatives from Dobsonville and Diepmeadow.

The meeting will focus on the upgrading of municipal services, affordable tariffs; the transfer of rented houses to the people and a common fiscal tax base for Soweto and Johannesburg.

Political comment and newsbills by
K Sibiyi, headlines and sub-editing
by K Naidoo, both of 2 Herb Street,
New Doornfontein, Johannesburg

'Meet demands and boycott will end'

TANIA LEVY

SOWETO's four-year rent boycott could be lifted next week if the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) acceded to demands made by the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD), SPD spokesman Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday.

Ramaphosa said he was confident agreement would be reached between the TPA, SPD and Soweto, Dobsonville and Diepsmeadow councils at a meeting next Tuesday.

The TPA, SPD and Soweto council met in Johannesburg yesterday to discuss a joint technical committee's recommendations regarding the boycott and writing-off of arrears, upgrading of and affordable municipal services, transfer of rented

housing stock and a common fiscal base for Soweto and Johannesburg.

The discussions were postponed until Tuesday so that Dobsonville and Diepsmeadow councils could be included.

Local government MEC Olaus van Zyl said the three parties had agreed it was necessary to involve the other two councils as many items under discussion affected the greater Soweto area.

Soweto management committee chairman Payne Tshabalala said the Soweto council could not take decisions affecting greater Soweto.



Local government MEC Olaus van Zyl, left, and Soweto City Council management committee chairman Payne Tshabalala chat after the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Soweto People's Delegation and the council met yesterday to discuss ways of resolving the rent boycott in the township. Picture ROBERT BOTHA

Boost for builders

By SOPHIE TEMA

AN organisation will be launched this month to address the development of small-building contractors as part of the private sector's commitment to alleviating the housing crisis

The new Foundation for Entrepreneurial Skills Training (Fest) will be based in Midrand

Fest director Dr Gordon Sibiyi said the organisation will merge with the IBM Small Builders' Bridging Finance Loan Scheme, which will enhance Fest's potential to make a major impact on the development of this vital sector of the economy.

"The merger of the two organisations will ensure that the small builder plays a major role in the socio-economic de-

velopment of southern Africa," he said. "A national training course delivery network is being developed by interfacing with other organisations countrywide

"During the various training phases, materials and programme support are offered free of charge to regional development corporations and agencies, which will be managed on a franchise basis.

"The intention is to extend the training programme to small builders throughout southern Africa

"A four-tier programme has been established to cater for different levels of need, from providing the illiterate with functional literacy and numerical skills to imparting management skills necessary to handle multi-unit building contracts."

Talks over rents ¹²⁷ on today

TALKS aimed at breaking the stalemate in the five-year-old rent boycott in Soweto will go ahead as planned today in Johannesburg, according to the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The crisis, which has cost millions of rands in unpaid rents and service charges, has defied unilateral solutions by the authorities.

The talks, which were postponed last Thursday, focus on the writing off of arrears, upgrading of municipal services, tariffs and the need for a common fiscal base for Soweto and Johannesburg.

Tomorrow the Diepsmeadow and Dobsonville councils will join the Soweto Council, the TPA and the Soweto People's Delegation in the discussions. *Sowetan 14/8/90*

In a recent threat, the TPA said it would halt bridging finance to the councils to force them to take steps to resolve the crisis. - Sapa

Rent ad blitz 'not a threat'

(127)

THEO RAWANA

THE TPA had embarked on a R1,8m advertising campaign in an attempt to break the Transvaal rent boycott, but not to threaten residents, local government MEC Olaus van Zyl said yesterday.

The administration placed advertisements over the weekend and yesterday warning township residents to pay up or there would be no services after August 31.

Rent and service charge payments to Transvaal councils are said to be about R800m in arrears.

The TPA, Soweto City Council and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) meet today in Johannesburg to resume talks on the rent issue. *Blom 14/8/90*

Asked what the TPA's reaction would be if the advertising campaign failed to bring results, Van Zyl said: "The information campaign should not be seen in isolation. It is part of an agreement that communication with the people would be conducted at local level through several channels, including notices and accounts.

He added: "The campaign is not a threat to the people but an attempt to break the boycott before the end of that period."

TPA spokesman Gert de Jager said Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) member Cyril Ramaphosa had been told that the campaign would start last week.

The newspaper adverts would be followed by a TV, radio and "outboard" campaign. The total cost of the drive would be R1,8m.

Alberton delays township cut-off

THE Alberton Town Council has promised not to cut health services to the nearby Thokoza township until its meeting on August 29. *8/Day 15/8/90*

The council's management committee met yesterday to discuss the future of health services for Thokoza in the light of the rent boycott in the township. *(127)*

But Town Clerk A S de Beer said yesterday the committee's resolution on the issue would not be made public until the full council meeting on August 29. *(127)*

"Health services will not be cut until the management committee has reported to the council," he said

THEO RAWANA

It was reported earlier this week that health services provided by the Alberton municipality could be cut if the boycott continued — a move that would affect between 150 000 and 250 000 people

Thokoza administrator Gert Muller was reported as saying he had been informed by Alberton that the services would be suspended if Thokoza did not pay.

Saying the Thokoza council had no source of income due to the boycott, Muller said Alberton was sympathetic and had indicated it might seek funds elsewhere to deliver the necessary health services

Tamboville ready soon

By Abel Mabelane,
East Rand Bureau

The surveying of 700 sites at Tamboville, which will be home for about 4 000 Wattville home-seekers, will soon be completed, said Benoni town clerk T Conradie.

He said plans were afoot for the installation of infrastructure in the area. Once the infrastructure had been laid, about 2 000 families would move into the area within the following four months. The families who will occupy the land have refused to do so until they have been properly serviced.

Mr Conradie said the question of how the home-seekers would pay for their homes was still to be decided. The aim was to make the sites affordable to the ordinary home-seeker.

The land was made available with the help of the Benoni Town Council.

A joint interim committee consisting of the Benoni Town Council and the Wattville Concerned Residents Committee are responsible for the joint running of Tamboville.

Civics: More than street committees

WHILE the liberation movements concentrate on transforming themselves into political parties to include youth and women, the tradition of area-based mass activity is being promoted by hundreds of civic organisations around the country

Civic activists argue that the civics can organise people around day-to-day issues which affect their lives — something that lies outside the scope of a political party

This is born out by the experience of the Alexandra Civic Organisation (Aco)

In Alexandra, a densely populated Johannesburg township which neighbours on the luxury suburb of Sandton more people carry Aco membership cards than ANC cards

Says Aco president Moses Mayekiso "The issues that civics deal with affect everybody in the community. Civics provide an opportunity for ordinary people to take control of the area where they live"

Shebeens

These issues range from noisy shebeens the use of washing lines and garbage disposal to rents services and the provision of housing in Alexandra

This week Aco is having a clean-up campaign and tree planting in the township

According to Mayekiso, the clean-up follows the failure of a similar campaign by the council

Alexandra publicity secretary Obedi Bapela says by discussing these issues, people begin to make the links with the broader situation and see their problems are political

It is this link that alarmed the government which identified the street committees of Alexandra as the cornerstone of an attempt to develop a people's government in the mid 80s

But Aco operates at a more fundamental level than the 22 avenues and seven streets that crisscross the township

The basic building block of Aco are the yards which lie at the heart of Alexandra

Neighbourhood centres for ward

Area committees of civic organisations are mushrooming, promoting community issues which political parties cannot.

Civics should be the watchdogs of democracy, says one proponent.

CHIARA CARTER reports:

meetings, coordinated by a yard committee

The 24 yards which form a block, each send two representatives to block meetings

There are six blocks in all, and each in turn sends four representatives to the street committees

Each street committee elects two representatives to form the central committee

There are three huge hostels in Alexandra, two for men and one for women, housing about 15 000 people

In many townships hostel dwellers are cut off from the rest of the community. This is not the case in Alexandra, where hostels form an integral part of the civic

Similarly, the more than 100 000 squatters who have poured into the area over the past five years are also organised by Aco

Legendary

Obedi says that the emphasis on building democratic structures in Alexandra was strongly influenced by the trade union movement and the legendary Cradock Residents Association (Crads) which inspired activists in the area in the mid-80s

The early 1980s saw two weak and divided civic organisations in the area

The turning point came when activists went from street to street consulting with residents and holding meetings at venues ranging from churches to open fields

From two organisations involving few people, a mass based civic emerged.

The state of emergency hit Aco hard most of the leaders were jailed. In the yards people were afraid and resigned to avoid police harassment

According to Bapela, the lesson was

Accord to Bapela, the lesson was

South-2 2/19/90
1988-2 2/19/90

123



MOSES MAYEKISO (front right) People must take control of the areas in which they live

period held was that it is important to develop layers of leadership

This time round Aco has structured itself to allow a broader range of residents to leadership positions and a chance to develop skills ranging from finance to publicity

The state employed a dual strategy in the township while it cracked down on activists it launched a massive upgrade programme in the area

From 1912 to the mid 80s residents had lived without any basic infrastructure

Undermine

Now R120m has been invested in the provision of tarred roads, electricity and sewerage

Bapela admits the Aco leadership was concerned that the upgrade programme would undermine residents support for the civic

Fears that this would depoliticise the residents were unfounded — as an all most 100 percent response to Saturday calls and the absence of any card date for the 1988 municipal elections showed

They said Aco has come through the test of a township election

They said Aco has come through the test of a township election

employ civic organisers

Aco has introduced a membership card system. Each member pays R5, which goes towards covering administrative costs

Novel

In a novel move R1 of the fee is put aside for a benevolent fund which will cover residents in case of disasters like fire

Aco believes civics have a vital role to play and face immense challenges, including developing a vision of the future for South Africa's cities

The importance of civics is already being acknowledged by the state, local municipalities and private enterprise and developers

But Aco thinks civics must look beyond protest, towards the future

Says Bapela "We need thorough research on the problems of civics. It is not just a question of rents and services. It is not enough to say we reject the present system"

Members to update ourselves and acquire skills in a range of areas including administration and community development

Members to update ourselves and acquire skills in a range of areas including administration and community development

Already civics in the Eastern Cape and Southern Transvaal are forming regional structures

A national structure will mean civics can move beyond a localised approach to issues and coordinate policy strategy and funding throughout the country

This does not mean civics will be come the local government of the future

Transcend

Mayekiso does not believe such a transformation is desirable

The civics should transcend political parties and provide a vehicle for organising all residents — irrespective of political persuasions he says

Civics must be independent of political parties. This does not rule out the possibility of disciplined alliances — like Cosatu with the ANC and SACP

Civics are an organ of the people. Like Cosatu they are another leg of the civil society

Civics are not a local government structure but instead a mass formation which will safeguard the interests of the people

Civics are not a local government structure but instead a mass formation which will safeguard the interests of the people

Don't replace mayor - residents

THE Alexandra Civic Association yesterday called on the authorities not to replace the township's mayor, who has resigned, and to disband the council.

It said the council should be replaced with an administrator acceptable to the community.

Mr Moses Mayekiso, president of ACA, said an administrator must not be imposed on the people but discussions should be started with the community over who should be responsible for administration in the township.

Mayekiso said they welcomed Mrs Jackie Poo's resignation from the unpopular bankrupt council and her deci-

sion to join ACA as a bold move.

Alexandra Council's acting town clerk Mr Willy Khumalo said "A meeting will be held today by councillors to elect a new mayor. The council was not aware that Mrs Poo had joined the ACA."

"The call for councillors to resign is nothing new and it depends on the councillors whether they adhere to the call or not." *Sowetan 16/8/90*

Poo resigned from the council after her house was petrol-bombed six times since February this year.

A statement released by the council said her deteriorating health and family members had forced her to resign.

The Hostels Factor

By SY MAKARINGE

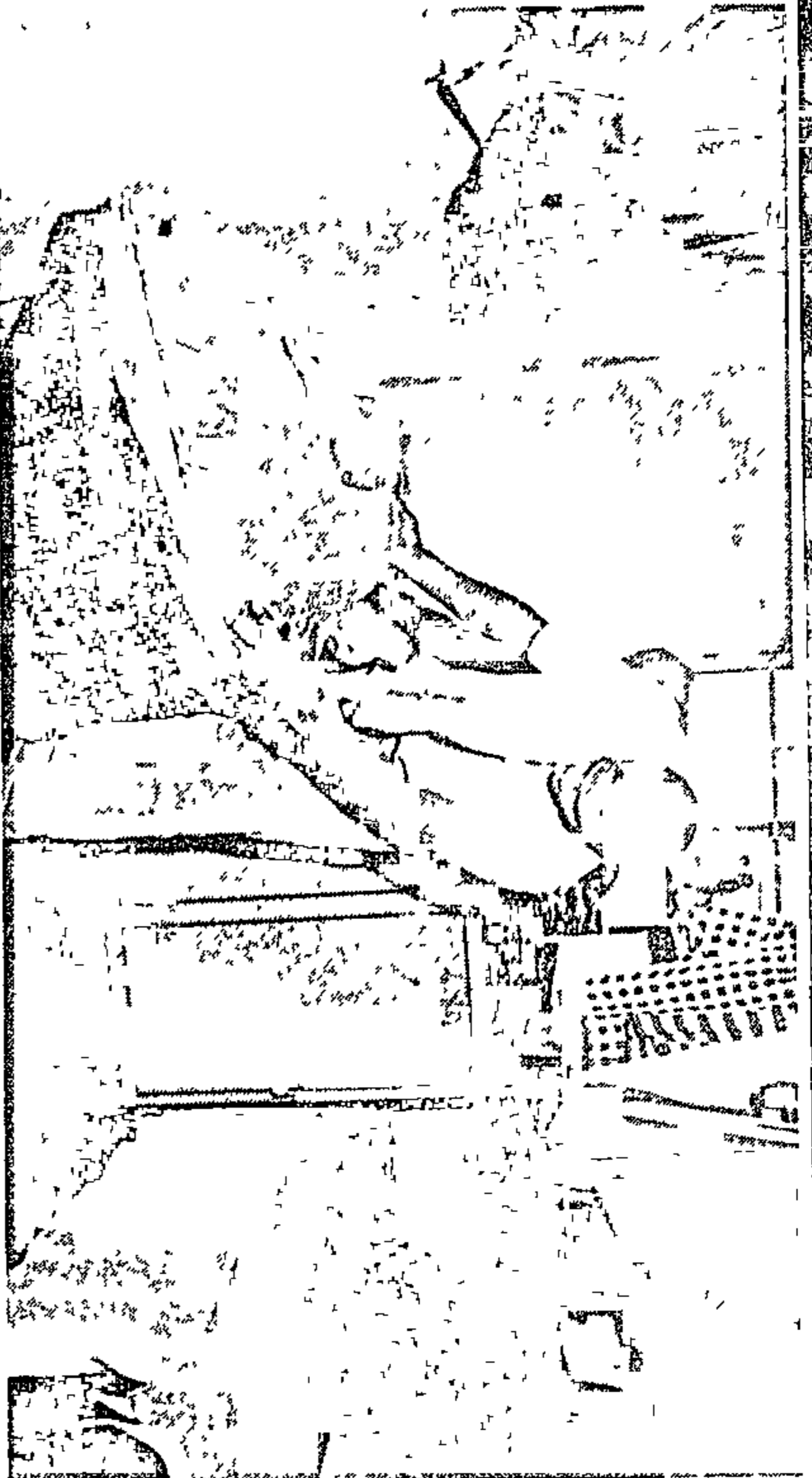
WHEN Tokoza went to war with itself last week, the realities of apartheid were sharply brought to focus.

Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, former Prime Minister of South Africa, had designed the system in such a way that, if it were one day to collapse, it would go down with hundreds of lives. The architect of this deplorable and despicable system must be smiling in his grave today as blacks butcher each other in the most savagery of fashions.

The carnage in Tokoza spread to such townships as Kaitleng, Vosloorus and Soweto. Just before Tokoza, we had Sebokeng and Kagiso. Now there is a lot of uneasiness and tension in Alexandra, Tembisa, Daveyton - to mention but a few.

The common denominator in all these clashes is the hostel factor. This was brought into being by the migrant labour system - one of the pillars of apartheid designed to keep a black person in his place.

After being resented in arid and unproductive land, many men were forced to leave their homes in the rural areas to look for jobs in the cities. The Urban Areas Act, which has now been repealed, forbade migrant workers from bringing their families to the cities. The result was that they were to be caged in



Above: A hostel inmate makes his bed in a dimly-lit bungalow.

the dreaded hostels like animals for 11 months. With their wives and children hundreds of kilometres away, the migrant workers had their marital status changed and were now known as "married bachelors".

As they did not see themselves as not part of the communities where their hostels were situated, they developed an inferiority complex. In fact, the hostels made them aliens in their own country.

The hostels, where 16 men share one big bungalow, have for a long time been the perfect recipe for disaster. Inmates are made to live under terrible and uninhabitable conditions while the authorities make no attempt to maintain the buildings.

Verwoerd's ghastly legacy (127) cause of township carnage

Soweto
Heaps of dirt are strewn all over the place. Communal toilets are blocked and the nauseating smell that comes from them has become part of their lives.

The bungalows are sordid and dingy. In some of the hostels, a bed is a concrete slab, for which an inmate is expected to pay up to R24 a month. Most of the windows and light fittings are broken and no-one has made any attempt to replace them.

The 16 men, who share one communal coal stove, do their own cooking as the law forbids the presence of women in the hostels. Privacy is also out of

the question. In fact, life at the hostel is one of boredom and loneliness. At weekends, the inmates just linger around with absolutely nothing constructive to do.

Facilities for leisure are just non-existent. Anger against the migrant labour system has been building up for a long time and all what the authorities did was to make promises that the hostels will be refurbished and turned into family flats so as people could bring their families to the cities.

The promises are still to be fulfilled.



Right: There is no privacy at the hostels as inmates have to use communal toilets.



NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

From 13h00 on Saturday 18 August 1990 the Automobile Association in Braamfontein can be called on the following numbers:

- Transvaal AA members requiring service or membership information - toll-free 0800 111 999
- AA Head Office - 407 1000

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE



Daveyton mayor Mr Tom Boya pleads for an end to the violence in black townships.

I'm ashamed, says Tom Boya

Sowetan 20/8/90

THE president of the United Municipalities of South Africa and mayor of Daveyton, Mr Tom Boya, yesterday appealed for an end to the violence sweeping parts of the country

"Today I feel very ashamed of the black-on-black violence which has gripped the East Rand and parts of Soweto. It is uncalled for, it is unnecessary and needs to be eradicated quickly," Boya said

He said past policies of the Government had contributed to the violence

"Our people are still divided into ethnic groups wherever they are being accommodated. Such

policies should be done away with immediately

"The hostel units should immediately be changed into family units so as to address the problem of housing and the millions of squatters who are homeless

"The Church should be for justice, compassion and even-handedness. Much tolerance is needed to allow for differences

"We should not allow ourselves to be used against each other," Boya said

He said violence was immoral because it thrived on hatred rather than love. It destroyed communities and made brotherhood impossible. Sapa.

Disarm - Churches say

Soweto 20/8/90

SOWETO church leaders said it was not impossible for the Government to stop the recent township violence and called on police to disarm all people involved in the conflict.

The General Secretary of the SACC, the Rev

Frank Chikane, said an urgent meeting would be requested with Mr. Adriaan Vlok.

The church would recommend that hostels be converted to family units. - Sapa

127

Women besiege mayor's office over hostel dwellers

127

By **SONTI MASEKO**

MORE than 300 angry women yesterday occupied the office of Soweto mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi until late last night demanding that all hostel dwellers in the township be evacuated and the hostels closed down.

The women will this morning continue the meeting with Mkhwanazi, which started yesterday, it

council would first have to consult with State President Mr FW de Klerk to arrange alternative accommodation for the hostel residents.

The women also demanded that the peace-keeping forces in Soweto should not take action against youths who they said were defending residents against attacks by the hostel dwellers.

Women from the various Soweto townships occupied Mkhwanazi's office from midday, saying they will not leave until they were given an undertaking by the Soweto Council that hostel dwellers would be made to leave the hostels.

Mkhwanazi said the



A section of the women who occupied the office of Soweto mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi until late last night demanding that hostel dwellers be evacuated. Pic: VELI NHLAPO

Hostel will be family units

Sowetan 22/8/90 (127)

THE Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council plans to assist in converting Meadowlands Hostel at a cost of R28 million over three years into family dwelling units housing 20 000 people

About R3 million of the total amount, which excludes escalation, was expected to be recommended at yesterday's CWRSC meeting for phase one of the project

Units varying in size from 46 to 85 square metres will consist of three or four rooms each, it was revealed in a report to be presented today

The CWRSC also plans to streamline levy collection by installing an on-line computerised system at an estimated cost of more than R2 million

Justifying the expense, acting chief executive Nantes Botha said in a report which was to be presented to the CWRSC yesterday that the current batch-orientated system resulted in lengthy and costly month-end runs, slow and clumsy data capture and verification procedures

A progress report tabled at yesterday's meeting revealed 2 354 projects were in hand, the total amount budgetted for 1993 was R991 million and funds actually voted for approved projects amounted to R373 million, of which R211 million had been spent to date

Sowetan Correspondent

Impasse over rent crisis ~~23/8~~ may end today

Soweto 23/8/90
By SY MAKARINGE

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Soweto People's Delegation and the three Greater Soweto councils meet again today in a bid to end the four-year-old Soweto rent boycott.

A technical committee, appointed after last week's meeting, is expected to table its recommendations before the start of the talks at TPA's offices at Jubilee Centre, Johannesburg.

All three parties are expected to make major announcements at the end of the meeting amid expectations that an amicable and satisfactory settlement will finally be reached today to end the impasse.

The TPA is expected to announce the writing off of a major portion of the arrears - possibly R400 million - in what could have significant implications on all local authorities falling under its jurisdiction.

Sources said the TPA would be prepared to write off the rent arrears provided the SPD made an undertaking that residents would resume paying for essential services.

The Diepmeadow and Dobsonville councils, which did not take part in earlier meetings with the TPA and the SPD, have been included in the talks.

The three parties are also expected to make a decision on a new flat rate for services and the transfer of housing stock to registered tenants.

It is not clear at this stage if the parties will reach a decision on the creation of a single tax base for Soweto and Johannesburg, a demand put forward by the SPD.

A time-bomb ticking away for years has

THE hostel system, created by the Government to put apartheid policies in place, has been a time-bomb ticking away for several years - waiting to explode.

It finally went off last week, leaving in its deadly wake catastrophic and devastating repercussions which made everyone pause and think.

Hundreds of lives were lost in the carnage which swept the black townships around Johannesburg like a wild veld fire.

The bloodbath has been linked to the ideological differences between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party, while some describe it as tribal war between Xhosa and Zulus.

BY SY MAKARINGE

While these assertions may be true to a certain extent, the underlying causes to this crippling bloodletting can, however, be attributed to the hostel and migratory labour systems.

They can also be traced back to the day when the National Party came to power more than 40 years ago.

By the time the National Party came to power black people had already been deprived of access to the land of their birth following the passing of the Land Acts of 1913 and 1936.

Men, who had been uprooted from their once productive land and dumped in dry and arid areas, were forced to leave their homes for the cities to oil the machines of the capitalists.

Hostels, which were to serve as dormitories for the cities, were built in almost every township throughout the country.

The men were, however, not allowed to bring their families to stay with them in the cities in terms of the now repealed Black Urban Areas Act.

Their movements were completely curtailed and they were virtually made aliens in their own country.

Sometimes described as "the forgotten people", hostel dwellers were completely cut off from the rest of the world and saw themselves as inferior to others.

The system did not only make them aliens in their country, but turned married men into bachelors. The men were perpetually caged, for 11 months of the year in dingy and dilapidated buildings which hardly passed for accommodation.

The problem was aggravated by the fact that the authorities left the conditions of the hostels to deteriorate to an extent that the dwellers found it increasingly difficult to live in them. In fact, they gradually became unfit for human habitation to an extent that they could best be described as dungeons.

All these were perfect recipes for disaster.

The hostels were also built around the concept of separate development where people saw themselves as Sothos, Zulus and so on, and regarded people speaking a different language as "not one of us".

Flowing from this hostel dwellers formed burial societies along ethnic lines. People speaking the same language preferred to live together in one room.

As if to remind them that blacks had no place in South Africa, hostel dwellers were subjected, and are still subjected, to next page

Finally exploded with deadly effect

Source from 24/5/90 From previous page

jected to all sorts of harassment. They are constantly being raided at awkward hours of the night by police looking for the so-called illegals.

These are the people who have nothing they can call their own. These are the forgotten people.

Loneliness and boredom is the way of life in the hostels. Recreational facilities are just non-existent and hostel dwellers often do not have anywhere to go to release their tension after a hard day's work except ending up at the beerhall where they drown their miseries and sorrows.

Privacy in the hostels is out of the

question. Up to 16 people share one big, open bungalow where an adult can undress in full view of others young enough to be his children, something that is taboo in the black community.

It is also not unusual to see grown-up men and teenagers answering the call of nature in the communal toilets at the same time.

The toilets themselves are in a state of disrepair to such an extent that a resident thinks twice before deciding to visit them. Heaps of rubbish and pools of dirty water can be seen everywhere.

For all these, hostel dwellers are expected to pay up to R24 a month for a bed. In most cases, a bed is a cold concrete slab.

The hostel system has for a long time been a scourge in the black community but the authorities continued to turn a blind eye on it.

Corporate companies such as Anglo American tried to improve some of the bungalows for its employees, but the majority of hostel dwellers continued to live under the most terrible conditions.

The authorities made promises that the hostels would be turned into family units so that dwellers could bring their families to the cities. But up to now the promises have not yet been fulfilled.

As some of the hostels are lying in ruins as a result of the on-going conflict, our politicians must treat the hostel issue as one of the major

priorities for the new South Africa we are all talking about.

The common denominator in the conflict that is taking place on the Reef today is the hostel factor.

While on the surface it appears to be the result of ideological or tribal differences, it goes deeper than that. The evidence is there for everyone to see.

People don't need hovels. They need proper homes which they can share comfortably with their families and call their own. It is only sad we were brought to our senses after so many lives had been lost.

At the time of writing this article the death toll in the Reef stood at 510 with no sign of the violence abating.

Flowing from this hostel dwellers formed burial societies along ethnic lines. People speaking the same language preferred to live together in one room.

As if to remind them that blacks had no place in South Africa, hostel dwellers were subjected, and are still subjected, to next page

To next page



Electricity switch-off

Sowetan 24/8/90

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may spark more rage

AS violence continues to rage throughout the Reef a new flash-point is looming - the August 31 rent boycott deadline when millions of township residents face the possibility of having their electricity cut.

The Government announced in July that bridging finance for the payment of bulk supply services would be "curtailed" at the end of this month to local authorities where non-payment still occurred.

However yesterday the Black Sash's Transvaal region chairman Judith Hawarden cautioned that the deadline for the Transvaal's 50 boycotting townships - from Soweto take advice (on the rent boycott issue) from the Soweto People's Delegation and civic associations.

Sowetan Correspondent

Yesterday saw a further attempt to resolve the issue before next week's deadline.

Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) spokesman Piet Wilken said a TPA delegation would meet the Soweto People's Delegation and the three local authorities of greater Soweto in a bid to reach an agreement to break the boycott.

In return for a commitment to start paying rent again, the SPD has demanded that the TPA write off the R516 million to Ermelo - was coming at an extremely volatile time.

"The Black Sash is deeply concerned about the killings in the townships and any action which could exacerbate the situation. We urge the relevant

Government authorities to accept similar settlements. According to the TPA, of the R428 million budgeted for bridging finance for 1990/1, only R99million is left. The total amount owed in rent and services arrears by the 50 local authorities in the boycott effected areas is R800 million.

It is widely believed that if an agreement is reached between the TPA and the SPD, other boycotting communities will

Asked if the TPA would be responsible for instructing local authorities to switch off township electricity on September 1, Wilken said this was not the TPA's task.

"The TPA will not be cutting any services. This responsibility will be with the local authorities themselves."

Deadlock

A HIGH-LEVEL meeting aimed at finding a solution to the Soweto rents boycott ended in deadlock yesterday after a fierce clash between the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Soweto People's Delegation

The meeting was postponed to next Tuesday after the SPD objected to an advertisement placed by the TPA in several newspapers in which it implied that residents were being intimidated by certain leaders to boycott paying rent.

The SPD took exception to the advert which, among other things, asked the question "(For) how is the silent majority going to allow a small mi-

nority to ram the rent and services boycott down their throats with a knob-kierie?"

It felt this could be construed as referring to them

The TPA is spending more than R1,8 million on an advertising campaign in a bid to break the boycott following an announcement a few weeks ago that it had run out of bridging finance

The adverts warned that essential services would be cut if the residents did not start paying.

In a statement last night, Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC for the Transvaal, said the advertisement on

intimidation did not relate to the SPD, but "to intimidators and whoever their leaders might be".

He said it related to a general situation which had emerged in many towns in the Transvaal since March this year. In addition to pressure and threats to ordinary residents, many councillors had also been intimidated

"The TPA remains strongly committed to finding a satisfactory way to end the boycott and solve the financial and other problems of Greater Soweto in the interests of all its people and in full co-operation with the four other principal parties involved in the present negotiations," Van Zyl said.

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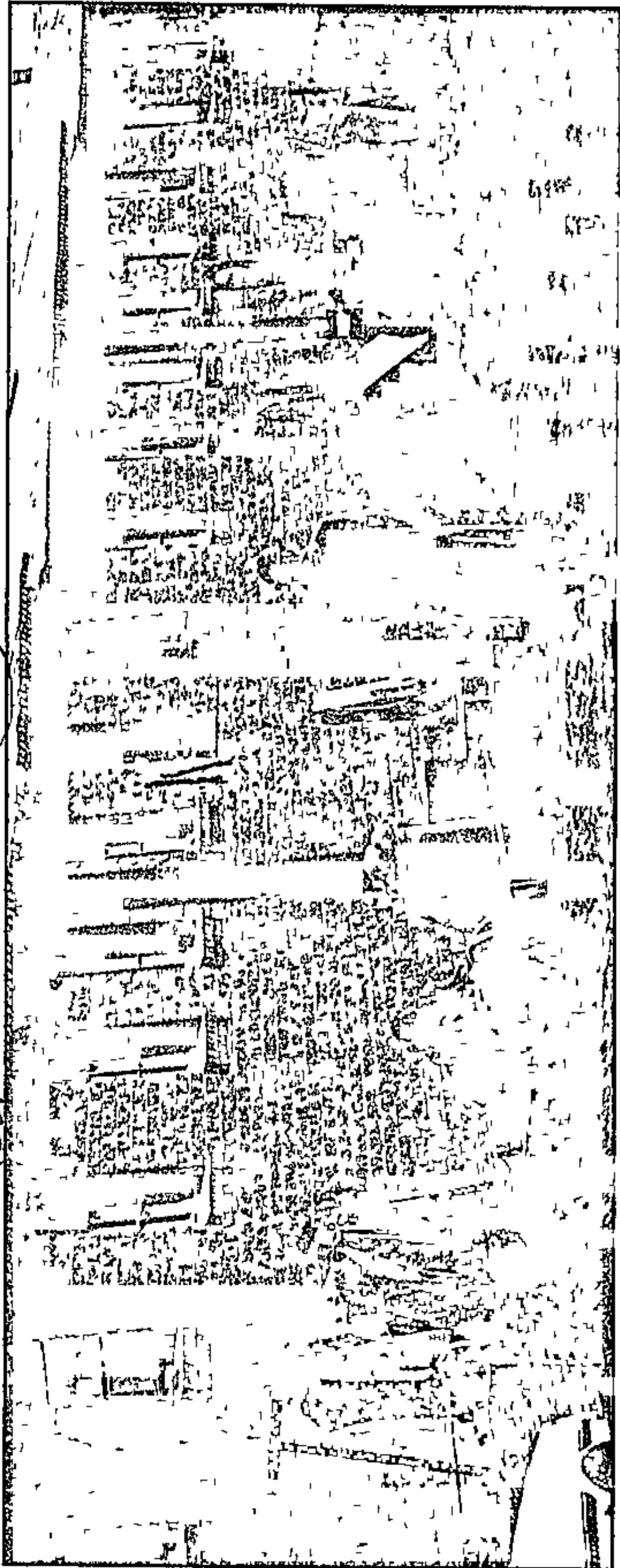
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24/8/90

Inside the dismal hostels of death

STAY 23/5/90 (127)

Privacy is unknown, electricity and hot running water are luxuries. Grown men crammed into bare brick bungalows hundreds of kilometres from their family and friends. These are the township hostels where tribal clashes have left more than 450 dead in the past week. Star reporter STAN HLOPHE and photographer HERBERT MABUZA visited Diepkloof hostel and found men living like animals.



Bleak outlook piles of rubbish litter the streets outside Diepkloof hostel in Soweto

family units. But that dream is still far away.

Joseph Khuzwayo, a hostel inmate who hails from Kwa-Maphumulo in Greytown, says the Diepkloof hostel has been relatively quiet save for minor incidents of arson.

Mr Khuzwayo who has two wives described the inmates at the hostel as being worse off than wild animals.

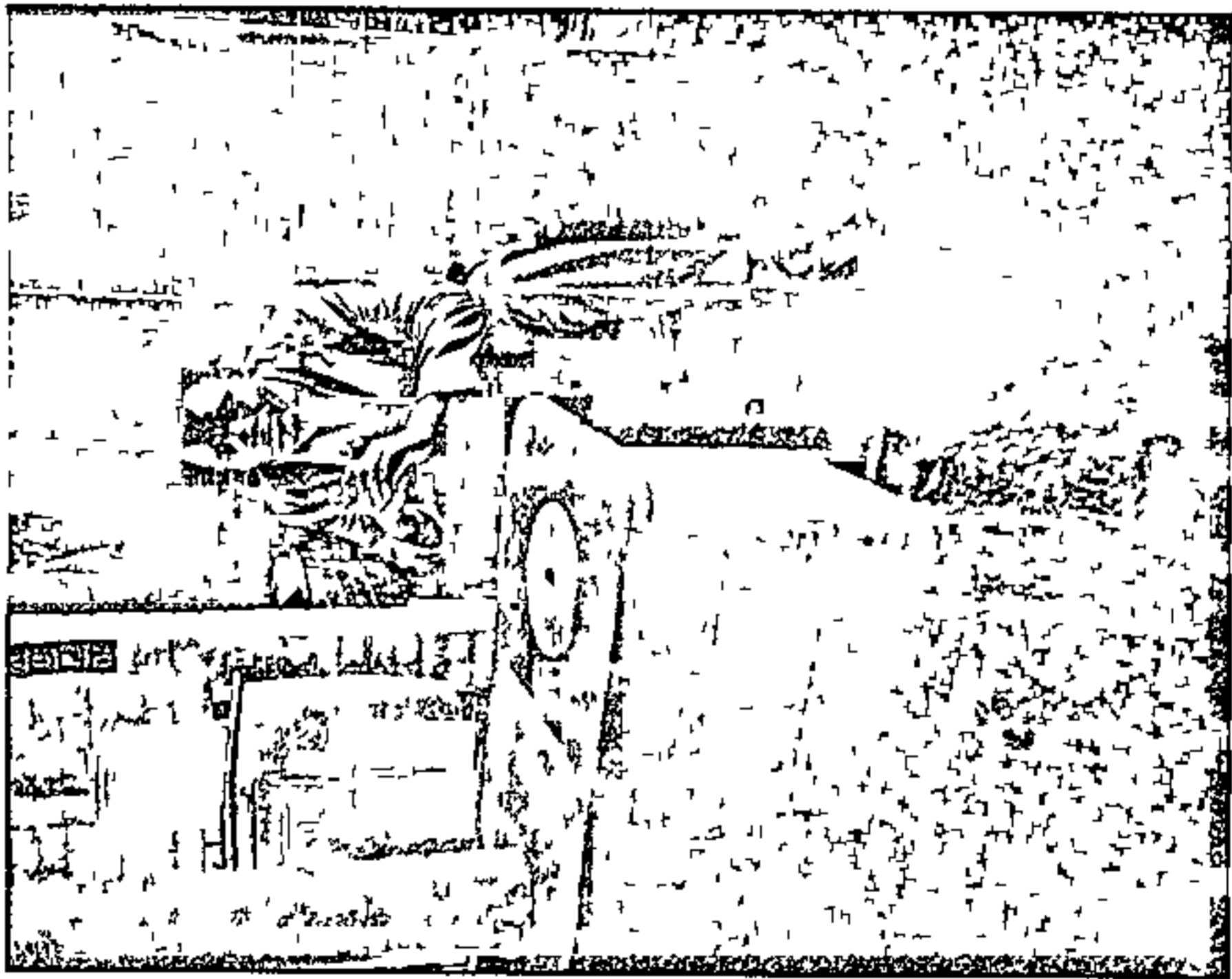
He is proud to be a Zulu but condemns the recent violence, which he said was senseless and barbaric and was a result of apartheid's "rule and divide" policy.

He said inmates relationships with other nationalities was cordial until the current wave of violence.

"The present violence is taking us back to square one. But the Government has to carry the blame. They created this system which turned normal men into wild animals.

"Where on earth have you seen 20 men living in one room? There is no privacy here. No peace of mind and rest of the soul. We are like lost people. We are still alive because of God's will.

"Otherwise no human being can live under such horrible conditions. The crime rate is very high and faction fights are rife. Now there is this senseless wave of violence. It is uncalled for and takes us back to the



Cold comfort A Diepkloof inmate sits next to the only stove in his hollow-brick bungalow

Dark Ages.

He said he believed that the hostels' conversion to family units would solve the problems. Azariah Dladla, who also hails from Greytown, maintained that out of the R15,45

paid for rent, conditions should be improved. He said the Diepkloof inmates had never joined a rent boycott unlike their counterparts in Soweto.

"But we are living under worse conditions. People here



A hostel inmate sits on a make-shift concrete bed with his personal belongings hanging above him

console themselves by indulging in liquor to drown their bitterness. There are no recreational facilities.

Mr Dladla said protests in support of the upgrading of facilities had fallen on deaf ears.

We've no alternative but to remain here as we can't afford higher rent in the township or in highrise buildings in town. We are also human beings and the Government must do something."

Politics not their business, but they suffer just as much

Life in the townships has become a nightmare for thousands of residents who don't care much for politics but have been caught up in the ongoing carnage. Political Reporter ESMARE VAN DER MERWE spoke to some women in Soweto, the country's largest township, which is simmering after days of vicious fighting.

They hurry home from work, hastily perform domestic chores, and then switch off the lights long before bedtime. Then the waiting begins. Will this be a quiet night?

Tammy (a pseudonym, for safety's sake), a close friend, telephones. She musses me, but says I should not come visiting. Things have quietened down a little, but one never knows.

She has a glamorous advertising job, studies at night for an economics degree. She doesn't go to classes any more.

"You can cut the silence out there with a knife," she says. The worst week of violence in the township seems to have passed. Every day when she gets home, her mother lists the number of friends and neighbours who have been injured, and at least two murdered.

I suggest that the family move in with me for a while. She declines, then adds: "Maybe just my baby and the woman who looks after her. I mean, my child deserves to live. She has seen so little of life."

Rebecca, an office worker with two teenage children, witnessed a necklacing the other night. She saw them put a tyre around the man's hips, heard the youngsters say "Your torch will burn until everyone sees the light. We will not tolerate this."

He was burnt alive while the onlookers watched in deadly silence.

Afterwards, she asked them why they did it. One responded: "I'm not Inkatha, and I'm not ANC. I'm a resident. And we will burn them until they stop attacking us."

And then there is Thandi, non-political, a beautician in love with life. She tells a string of horror stories, then sighs: "Oh well, let's talk about something else. We're so used to this."

A friend down the street is a Zulu, she says. He has been ordered to join an impi. He had to oblige or else.

"He says the cops come in closer,

the middle of the night to wake them up and go to war."

Stories about police involvement keep cropping up when you speak to residents. These women don't want to take sides. They're confused about the politics behind the violence. But they all believe the police are involved.

Tammy insists that the police confiscate weapons from ANC supporters and then dish them out to Inkatha warriors.

And then there is the story told about the white policemen who went into a hostel days before the violence erupted, told the Zulu workers the ANC had vowed to annihilate them, then handed out weapons with the order "Go out and attack. You're a proud Zulu nation."

Zeni gets furious when people claim the faction fighting is tribal.

I have lived in this township all my life. I go to shebeens, parties, the movies. I have many friends from all tribes. Life in Soweto has never been tribal. People are people in Soweto."

Rebecca feels uneasy about the present calm. A teacher friend says pupils are planning counter-attacks.

"They know that if they do it now, the cops will come down on them like 10 tons of bricks. They're patiently waiting for the cops to leave. They say they will level every hostel with the ground."

"When will this ever stop?" Joyce, a shebeener, heard chilling screams outside minutes after sending her oldest grandchild to the corner shop.

"I rushed out, I was mad with worry. I ran towards the incoming group of Comrades, screaming for my grandchild. It is strange how one forgets about personal danger when your loved ones are involved."

Tonight, they will switch off the lights again. They'll listen to the far-off sounds of war. And pray it doesn't come closer.

esday August 22 1990

Women want hostels evacuated now

By **KENOSI MODISANE**

THE Administrator of the Transvaal has promised to respond to a demand by Soweto women to convert hostels into family units

Soweto town clerk Mr Piet Geers said yesterday "The Administrator will soon make an announcement regarding a demand by Soweto women for the evacuation

of hostel dwellers " The women, who are demanding that hostel dwellers be evacuated from all camps in the township immediately, have threatened to continue their occupation

of the Soweto Council chambers until the demand was met

They moved into the chambers on Monday afternoon and only left after an "emergency meeting with senior officials".

Geers, however, said the evacuation could not be done overnight

"We have instead asked for the re-inforcement of the civil defence force in an attempt to restore peace in the township."

A spokesman for the women's delegation said they would not release a statement until the Administrator had given them a "firm indication

that our demand will be met".

A meeting was held on Monday night between the women's delegation, SADF and SAP officials, the Soweto town clerk and the Administrator.

No response could be obtained from the Administrator's office at the time of going to press

Soweto 22/8/90

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Soweto rent boycott

The Transvaal Provincial Administration last night defended recent newspaper advertisements calling on Soweto residents to end a five-year rent and service charges boycott, which it placed after talks with the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) broke down.

An advertisement at the centre of the dispute appeared on Tuesday and showed a full-page

black-and-white photograph of three armed and unidentifiable people carrying a brick and what looked like two pangas raised above their heads.

It was headlined "If everyone agreed with the boycott, what do they need those sticks and stones for?"

The SPD said the advertisement "identified our leadership as intimidators rammimg the

TPA defends its press campaign

rents and service charges boycott down the throats of our people."

Olaus van Zyl, MEC for local government, denied the claim in a press statement. "The advertisement related to intimidators and whoever their leaders might be," Mr van Zyl said.

"It did not relate to the Soweto People's Delegation or Johannesburg City Council for water. This meeting will take place four days before the TPA has said it will stop paying Eskom for electricity and Johannesburg City Council for water.

Mamelodi victims to sue ministers

THE Mamelodi Civic Association (MCA) yesterday announced that lawyers acting for victims of the bloody confrontation between residents and police last month would serve papers against the ministers of police and defence next week.

On July 8, more than 200 people were injured when police fired teargas and assaulted residents at a mass meeting held at the local stadium.

A few days later, the community of Mamelodi staged a successful stayaway to protest against police conduct.

MCA publicity secretary Pasty Malefo told *The Weekly Mail* that the statements would bear testimony of the actions of the police *w/ Mail 24/8-26/8/90*
"The statements to be submitted to both Ministers will prove that the meet-

ing was peaceful and that the people had gathered at the stadium to discuss community related problems," he said.

He said that negotiations were continuing between the Mamelodi People's Delegation, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and local town councillors. At a meeting before the bloody confrontation last month, both parties had agreed that rent arrears would be frozen if the residents agreed to pay rent **127**

However, Malefo said the council had instead attached resident's properties, threatened legal action and discontinued services such as electricity. He said the delegation would only re-enter negotiations with the council once the recommendation had been made, a date set for the freeze and victimisation stopped.

Service cut-offs in doubt

By Therese Anders

Eskom and the Rand Water Board have announced they will not immediately be suspending electricity and water supplies.

The announcement comes four days before the nationwide rent boycott crisis is due to come to a head.

However, The Star has been told that some black local authorities have been warned that supplies will be stopped on Friday for non-payment of accounts.

● Witbank Town Council has given notification to KwaGuqa of an electricity cut on August 31 for non-payment.

● Ermelo's Conservative Party town council says Wesselton township's water supply would be suspended by September 15.

● Benoni's town clerk said that despite payment problems with Daveyton and Wattville, "we won't be cutting them off. That's not Benoni's style".

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CP cuts township services

sta 29/8/90

By Therese Anders,
Highveld Bureau

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Carolina mayor Dr Sarel Bloem said the decision to switch off had been a question of economics, not politics.

The big switch-off of services to black townships has begun, with Carolina's Conservative Party council cutting water, water-borne sewage and electricity to Silobela yesterday.

The situation in Silobela, where residents claim there has never been a rent boycott, was described by residents last night as extremely tense.

Last night the ANC condemned the action, saying it was a violation of an agreement between the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the ANC and civic associations.

● Sebokeng and Boipatong have been granted yet another reprieve before their electricity supply is cut off.

TPA

BUSINESS DAY, Wednesday, August 29 1990

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Rent talks helping to iron out problems, says TPA

THE TPA and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) had substantially narrowed the range of differences in the talks aimed at resolving Greater Soweto's five-year rent boycott, the TPA said yesterday.

Transvaal MEC Fame Ferreira, chairman of the meeting, said in a statement the negotiations, which included representatives of the three Greater Soweto councils — Soweto, Diepsmeadow and Dobsonville — had been postponed until tomorrow.

Talks to resolve the boycott, which has led to the three councils collectively owing R507m, broke down last Thursday.

This followed objections by the SPD to an advertisement placed in a newspaper by the TPA in its campaign to get residents to end the boycott.

The SPD felt the advertisement

THEO RAWANA had branded them as "intimidators". They demanded the TPA withdraw it and apologise to the people of Soweto.

Transvaal MEC for local government Olaus van Zyl had later explained in a statement that the advertisement did not relate to the SPD, but to the situation in the whole of the Transvaal.

Consensus

The TPA said yesterday "Certain aspects of today's discussions have been referred back for consideration by the Joint Technical Committee tomorrow, August 29."

"They are to report back to the principal bodies on Thursday, August 30, when it is hoped that consensus will be achieved in the interest of the people of Greater Soweto."

Issues being negotiated are:
□ The writing off of municipal charges and rent arrears,
□ The upgrading of municipal services.

□ Affordable tariffs for municipal services,
□ The transfer of the rented housing stock to tenants, and
□ A common fiscal base for Greater Soweto and Johannesburg.

The talks will be resumed a day before the TPA's deadline for the curtailment of bridging finance for black councils.

The TPA had warned recently that the boycott, which had seen Transvaal black councils collectively owing R831m by June 30, had dried up financial resources.

It said bridging finance to councils would be curtailed by the end of this month.

Council officials concluded such an operation appeared a prelude to an assassination attempt and called a Press conference and informed the police.

The three union officials were charged with kidnaping, robbery and assault and released on R1 500 bail each by a Johannesburg court.

tribution officer Baba Schalk, were arrested yesterday for allegedly abducting and



Taking tea during a break in yesterday's rent boycott talks between the Soweto People's Delegation and the TPA were, from left, Soweto city council management committee chairman Payne Tshabalala, Diepsmeadow Mayor Moses Khumalo and Transvaal local government MEC Olaus van Zyl. Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

Govt-ANC peace team has started its work — Viljoen

Extortionist plann a 'deadly treasure

Progress in boycott talks

CAF talks 29/8/90 (127)
JOHANNESBURG. — Substantial progress was reported at talks yesterday between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) on ending the five-year rent and service charges boycott in Soweto, according to the TPA.

Discussions, which include the city councils of Soweto, Diepmeadow and Dobsonville, will resume tomorrow — a day before the TPA has said it will cut off Soweto's water and electricity supply if agreement is not reached.

Mr Fanie Ferreira, Transvaal MEC, indicated the TPA was cautiously optimistic an agreement would be reached tomorrow. Yesterday's talks were held "in a cordial and constructive atmosphere", he said.

Discussions broke down on Thursday last week after the SPD had protested about an advertising campaign by the TPA in which it was alleged Soweto residents were not paying their rent because of intimidation. — Sapa

Move on hostels begins

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COMMUNITY organisations in KwaThema, as well as the local town council and representatives of Inkatha, agreed at a meeting on Wednesday that the hostels in the town should be phased out *so we can*

24/8/90
The meeting was held to reassure residents of the East Rand Township that something was being done about the hostel system which became the centre of controversy after this week's clashes involving hostel dwellers.

The community organisations involved included the KwaThema Civic Association, the KwaThema Youth Organisation and the local chamber of commerce.

Further discussions on alternative accommodation for the nearly 7 000 hostel population of KwaThema were held later yesterday and involved the Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the house of the former East Rand secretary of Inkatha, Mr Steve Mbuta, was burnt down on Wednesday night - *Sapa*.

More than 200 000 live in hostels in PWV

By Claire Kubertson, Pretoria Bureau

The controversial hostel system, blamed for much of the current Reef violence, exists in all but three of the 25 townships that make up the East and West Rand

The 56 hostels in those four Pretoria townships house just more than 200 000 people

They live either in vast complexes such as Diepmeadow's two, which together sleep 29 000; or in a single 80-bed dormitory such as that at Impumelo near Devon on the East Rand

Of the 29 townships canvassed in an attempt to gauge the extent of the hostel system, only the municipalities of Boteng near Delmas, Tsakane

near Brakpan and Evaton near Vanderbijlpark do not run hostels, though an Evaton spokesman said "We use Sebokeng's"

The hostel violence, which has claimed more than 400 lives recently, has renewed calls for an end to the "single-sex" housing system, a legacy of the migrant labour system

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council this

week approved a plan to convert the huge Meadowlands complex from a dwelling for 23 000 single men into family flats housing 20 000 people

But Reef township officials, asked about similar plans, stressed that hostels "fulfilled a real need"

● Inside the dismal hostels of death — Page 21

Star 29/8/90

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NEWS

By Claire Robertson,
Pretoria Bureau

Development is to begin soon on the first pocket of land earmarked as part of a major black urbanisation strategy in the PWV area, according to Transvaal MEC for Housing John Mavuso.

Serviced sites on the 2 000 hectare area west of Soweto should be ready for occupation by December, he told a seminar on black housing at

Serviced sites ready soon, says Mavuso

Unisa yesterday.

The land is part of a number of PWV areas identified by an urbanisation task force two years ago. The areas are largely for expanding and linking existing townships.

The other areas were still the subject of detailed geological investigations "to confirm the urbanisation potential of probable areas", a process which could take longer than a year and cost "several hundred thousand rands", he said.

As to further development, Mr Mavuso said that "in the short term at least, most black urban development may be expected to take place on the East Rand"



Hostel system endemic on Reef

THE controversial hostel housing system blamed for much of the ongoing Reef violence exists in all but three of the 25 townships that make up the East and West Rand

The 56 hostels in those and four Pretoria townships house just over 200 000 people, in vast complexes such as Diepmeadow's two which together sleep 29 000, or in a single 80-bed dormitory such as that at Impumelelo near Devon on the East Rand

Of the 29 townships canvassed in an attempt to gauge the extent of the hostel system, only the municipalities of Botleng near Delmas, Tsakane near Brakpan and Evaton near Vanderbijlpark do not run hostels, although a spokesman for the latter said "we use

Sebokeng's" 

The hostel violence which has claimed more than 500 lives recently has renewed calls for an end to the "single-sex" housing system, a legacy of the migrant labour system but one which still exists four years after the relevant influx control legislation was scrapped.

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council this week approved a plan to convert the huge Meadowlands complex from a dwelling for 23 000 single men into family flats housing 20 000 people

But Reef township officials asked about similar plans stressed that hostels "fulfilled a real need"

"We are giving to a lot of homelands people a place to stay," said one East Rand Town Engineer



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The future of hostels

in the balance today

By SANDILE MEMELA

ANC-aligned organisations will hold a mass meeting in KwaThema Springs, today, to discuss the thorny issue of the removal of hostels from the area.

East Rand ANC co-ordinator Cyril Janjies told City Press today was Day for the hostel inmates to leave.

"There is a good reason for all hostel inmates to evacuate the hostel as this will restore peace and normality to the area."

Janjies said there were strong suspicions that elements in the hostels were bent on waging a violent campaign against residents to sabotage talks between the government and the ANC.

KwaThema residents have demanded the complete destruction of the hostel system.

The past two weeks have seen a rift develop between civic leaderships and residents in KwaThema, Kagiso and Thokoza over strategies to restore peace and normality to the trouble-torn areas.

Various community organisations in KwaThema as well as local town councils, representatives of hostel inmates and police agreed on Thursday the hostel must be evacuated.

"At present there is not much we can say about the demolishing of the hostel. We all agree that that evacuation is one means of getting calm and normality," Janjies said.

He added police and SADF soldiers have agreed to cordon off the area and help evacuate the remaining inmates to other areas. A rigid system of monitoring the movement of Zulu impi inside the hostel has been set up.

Earlier this week the KwaThema Civic Association's plan to peacefully resettle Zulu impi trapped inside the hostel to another area, was vociferously challenged by a 10 000-strong crowd at the local stadium.

Residents demanded the hostel be demolished to restore normality to community life which was disrupted by the strife which has left at least 56 dead in KwaThema.

Residents in the area have had little sleep as a result of running battles with Zulu impi in the saga of violence which has left more than 500 dead on the Reef.

And, a week ago a 15 000-strong crowd walked out of a mass meeting over dissatisfaction with Tokozza civic association chairman Sam Ntuli's plea that police help be sought to remove Zulu impi from the hostels.

His idea of granting peaceful concessions to trapped Zulu impi was rejected at the rally.

"We cannot afford to have hostels in our areas as they have been the launching pads for people who want to wage war against peace-loving black people in the country," a resident said.

But, Janjies said his organisation could not decide the fate of the hostels.

"We cannot give word that the hostels be razed as they do not belong to us. That would only put

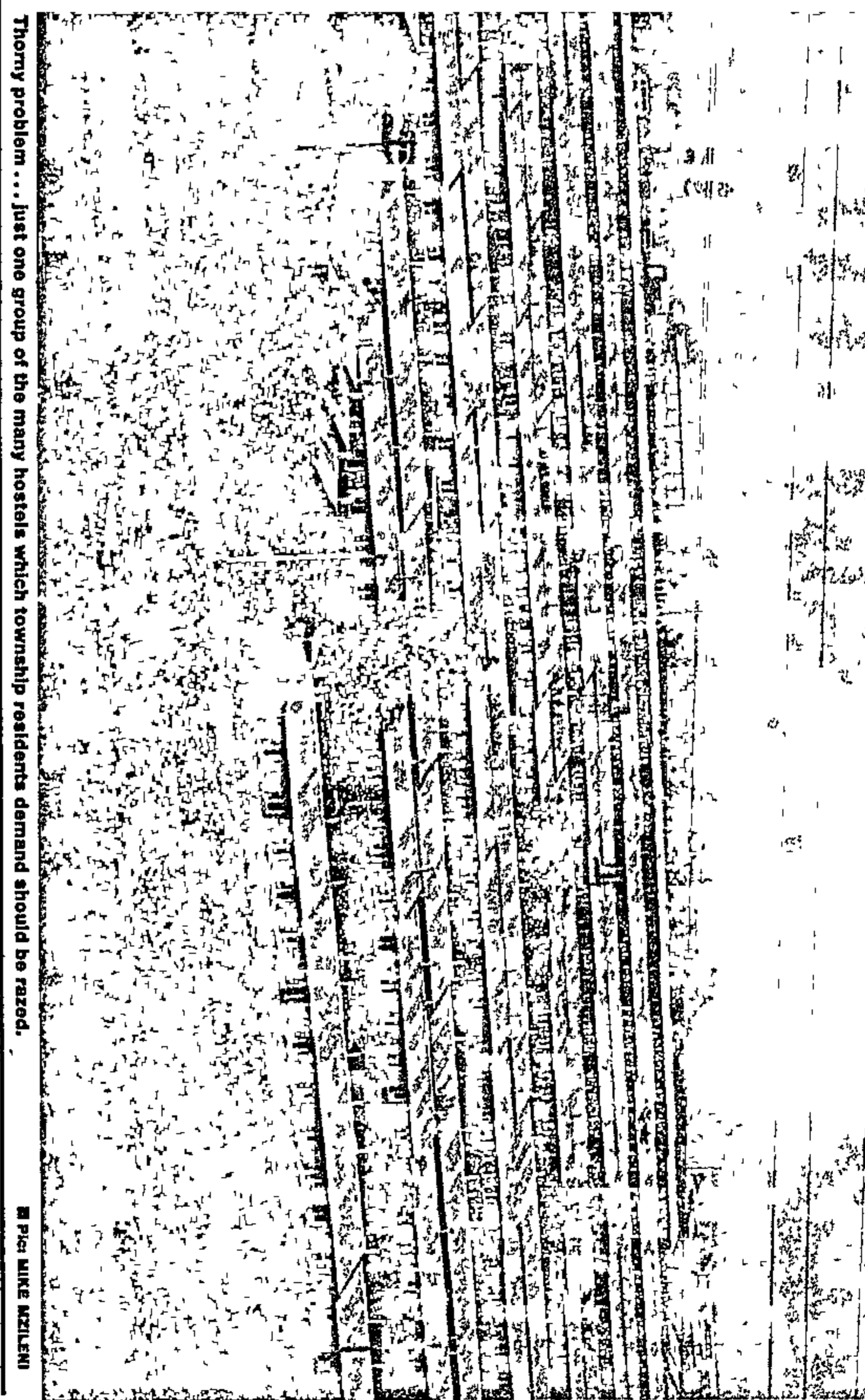
us into trouble with the law," he added.

The migratory labour system has created 31 hostels housing close to 125 000 people in Soweto and East Rand townships.

The Urban Areas Act, which was repealed in 1986, was responsible for breaking up millions of families and forcing married men to be bachelors for 11 months every year.

The migrant labourers are thus isolated from both their families and township communities - which have shunned them.

Though influx control has been withdrawn, hostel dwellers remain under the unhabitable conditions created by it. The past two weeks have seen their frustrations explode into violence.



Thorny problem... just one group of the many hostels which township residents demand should be razed.

PHOTO BY MIKE MZILENI

CP action brings violence warning

Chaos as lights and water cut

By Therese Anders,
Stan Hlopho and Sapa

There was chaos in the eastern Transvaal township of Silobela yesterday after the cutting of water, sewerage and electricity services on Tuesday by Carolina's Conservative Party council.

And, as more black towns were threatened with services being cut off within days, there were signs that the issue of arrears payments is rapidly blowing up into a major political confrontation between the black political organisations on the one side and white local authorities and the Government on the other.

Consumer boycotts are already being threatened as retaliatory steps if the authorities should continue with threatened services cuts.

In Silobela, perishable food in shops began to rot yesterday, as did the contents of most home refrigerators. Most of the 10 000 residents had to collect supplies of water from a small polluted stream.

Locals avoided the council tanker providing water during the day — at 2c a litre — because they alleged it was the same one used to collect night-soil buckets.

On Tuesday, Carolina mayor Dr Sarel Bloem said the services had been suspended because Silobela owed the Carolina municipality R25 000 for July and their August account was almost due.

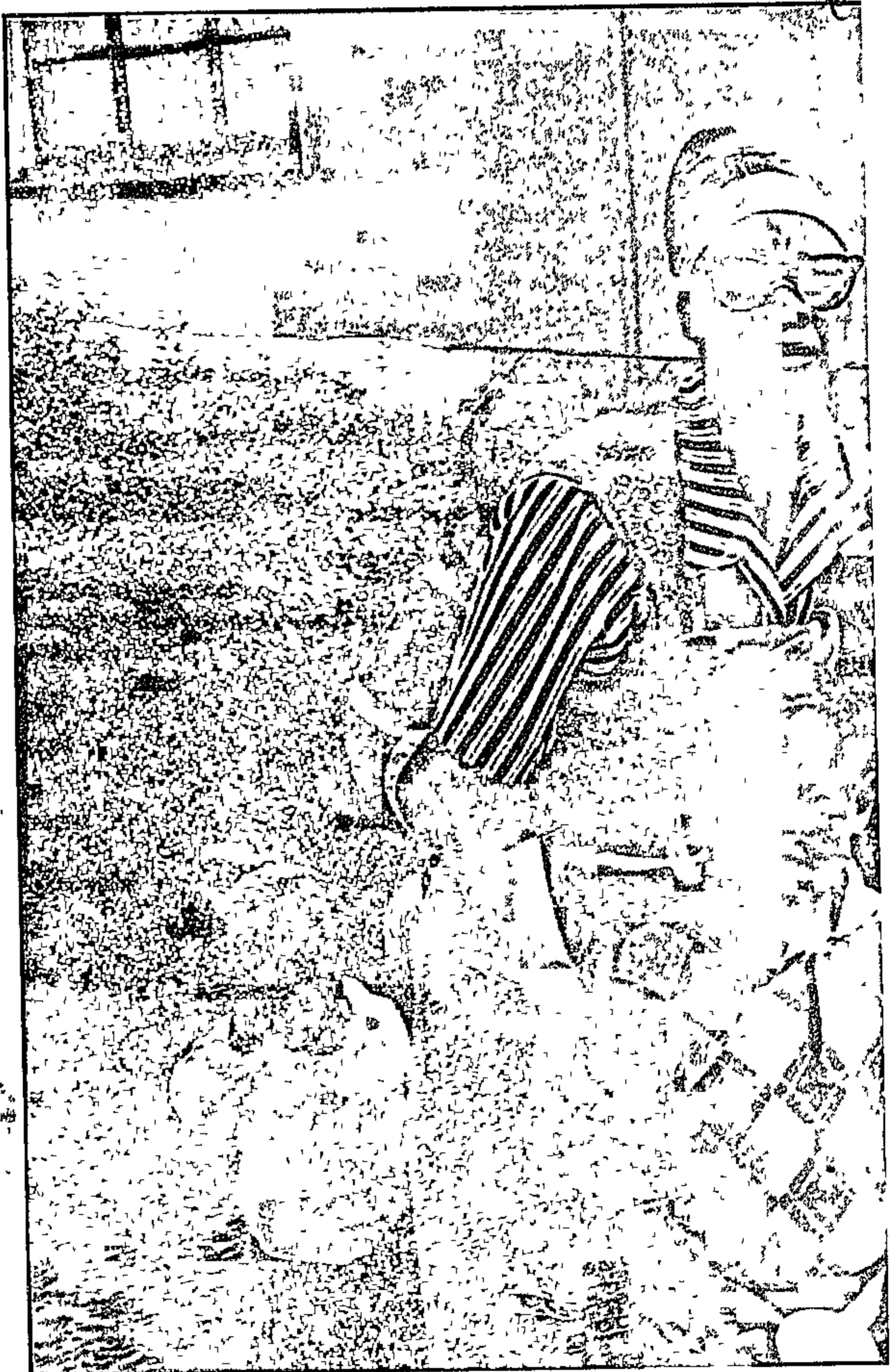
A Transvaal Provincial Administration spokesman in Nelspruit confirmed that many Silobela residents were paying their accounts, but said that, according to the TPA's formula, Silobela had been designated a boycotting township.

The TPA's head office in Pretoria said yesterday in a statement that the Carolina Town Council had acted without its permission.

'Serious mistake'

"The TPA, however, has no jurisdiction over an autonomous local authority."

Last night the ANC issued a



Not a drop . . . Silobela housewife Pauline Mgebane kept trying her tap, council might have changed its mind and re-connected the township's

Jani bomb was 'a bid

Star 30/8/90

(344)

Consumer boycotts are already being threatened as retaliatory steps if the authorities should continue with threatened services cuts

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'Serious mistake'

"The TPA, however, has no jurisdiction over an autonomous local authority"

Last night the ANC issued a strongly worded warning to Carolina's CP-led council

ANC eastern Transvaal region secretary Joe Nkuna said "We condemn the action of the CP town council. They are making a serious mistake because we are considering serious action to protect our people if the situation doesn't change immediately"

● Hardly 48 hours after the Carolina council cut services to Silobela, Belfast's CP-controlled town council has given the residents of Siyathuthuka an ultimatum to pay up or be cut off on September 4

Town clerk Mr P Strydom said the council was not in the financial position to pay Siyathuthuka's account to Eskom

● Good progress was made at talks between the TPA and the Soweto People's Delegation on ending the rent and service-charges boycott in Soweto, the TPA said

Discussions, in which the councils of Soweto, Diepmeadow and Dobsonville are also taking part, will resume today.

According to the TPA's Piet Wilken, the TPA has run out of funds and unless some revenue is forthcoming by the end of August, they would have to cut the services

Civic Association spokesmen warned the TPA that, if it carried out its threats, it would have to bear the blame for the full-scale violence which would erupt.

This warning was echoed by United Municipalities of South Africa president Tom Boya, who appealed to President de Klerk to intervene



Not a drop . . . Silobela housewife Pauline Mgebane kept trying her tap council might have changed its mind and re-connected the township's

Jani bomb was 'a bid to ruin TerreBlanche'

Star 30/8/90

344

By Cathy Stagg and Craig Kotze
One of two rightwingers allegedly responsible for the bomb blast last year outside former Sunday Times columnist Jani Allan's Sandton home has been charged in the Rand Supreme Court.

Fanie Goosen (29) of Vereeniging appeared briefly yesterday in connection with the blast and the murder and robbery of a taxi driver, Potoko Franzar Makgalemele, who was first stabbed then shot.

Mr Goosen will remain in custody until his case resumes on September 11. The second man, Cornelius Johannes Lottering (34), is being sought by police in the far Northern Transvaal

Described as one of South Africa's most wanted men and an alleged member of the self-styled extremist right-wing "Order of Death", Mr Lottering escaped from police custody in Johannesburg along with Mr Goosen and other prisoners in March. Mr Goosen was

re-arrested on the farm Swarwater near the Botswana border

Police are following up information that Mr Lottering is hiding out on farms in the Pietersburg and the Ellisras areas

According to the charge sheet the two men committed murder, two counts of robbery, two counts of malicious damage to property, attempted intimidation and the unlawful possession of a firearm.

The two men are said to have "illegally caused an explosion" on July 14 last year against the wall of a block of flats named "The Birches" in Sandton

Ms Allan, who has subsequently moved to London, was a resident.

The explosion was said to have been an attempt to threaten or force her to generate news reports which would contribute to ruining the expected nomination of AWB leader Eugene TerreBlanche as a candidate for the September 1989 general elections

Arrests a 'cheek' — ANC

Star 30/8/90

329 1409 11A

Staff Reporters
The ANC yesterday described as "a damn cheek" the arrest and charging of three senior Cosatu officials, after they complained to the police that an alleged police spy had been caught red-handed

ANC publicity chief Pallo Jordan was responding to the arrest of Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo,

assistant general secretary Sydney Mufamadi and distribution official Baba Schalk during a police raid on the Cosatu head office in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

The three officials, who were charged with kidnapping and robbery, briefly appeared in court yesterday and the case was postponed. Bail of R1 500 each was extended

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Rents

Soweto
30/8/90

127

crisis

talks

By DON SEOKANE

THE Soweto People's Delegation and Transvaal Provincial Administration today continue crucial talks on the rent boycott, while Silobela township in the eastern Transvaal has already had its services cut off.

Water and electricity in the township are provided by the Carolina Town Council. An official of the Conservative Party-controlled council said it could no longer carry the arrears, in excess of

INSIDE TODAY

- ANC to buy Mail? - P2
- Students arrested - P4
- Skin lighteners battle - P8
- ANC aids prisoners - P9
- Racing results - P45
- 'Downs to topple Chiefs' - P48

TOPIC?

P.T.O.

Crucial rents talks today

● From Page 1

R25 000.

Next Tuesday another eastern Transvaal township, Siyathuthuka near Belfast, will have its electricity and water cut off unless residents paid their arrears.

The mayor of Siyathuthuka, Mr D Mnguni, said the town council would discontinue the township's electricity supply next Tuesday because of the continuing rent boycott.

Meanwhile, the TPA yesterday repeated its warning that it would no longer provide bridging finance, paving the way for councils to take action on defaulters.

The TPA took this tough stance regardless of the fact that Eskom and the Rand Water Board said they would not cut off supplies.

An official, Mr Piet Wilkens, said some white local authorities who are supplying black town councils with electricity had indicated they might discontinue power supplies to the townships if the boycott was not resolved on August 31.

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Power

"There are a quite a number of town councils which do not receive their power supplies directly from Eskom.

"It is a worldwide phenomenon that if people do not pay for the service rendered to them, then they cannot expect to receive anything," he said.

He said the TPA would soon not be able to provide bridging finance to townships affected by rent and ser-

vice boycotts "simply because there is no money".

Wilkens said 82 local authorities were affected by the boycott and of the R313-million budgeted for this year only R99 million was left to finance the council.

Today's talks between the TPA and SPD continue from Tuesday when TPA officials said areas of difference had been narrowed and there was a possibility that agreement could be reached today.

The talks involve the Soweto, Diepmeadow and Dobsonville municipalities, the TPA and the SPD.

SPD representatives include Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, Mrs Albertina Sisulu and the Rev Frank Chikane.

Threat of white backlash over rent boycott

TRANSVAAL councils were facing a backlash from white ratepayers over the black rent boycott, president of the province's municipal association warned yesterday as councils started cutting off services to their defaulting townships

Independent president of the CP-dominated Transvaal Municipal Association (TMA) Johan van der Merwe said white ratepayers were threatening to boycott rates and service charges if township residents did not pay up

A spokesman for the Belfast Town Council said yesterday his municipality would cut off electricity to the Siyathuthuka township on September 4

PETER DELMAR
and THEO RAWANA

Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) spokesman Magda du Toit said 34 Transvaal townships' services were supplied by 44 white municipalities

The Carolina Town Council cut electricity to Selobela township on Tuesday

Another TPA spokesman said yesterday the Bronkhorstspuit municipality had cut power to consumers in Zithuben two weeks ago, but this was denied by the council which said Eskom supplied the township directly

Van der Merwe said many municipali-

ties not controlled by the CP would have to consider steps similar to those taken by Carolina and Belfast. His own municipality of Alberton would probably be forced into ending services by the end of next week if a solution was not found, he said

United Municipalities of SA (Umsa) president Tom Boya said he was confident President F W de Klerk would be sympathetic towards an appeal that black local authorities be given three months' grace in which to meet their outstanding rent and service bills

Urban Councils' Association of SA (Ucasa) president Phillip Nhlapo said

□ To Page 2

Backlash

moves to cut off electricity were unfair, because Cabinet's decision on the matter was still unknown.

"The issue does not apply only in the Transvaal but affects all four provinces. President F W de Klerk said in July the Cabinet would meet and make a decision during August. Now the white councils are cutting off electricity even before the cabinet decision is known — before word from the President is received," Nhlapo said

De Klerk, in his July 19 directive that the July 31 deadline for curtailing bridging finance should be extended to August 31, had said "The general problematics of financing of services, as well as arrears, are at present being urgently examined, and Cabinet will decide on this in August"

TPA spokesman Piet Wilkens said De

Klerk had said bridging finance would be terminated at the end of August

"The TPA naturally regrets that services have been cut to these townships, but the white councils are autonomous and can do as they please"

The R313m the administration had set aside for bridging finance had dried up and only R99m was left -

Spokesman in the President's Office Casper Venter said last night he could not say whether the bridging finance issue had been discussed by the Cabinet in its meeting yesterday. After the meeting, a government spokesman said he did not foresee any statement being released last night

Eskom spokesman Laetitia van Staden said Eskom had not cut off electricity supplies to any council

□ From Page 1

Govt takes a hard line on rent boycotts

blom 31/8/90

PRETORIA — Services, including electricity, would soon be cut to townships where residents refused to pay their bills, Provincial Planning Minister Hernus Kriel said yesterday

This move is an attempt by government to force residents to start paying, as local authority finance has run dry.

"The fact is that government simply does not have funds to continue providing bridging finance and that the onus to pay for these services rests with the consumers themselves," Kriel said

However, electricity and water supplies to the eastern Transvaal township of Silobela near Carolina were reconnected yesterday, after provincial authorities undertook to pay the R22 298 account, Carolina's Mayor Sarel Bloem said last night

He said he received a fax from the Transvaal Provincial Administration at about 5pm and immediately ordered the reconnection of services which had been cut for the past two days.

He predicted the payment of the June account would provide only temporary relief to the residents, as the August account was almost due

Kriel said the decision to cut services was taken after lengthy consultations with the leaders of communities involved, and after repeated reminders of the consequences of non-payment

He said the decision to discontinue the services was up to the bodies which supplied the services, such as Eskom

Kriel said he hoped this move would not exacerbate violence in Reef townships

The cutting of services would not be implemented in "one shot" but would be

EDYTH BULBRING and TIM COHEN

done in phases

Government would ensure that essential services would not be affected

Section 20 of the Health Act states that local authorities must take reasonable steps to render services that prevent communicable diseases and promote health

The Act also states that local authorities must provide occupied dwellings with a proper and sufficient supply of pure water at a reasonable distance

Kriel said government had made available R632m in bridging finance for black local authorities to balance their books. Of the R428m allocated in the Transvaal, only R99m was left to last until March

The provinces would decide to which local authorities the remaining money would go He said those townships which had been paying their bills would have a right to be assisted

Electricity would be the first service to be cut off, but hospitals and sewerage would not be affected Refuse removal would be the next service to go, while water supplies would be reduced, or cut off at certain time of the day, he said

A distinction would be made between people with bona fide financial problems, and those who were "simply exploiting the non-payment issue"

"The government wishes to emphasise that the responsibility for this unfortunate situation rests entirely with those who are behind the boycotts," he said

Eskom's management board held an ur-

To Page 2

Boycotts blom 31/8/90

gent meeting last night to discuss Kriel's announcement, Eskom communications manager Johan du Plessis said.

He said the responsibility for the administration of electricity services lay with local authority concerned and it was the local authority's decision to implement a blackout

But ultimately Eskom was a business and if all other options had been exhausted, the corporation could not supply electricity to local authorities if it was not paid, Du Plessis said

PETER DELMAR reports that United Municipalities of SA (Umsa) president

(127) From Page 1

Tom Boya predicted widespread township chaos if electricity and water supplies were restricted

He said Kriel's announcement was likely to jeopardise negotiations on future local government structures

"This is very sad There will be so much anger if these townships are blacked out Umsa councillors were pinning their hopes on intervention by President F W de Klerk, Boya said

Kriel said a decision would be taken on Soweto's services after the conclusion of talks between the Soweto People's Delegation, the TPA and the Soweto City Council

We won't pay, say angry residents

Star 31/8/90
By Louise Burgers

Residents of Ennerdale, south of Johannesburg, are threatening to boycott all accounts sent out by the local authority if their grievances about high and faulty accounts for water and lights are not addressed.

Yesterday residents clashed repeatedly with a large contingent of police when they demonstrated outside the civic centre and attempted to march on the local police station.

Residents also embarked on a work stayaway after police took action against marchers late on Wednesday.

Eyewitnesses said police used birdshot, rubber bullets and teargas to disperse crowds.

SAP liaison officer, Captain Pieter van Deventer, confirmed

that police baton-charged and teargassed residents, but denied birdshot and rubber bullets were used. Four people were arrested.

A member of the Ennerdale Civic Association, Howard Sauls, said police used birdshot against residents again yesterday, injuring one man.

Bleeding

Mr Sauls said: "I was standing two metres away from the man who was hit. A crowd had gathered at the entrance to the town. Police told the people to disperse.

"Teargas was fired and then I heard a shot and a man scream. He was bleeding from his left side."

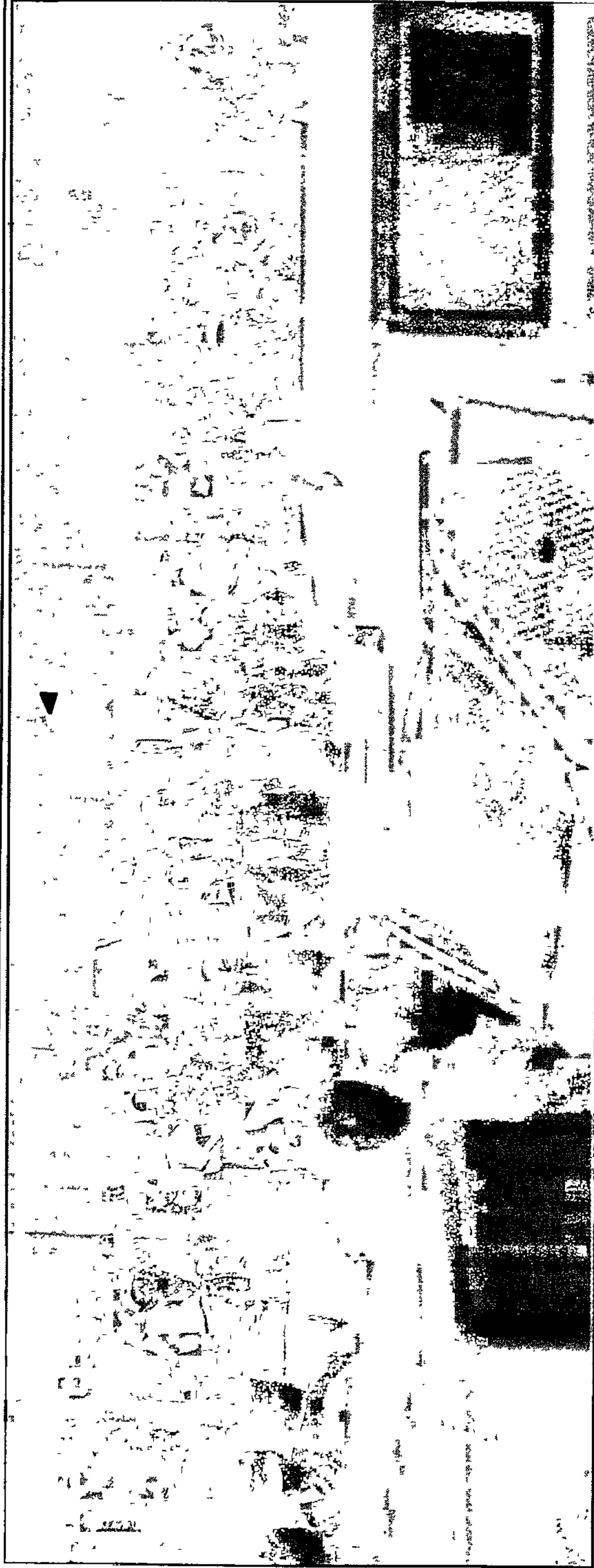
Ennerdale residents say they have been fighting a nine-year battle to stop accounts from rising steeply every year. Angry residents claim the council is overcharging for water and electricity.

An average family of four or five pays between R300 and R500 for electricity and water each month — an exorbitant amount, residents believe.

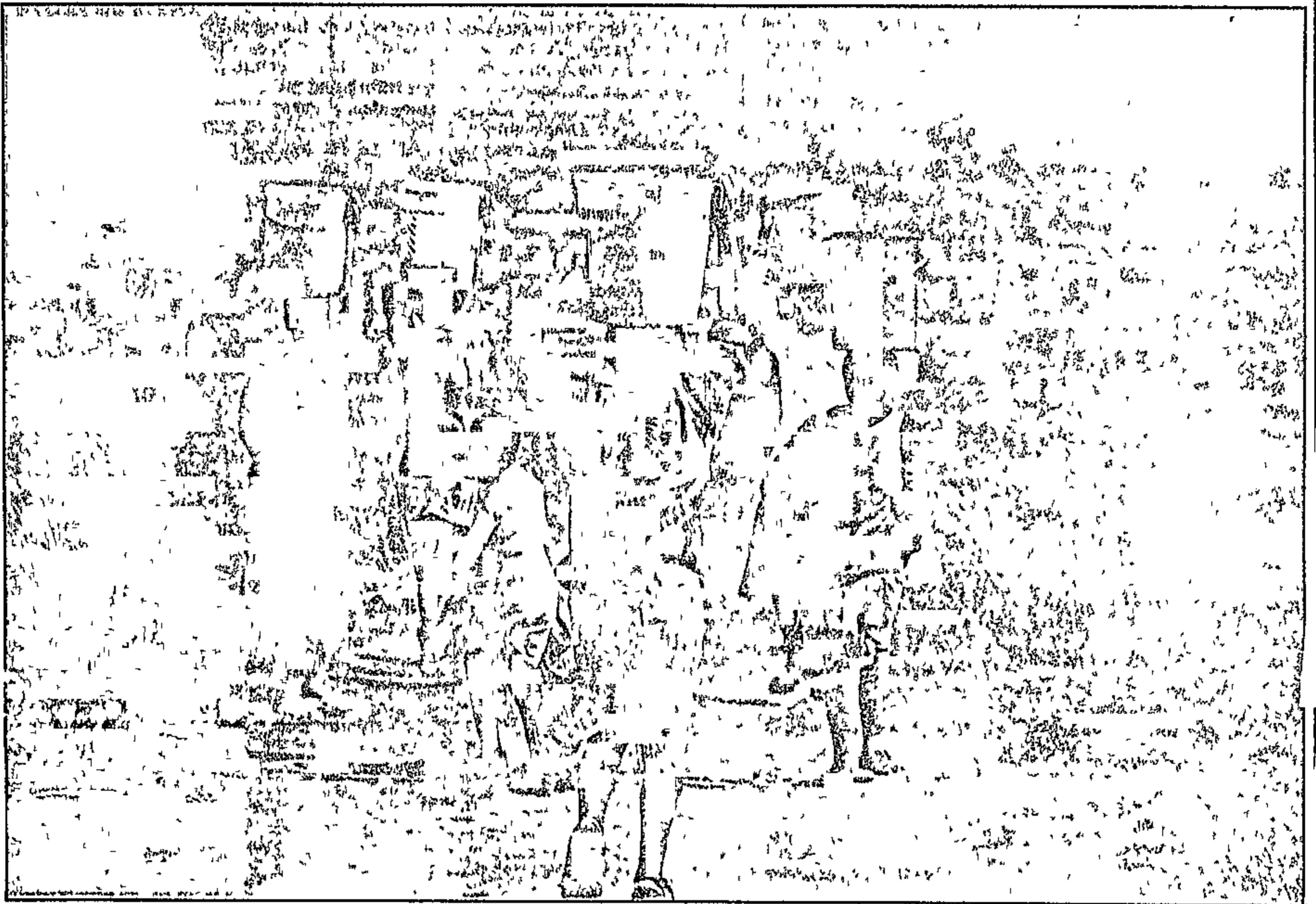
Earlier at a meeting attended by about 1 000 people, the Ennerdale Civic Association called for the resignation of the management committee and the sensitive handling of faulty accounts. Residents threatened to boycott all accounts sent out by the local authority until the situation was settled.

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NEWS



On the march . . . A teargas cannister is shot over the heads of a crowd of marchers in Ennerdale yesterday after they were ordered by police to disperse. ● Picture by Ken Oosterbroek.



In Carolina's, Silobela township a drink of water has meant a 2 km walk since the CP-controlled council cut services Last night, the council restored the services following pressure from the Transvaal Provincial Administration and threats of court action © Picture by Alf Kumalo

Soweto rent boycott to end

Staff Reporters

Soweto's four-year rent and services boycott is set to end on September 24 after an agreement in principle last night between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) and the Greater Soweto councils to write off R516 million in arrears

After a 15-hour meeting it was decided that township residents will pay a uniform tariff of R55 for September and from October an interim service charge of R23 a household plus electricity on metered consumption of 12c a unit

This rate will apply until new affordable tariffs have been established in consultation with a joint technical committee appointed by the principal bodies

The Soweto agreement comes in the wake of the announcement by Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hennis Kriel that the Government would cut bridging finance today

This could see the termination of electricity and possibly water and

sewerage services to at least 50 rent-boycotting townships throughout the Transvaal

Mr Kriel said at a press conference in Pretoria that the Government had simply run out of money

"This is not a political decision but a financial one," he said, adding he hoped this would not lead to renewed township violence He said electricity would first be cut, followed by refuse removal Water would only be reduced or cut off at certain times of the day but essential services such as hospitals would not be affected

Vulnerable

The towns most vulnerable to power cuts — having received the largest bridging finance payments last year — include Alexandra, north of Johannesburg (R10,7 million), Diepmeadow (R49 million), Dobsonville (R11 million), Lekoa (R12 million), Daveyton (R4 million), Tokhoza (R4 million) and Atteridgeville (R9 million)

Most of these needy townships

also showed a massive budget deficit for the 1989/90 financial year

Mr Kriel said R428 million was budgeted for bridging finances in the Transvaal during the present financial year ending in March 1991 Only R99 million remained

Eskom management was meeting this morning to decide what action to take on power cuts

● Carolina's Conservative Party-controlled council yesterday reconnected electricity and water to Silobela township

The council bowed to pressure from the TPA and Lawyers for Human Rights, which threatened to bring urgent Supreme Court interdicts against the local authority

Last night residents reported that their services had been restored at 6 pm

Belfast Town Council, which threatened to cut off services on Tuesday, has extended its deadline

The Soweto agreement will be referred to various parties' constituencies for ratification and another meeting has been scheduled for September 24 for the formal agreement

Court move plan to oust town council



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Sowetan 31/8/90

THE Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organisation has resolved to turn to the Pretoria Supreme Court to have the local town council dissolved because of alleged incompetency.

A spokesman for Asro alleged that this decision was taken because the TPA was reluctant to act against the council in terms of recommenda-

By MONK NKOMO

tions by a commission of inquiry that the Administrator should take action against the council in terms of the provisions of Section 29 of the Black Local Authorities' Act.

Mr Willie Kriel, chairman of the TPA-appointed inquiry which investigated corruption and irregularities in the council last year, recommended that action be

taken against the council early this year

Kriel also found that it would serve no purpose to provide the council with bridging funds because there was no proper budget control and the bookkeeping system was inefficient.

He also established that the council had not submitted financial statements since 1986

A spokesman for Asro said their lawyers were

preparing an application which would be filed in the Supreme Court soon to dissolve the council

"Residents unanimously decided to call for the resignation of councillors and the stopping of rent payment following recommendations of the inquiry which, ironically was appointed by the TPA", the Asro spokesman said.

He accused the TPA of supporting the council and being reluctant to implement recommendations made by Kriel.

"We no longer have faith in the TPA. That is why we have turned to the court of law."

Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC for the Transvaal, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

A TPA spokesman, Mr Gert De Jager, said none of the senior officials were available for comment

Kriel, in his general conclusions, remarked that the public had lost faith in the council because of its poor financial position and the increase of service charges which

the council viewed as the solution to the problem

He also highlighted the misuse of council vehicles by councillors for personal use as well as the "fruitless expenditure" on expensive security equipment and the thousands of rands used for the laying out of a garden at the council offices

New doctors' association to fight for a better deal



A NEW association to address the problems of young doctors - especially "unacceptable" working conditions and poor pay - has been established by the Medical Association of South Africa

The Junior Doctors' Association of South Africa, one of 40 special interest groups of Masa, will represent student-interns (final-year medical students), interns (house doctors) and other doctors up to two years after qualification

One of the most pressing issues to be addressed will be "unacceptable working conditions and inadequate remuneration"

Sowetan 31/8/90
According to the newly elected chairman, Mr Johan Scholtz, student interns earn R200 a month and interns R1 300 a month - "which barely covers costs".

Scholtz, a final-year student at Pretoria University, said a comprehensive investigation of working conditions would be done to negotiate better working conditions

Concern has also been expressed about the training standards of foreign doctors allowed to work in South Africa.

The inauguration meeting in Pretoria was attended by 40 delegates.

FACTFILE - by Norris McWhirter

THE LARGEST OBJECT STOLEN BY A SINGLE MAN IS THE 7,681 TONNES SS ORIENT TRADER ON THE NIGHT OF 5 JUNE 1966 N WILLIAM KENNEDY CUT THE VESSEL FREE OF HER MOORING LINES AT WOLFE'S COVE, ST LAWRENCE SEAWAY, CANADA AND SHE DRIFTED TO A WAITING TUG TO BE TAKEN TO SPAIN



PROPERTY ESTIMATED AT A RECORD £30 MILLION WAS STOLEN FROM BOXES IN THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE SAFETY DEPOSIT CENTRE, LONDON ON 12 JULY 1987 THE MANAGING DIRECTOR PARVEZ LATIFF, 30, WAS AMONGST THOSE CHARGED ON 17 AUG 1987



IT IS ARGUABLE THAT THE MONA LISA IS THE MOST VALUABLE OBJECT EVER STOLEN TAKEN FROM THE LOUVRE, PARIS ON 21 AUG 1911 IT WAS RECOVERED IN ITALY IN 1913 WHEN VINCENZO PERRUGIA WAS CHARGED WITH ITS THEFT



Heed c - Sabta tells tax

SOUTHERN Africa Black Mr James Ngcoya said yet support a possible boycott agreed passengers and c... of negative behaviour from

He was reacting to a su... Mrs Ellen Khuzwayo of th... Union, who warned tax... or face a boycott

Ngcoya and Khuzwayo president and vice-president... can Business and Cons... pendent on Ngcoya's Sabta

Constructi

The Sabta president is constructive and should i... drivers, whether they wer...

He said Sabta had bec... raise their standards and, the community to demand

"Of course, what Ki... stop being passive and... earnest," he said

For its part, Sabta had the driving performance drivers - Sapa

POWER

Soweto on 3/11/90

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CUTS



MR HERNUS KRIEL

By MONK NKOMO

THE Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr HERNUS KRIEL, yesterday announced that essential services, including electricity and water, would be cut or reduced in certain black townships where rent was not being paid.

He said the Government had finally run out of bridging funds

At a Press conference at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, Kriel said it was regrettable that such a step had to be taken

The Government had on numerous occasions warned residents in the affected areas that such steps would be taken if they did not pay for services, Kriel said

Replying to a question, Kriel said "I hope this decision will not lead to violence in those affected townships"

Arrears

Arrears on rent and service charges in the Transvaal totalled R8,5 million at the end of July

An amount of R428 million was budgetted for bridging finances in the Transvaal during the present financial year ending in March next year "Of this amount only R99 million remains," Kriel said.

He said electricity would be cut and water reduced or cut during certain periods in certain townships throughout the country with immediate effect.

However, the cuts depended entirely on the suppliers of these services in certain instances.

Emergency units such as hospitals in black townships would not be affected by the cuts, said Kriel, who added that they would not jeopardise the lives of people

Action would not be taken against areas such as Soweto because that council was presently engaged in negotiations with the Transvaal Provincial Administration to end the rent boycott

"Action against that council will depend on the outcome of these talks," Kriel said

He added that the

To Page 2

BARRRELS OF FRESHNESS THIS WEEKEND WHAT-A-SAVE!

CAPE STARKING APPLES

Power cuts

Soweto on 3/11/90

127

From Page 1

Government was forced to stop providing bridging funds to black town councils from today because residents were not paying for services.

Kriel appealed to black communities to pay for services and said the decision to stop providing bridging funds was not political

The Government was prepared to discuss the rent crisis with interested groups from the black and white sectors

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Soweto agrees to pay its rent - but power cuts loom

W/Mant 31/8-
219/90

By ELSABE WESSELS
and SAMANTHA WEINBERG

127

AS agreement was reached last night to end the five-year rent boycott in Soweto, the government remained poised to cut power in over 50 Transvaal townships and many more nationwide.

Last night the Soweto People's Delegation and the Transvaal Provincial Administration reached agreement in principle on measures to end the rent and service charge boycott in greater Soweto and to initiate a programme of "far-reaching structural change".

A meeting has been scheduled for September 24 at which a formal agreement will be signed.

Both parties accepted the principle that services used must be paid for with "due regard to affordability". It was also agreed that the arrears from the boycott — estimated at R514-million — would be written off.

The main points of the agreement include

- Uniform tariffs should apply in Soweto, Diepmeadow and Dobsonville;
- For September a flat rate of R55 per residential unit would be charged;
- From October 1990, until new affordable tariffs have been worked out, an interim service charge of R23 per month plus electricity costs.

A Greater Soweto Peoples Fund is to be established next year, financed by special levy — to which residents will contribute R5 — for "community development and assistance". This fund will be administered by an independent board of trustees.

The principal bodies involved in the talks, the TPA, the three Soweto Councils and the Soweto People's Delegation are to establish a Metropolitan Chamber. The main purpose of this chamber is to investigate the setting up of "regional, non-racial and democratic policy approaches" for longer-term implementation.

The Johannesburg City Council is to be invited to join this body as a sixth member. The chamber will appoint a joint technical committee to investigate a number of issues.

Meanwhile Planning Minister Hennis Kriel announced punitive plans to cut electricity to hundreds of townships.

Kriel's announcement that the government would execute a "phased" plan to cut off electricity to black townships other than Soweto could leave millions of black families without any heat or light resources. Refuse removal and water supplies could be the next steps aimed at getting residents to suspend the boycott.

Kriel, who yesterday estimated that the total rent arrears was about R2-billion, said the action by the government only dealt with current payment. "We don't even want to think about arrears."

Although the government's position comes into effect immediately, the actual time-table of when services are to be cut has yet to be decided, Kriel said. The 52 Transvaal townships are expected to be hit hardest.

Yesterday's announcement came in the wake of a nationwide media campaign by the government warning residents that if they did not pay, their "comforts" would be removed.

At a press conference at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, Kriel took a hard line on the continued organised refusal of township residents to pay rent and service charges.

He pointed out that government was not taking issue with rent arrears but wanted users to resume paying in order

to prevent services being cut off.

The announcement means in effect that provincial authorities, who provide funding to the black local authorities who then pay Eskom and the Water Board, will receive no further finance from central government for services bills.

The government, which is not directly responsible for the delivery of services such as electricity and water, has passed the buck to black local authorities, Eskom and the Water Board.

Kriel said of the R482-million budgeted for the TPA for black local authorities this year, only R99-million remained. With that black local authorities would not be able to foot their bulk services bills, Kriel said.

Asked when the punitive action would come into effect, Kriel said "It's up to Eskom and the Water Board. They will have to take the decision to continue."

Kriel was unambiguous about the government's decision to introduce punitive measures in the rent boycott battle.

"The government had decided that it could not continue to provide bridging finance for the provision of services to communities and local authorities where residents had failed to pay for these services over a period of time," he said.

"The practical effect of this decision is that the suppliers of such services will have no choice but to discontinue their services to certain communities, especially those with a poor record of payment," Kriel said.

"A distinction will be made, as far as possible, between persons with bona fide financial problems, and those who are simply exploiting the non-payment issue," Kriel said.

The decision, which, according to Kriel's statement, was taken in consultation with "elected black community representatives", could spark a new war between popularly elected civic associations and discredited government aligned black local authorities.

By ceasing "bridging finance" for the provision of services the government has effectively evolved the responsibility of dealing with the rent protest to provincial and local government level and to para-statals such as Eskom.

Asked whether the drastic measure was not premature considering the political history of the rent boycott which evolved as a method of resistance to apartheid government, Kriel at first denied that the boycott had any bearing on national politics, although he did accuse the organisers of the boycott of taking "political advantage".

When probed, he conceded that the restructuring of local government would be on the agenda for the proposed constitutional negotiations. He insisted however, that the present system had to be kept "intact" until such time as a new constitution had been negotiated.

Kriel argued that residents had no moral right to stop paying for services, even though he rejected the legitimacy of the authorities.

"If you want services, you must pay," Kriel said. He added that as soon as communities started to pay, authorities would be able to pay resume paying for bulk services. "We want to make an appeal to users of bulk services — please start paying," he said.

Asked to comment on the cutting off of water, sewage and electricity services on Tuesday to the eastern Transvaal township of Silobela by Carolina's Conservative Party council, Kriel gave an abrupt reply. "If people don't pay you have to take action," he said.

UDF, govt discuss power cuts

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SENIOR government officials will meet a UDF delegation in Pretoria today to discuss government's announcement that it is to cut off services to boycotting townships

Planning and Provincial Affairs deputy Minister Andre Fourie yesterday confirmed he and Transvaal MEC for Local Government Olaus van Zyl would meet the UDF group, expected to include general secretary Popo Molefe, national treasurer Azhar Cachalia and national Press officer Titus Mofolo

The meeting follows a UDF request for talks with Planning and Provincial Affairs minister Hernus Kriel, who is overseas

Cachalia said in a statement on Friday the UDF was concerned Kriel's announcement to stop services would generate widespread anger and have an inflammatory effect on the volatile townships

EDYTH BULBRING
and ALAN FINE

His announcement also contradicted government's declared position to negotiate the resolution of conflicts as happened with the negotiated end to the rent boycott in greater Soweto last week

Cachalia said Kriel ignored the reasons for the boycott in the first place which were the rejection of black local authorities and the unfair service charges communities had been expected to pay

Cachalia said yesterday the delegation wanted to play a constructive role between the boycotting townships and government

This followed the resolution of boycotts in 18 Eastern Transvaal townships on Friday after a month of negotiations between

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Power cuts

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the TPA, the town councils and the Eastern Transvaal Civic Association

Residents would start paying rent and service charges not later than September 17 while service arrears will be frozen and rent arrears written off

Eskom Communications manager Johan du Plessis said yesterday there were only four black local authorities out of the 291 it supplied directly or indirectly which were in arrears with payments

While Du Plessis declined to name the townships for business reasons, he said two in the Transvaal were part of the 18 Eastern Transvaal townships that had agreed to end the boycott and they therefore no longer posed a problem

Regarding the other two townships which were in the Free State, Du Plessis said he believed boycotts could be settled through negotiations

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From Page 1
TPA deputy director general (community development) Len Dekker said yesterday the TPA would have to assess the progress made to end boycotts in the Transvaal townships today and certain decisions might have to be taken. He said 51 townships had not been paying

Those leaders who had encouraged the boycotts now had to prove that they could stop the boycotts, Dekker said

The tentative agreement between the TPA, the Soweto People's Delegation and the three Greater Soweto councils could, if replicated around the country, mean "tremendous progress", SPD leader Cyril Ramaphosa said at the weekend

He described the agreement, which still had to be approved by residents at report-back meetings over the next few weeks, as a major economic, social and political advance

FW orders urgent probe of police action

23 die in Johannesburg

CANT Tnts
3/9/90
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JOHANNESBURG. — Fighting flared in strife-torn East Rand townships at the weekend, killing 23 people and shattering a tenuous peace enforced by emergency rule as the conduct of the police came under the spotlight.

In two developments at the weekend ● President F W de Klerk announced an urgent probe into alleged police complicity in the recent violence. This follows last week's meeting between Mr De Klerk and a deputation of senior churchmen, which included Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the secretary of the SA Council of Churches, the Rev Frank Chikane. A memorandum on the role of the police was handed to Mr De Klerk.

● The Goldstone Commission of Inquiry found that police acted unjustifiably and without discipline during a march in Sebokeng in March this year when 18 people were killed and 281 injured. Mr Justice R J Goldstone also recommended that an unspecified number of policemen be investigated on possible criminal charges — including a sergeant responsible for four deaths.

Yesterday police said patrols found 21 people shot or hacked to death in Thokoza and Tembisa, east of Johannesburg, after an unidentified group of men armed with rifles and sharp weapons "went on a rampage" late on Saturday night.

A patrol in nearby Vosloorus found two bodies

riddled with gunshot wounds near a hostel, which houses mainly Zulu migrant workers.

The deaths came only hours after the signing of a regional peace accord on Saturday between Inkatha and the ANC in the north of hard-hit Natal province, since 1987 the scene of the worst fighting between the groups.

The ANC has insisted police have sided with Inkatha.

Despite police denials, Mr De Klerk said in a statement: "I would like to stress that certain allegations which have been made against the South African Police are regarded in an extremely serious light. I have therefore referred this matter to the Minister of Law and Order (Mr Adriaan Vlok) for an urgent and in-depth investigation."

To attorney-general

Mr De Klerk also announced a probe into the hostel system, which the ANC has said should be abolished and workers absorbed into the communities, where they can live with their families.

"The government believes that it is in the interests of healthy family life that accommodation should be provided on a family basis," Mr De Klerk said, noting he had referred the issue to Health Minister Dr Rina Venter and she would examine "the feasibility of converting hostels into suitable family units".

He said Mr Vlok would issue a statement on the question of police complicity "in time".

Responding to the Goldstone Commission's recommendation that the actions of certain police members be referred to the attorney-general, Mr Vlok said in Pretoria that it would be implemented and the necessary dockets submitted.

He said departmental steps were also being considered against certain individual members and that in future special constables, as far as possible, would not be used for riots and crowd control.

Mr Vlok said the government had taken note of the findings and recommendations and had referred the report to him "for further attention and action".

Meanwhile the ANC called for all SAP members involved in the Sebokeng shooting to be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

The ANC said it was clear from the commission's report that police officers violated standard police procedures, wilfully choosing to disregard the authority of a Colonel Mazibuko, the SAP senior officer in the area.

Shooting was completely unjustified and the police had no need to use live ammunition or any other deadly weapons, they said.

ANC spokesman Ms Gill Marcus said yesterday the organisation had noted Mr Justice Goldstone's criticism aimed at the MDM organisers and would investigate crowd control measures at public marches.

"We are certainly taking this matter very seriously. We are very concerned about loss of life" — Sapa, UPI and Own Correspondent

● Sebokeng probe blames police, UDF — Page 2

● Natal leaders sign peace accord — Page 2

UDF in talks on services

By Musa Mapisa

The United Democratic Front held discussions with Deputy Minister of Planning Andre Fourie in Pretoria yesterday about rent and service charges boycotts in black townships

During the talks both parties agreed that:

- Black local authorities were economically non-viable and therefore required bridging finance. However, rent boycotts resulted in the depletion of bridging finance.

- The principle of payment for services was accepted with regard to affordability

- Negotiations were to be supported in the continuing search for solutions.

Essential services such as water and sewerage would not be cut.

- Actions taken by suppliers concerning the possible discontinuation of services should be reasonable and sympathetic.

It was agreed that the UDF would call a meeting of the Transvaal Civic Association and the TPA later this month to speed up negotiations on rent and services issues, taking note of the Soweto deliberations and proposals

It was also agreed that Mr Fourie would refer the concern and request of the UDF delegation to the Government that services in the townships should not be suspended.

Compulsory school fees in the pipeline, says DP

PRETORIA — The introduction of a system of compulsory tuition fees at state and provincial schools was likely during the course of 1991, DP education spokesman Roger Burrows said yesterday.

He said one indication of this was Finance Minister Barend du Plessis's statement at the NP congress in Natal last week that user charges would continue to creep into the economy, even penetrating education.

However, no agreement had been reached on the issue between government, the organised teaching profession and parents' organisations, Burrows said.

The last effort was 18 months ago. "What makes it a political hot potato is if it is applied only to white schools and is not imposed generally," he said. Right-wing reaction could be strong.

Other sources said the issue had been on the desk of Education and Culture Minister Piet Clase for the

past four years

Before provincial councils were abolished, the Transvaal Provincial Council amended the education ordinance to make provision for compulsory fee paying by parents.

A Transvaal Teachers' Association (TTA) spokesman said until the scheme was spelled out in detail and all the financial implications were known, it would withhold support.

Among major objections to enforced payment for education by parents was the issue of collection.

This, the TTA felt strongly, was not a burden that should be thrust on teachers.

It was also felt that compulsory school fees were a form of selective and discriminatory taxation.

At least some education authorities believe education has always been, and should remain, a community responsibility.

NUM officials appear in Natal court

NEWCASTLE — National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) president James Motlatsi of Johannesburg, and 56 NUM northern Natal office bearers appeared in the Newcastle Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with an alleged illegal gathering in the town on August 26.

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa was also to have appeared

but was excused as he was busy with urgent consultations with Iscor.

The case is a sequel to a march from the NUM's Newcastle headquarters to a hotel a few kilometers away.

The case was postponed to October 1 pending a decision by the attorney-general. The accused were released on R50 bail each — Sapa.

Part of Mayfair now Indian area

EDYTH BULBRING

PRETORIA — A 15ha piece of land in Mayfair has been declared a group area for Indians, according to the Government Gazette.

A spokesman from the department of Planning and Provincial Affairs said yesterday the application, made by Rand Mines Properties in 1986, had been approved in terms of the Group Areas Act last week.

The land, which is shaped like an aircraft, is proclaimed mining land and Rand Mine Properties intends to ask for it to be rezoned for residential purposes, RMP GM Gert Strydom said yesterday.

Rand Mine Properties intends selling the land for Indian housing development once the area has been rezoned. Strydom said rezoning could take up to two years and he did not know at this stage how much the land would be sold for.

The area, called Crown North Extension 1, lies south-west of Fordsburg, an Indian group area.

Strydom said that with the area declared an Indian group area, it would cut through the red tape of getting individual permits for Indians wanting to own land in the largely white suburb.

A Planning and Provincial Affairs spokesman said the department would continue considering group areas applications until the Group Areas Act was scrapped.

BROWN! NO! DADT

Sharpeville faces services switch-off

(127)

B/Dan/49/90

PRETORIA — The Vereeniging Town Council is pulling the switches on all services in Sharpeville township at 2pm today unless Eskom, government or the TPA comes up with R450 000 in cash, Vereeniging Town Council management committee chairman Mario Milani said last night.

Milani said even if Sharpeville residents committed themselves to ending the boycott before 2pm, the lights, water and sewage removal would still be shut down unless the council had an ironclad guarantee of payment for September's services.

This announcement follows a meeting in Pretoria between Planning and Provincial Affairs Deputy Minister Andre Fourie and a UDF delegation yesterday at which it was reiterated that essential services such as water and sewerage would not be cut off and that solutions to the problem should be resolved through negotiations.

UDF national treasurer Azhar Cachalia

EDYTH BULBRING

said last night the cutting off of services could jeopardise the convening of a meeting on September 15 between the UDF and all the Transvaal civic associations about ending the boycotts.

He said cutting services would inconvenience people, harden attitudes and make it more difficult for the UDF to convene the meeting.

Milani said Vereeniging had borne the costs of supplying all services to Sharpeville in July and August at R450 000 a month.

"Although negotiations have been held with the Sharpeville Residents' Association, the TPA, Eskom and any other party we could name, no reasonable solutions to the boycott have been offered," he said.

Milani said the white ratepayers could

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Sharpeville

B/Dan/49/90

not pay for the services. He said 94% of Sharpeville residents had not been paying their bills.

Negotiations with interested parties would continue.

The Vereeniging Town Council was holding two meetings with Eskom today and the council would be on standby until 2pm awaiting the guarantee.

Milani said the council had informed the TPA, President F W de Klerk and Eskom of its decisions.

Cachalia said the UDF would convene the September 15 meeting with a view to settling the boycott along the same lines as the agreement reached by the TPA and the Soweto People's Delegation last Thursday.

The TPA agreed to write off rent and service arrears in greater Soweto and the SPD agreed to pay new rent and service

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rates set by the TPA in September. He said the UDF expected government to take the position that if the UDF negotiated in good faith, it would prevail on the councils not to cut off services.

He also said the UDF had hoped the government would have provided the finances in the interim until the negotiations had been held.

The UDF delegation had accepted Fourie's sincerity in saying he would communicate its request to government not to cut off services until the negotiations had taken place.

"I can't see why they cannot wait two weeks," Cachalia said.

At yesterday's meeting both parties accepted the principle of payment for services with due regard to affordability.

● Comment: Page 10

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The horrors of single-sex hostels

From PHILIPPA FLETCHER
in Johannesburg

SEPARATE thousands of men from their families, pack them into dormitories with nothing to do in the evenings but drink, then see what happens when someone starts a fight.

In the past two weeks South Africa has seen a full-scale war explode around the men-only hostels where thousands of migrant workers live

TOWNSHIP

The violence pits township residents loyal to the African National Congress (ANC) against Zulu hostel dwellers, but Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said the underlying causes were neither political nor tribal.

"It is making people live in those dehumanising (hostel) conditions, isolating them from the community, that has exacerbated the kind of problems that we have," Archbishop Tutu said

The hostels, huge barracks of single or double-storey blocks, were built in the black townships around Johannesburg decades ago to house extra workers for the white city

"They were a part of this idea that black people did not belong here, except as temporary workers," said Harry Mashabela of the South African Institute of Race Relations

Often separated from the rest of the townships by a wire fence, the hostels were designed to prevent blacks penned by apartheid in 10 tribally-defined rural homelands from settling near their jobs in Johannesburg

Grim testament

A man could live in a hostel as long as he was working, but his family were prevented by law from joining him

He was a "guest worker" in his own country

Pretoria scrapped the law restricting freedom of movement for blacks in 1986, but a critical housing shortage in the blacks-only townships means the hostels remain, a grim testament to the inhumanity of apartheid

Ernest Molosi, assistant personnel officer in a Johannesburg industrial company, is one of more than 100 000 men who live in hostels around the country's industrial and financial capital.

At work he has his own office, but back in Tembisa township he shares a bedroom with 24 other men. Unlike many of the hostel dwellers who are Zulus, he comes from the northern Sotho tribe

His wife and five children live in Pietersburg, 200 km away. But the politically conservative rural town had no work for a black manager

He is fortunate to be able to

visit his family most weekends. Many of his fellow residents do not have enough time or money to visit their far-off homelands more than once a year.

"It's not a good life to stay in the hostel," he said "In our room there is only one stove, one toilet and one bath. There's no privacy"

"Our room is like a hall, which has just been divided to accommodate two beds in one. In each section there are two beds and two lockers, that is all"

Molosi, 42, has lived in the hostel for 10 years. He is used to being kept awake with shouting and loud music, but recently his sleep has been disturbed by gunshots

"Last Sunday one man was shot dead next to the hostel office and on Monday morning someone found a corpse on the road outside," he said

So far Tembisa has escaped the worst of the violence which has swept through Johannesburg's townships

More than 500 people have been shot, stabbed or burnt to death

Family units

Molosi says the spark for the violence may be political — a power-struggle between the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha movement — but that its roots lie firmly in apartheid

"Originally people worked together and they didn't have these problems, but since the government started its 'Separate Development' policy people just feel that it's better to live with your own people," he said.

Migrant labour was a cornerstone of Separate Development — the policy of forcing black ethnic groups into their own tribal territories and making blacks think along tribal lines

"The hostel manager just brings someone you don't know, and you have to persuade them to go along with what the majority of the room wants," said Molosi

Female visitors are not allowed and there are no recreation facilities. In the evenings the men, many of them illiterate labourers, have nothing to do but drink the alcohol sold by the hostel's unofficial entrepreneurs

Molosi said tribal differences were by no means the only source of conflict. Tempers could flare over something as basic as people throwing paper on the floor.

He believes the current violence will gradually die down, but that the underlying problem will not be solved until the hostels are destroyed, or adapted to accommodate families

In recognition of this, the government last week approved a budget for the conversion of a hostel in Johannesburg's Soweto township into family units — Sapa-Reuter

Migrants speak out!

By SOPHIE TEMA

(127) (26/8/90)
C/Pers 26/8/90
SIX years ago it seemed the government had decided to phase out the single-sex hostels for some 700 000 migrant workers. But this never happened.

The controversial hostel system, mostly for single men from the rural areas, has long been condemned because it isolated hostel dwellers from the rest of the community.

Last year it appeared the government was taking steps to end the system and convert the hostels into family units.

At Dobsonville and Meadowlands an attempt was made to do this. But, most hostels are still as they were.

This week hostel inmates – trapped in bloody clashes between Zulus and Xhosas – spoke of the realities of hostel life.

Ndabasukile Nkongolo, a Xhosa from Mount Ayliffe, described life in Block N21 in a KwaThema hostel.

Speaking from the KwaThema Roman Catholic Church, where some hostel dwellers have been given refuge after fleeing their hostels, Nkongolo said: "We were not Zulus, Xhosas, Sothos or Shangaans – we were united.

"Although we were living as 'married bachelors' we made the best of the worst. We never suspected anybody could influence us against one another in the hostel," he said.

"We never spoke politics. Our discussions were about our families that we had left back home.

"Then suddenly things changed and I

got the shock of my life three weeks ago when I returned to the hostel and suddenly noticed a spirit of unpleasantness.

"A few days later a meeting of all Xhosas was called. This is when I realised there was division in our ranks.

"We then heard a rumour the Zulus had sneaked in weapons and guns to kill the Xhosas. I treated the rumour with contempt because I did not see weapons or guns. Things started to hot up and it was said the Xhosas were to be attacked. I was told the rumour had been reported to the KwaThema Civic Association.

Elliot Mrwetyana, who also comes from Transkei, said: "The rumour became a reality when a group of Zulus attacked us.

"We could not stand back and we tried as hard as we could to defend ourselves.

"The police were called in and we thought they would stop both groups from fighting. But instead they seemed to be helping the Zulus.

"One of our chiefs was busy trying to persuade us to run away and not continue fighting when I saw a white policeman shoot him in both legs."

The chief, only known by his tribal name, Majola, is now in hospital.

Mrwetyana said: "I do not want to live in a hostel any more.

"I may only go back if the government allows (Transkei leader) Bantu Holomisa to deploy his army in this area. We will then be safe."

Pretoria takes first steps to open white areas to all

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Sowetan 5/9/90

THE first steps leading to the opening of Pretoria's traditionally white areas to other race groups have been announced by the city's management committee

In what is seen as a precursor to the scrapping of the Group Areas Act by the government the Pretoria City Council has said it will consider blacks moving into white suburbs "on merit".

The chairman of the city's management committee, Mr James Leach, said in a statement the city council was prepared to "consider" applications regarding accommodation by blacks in the light of indications that the Group Areas Act will probably be abolished next year.

The statement came in the wake of criticism by the Democratic Party of the management com-

mittee's stand against a black man's application to live in Waterkloof Ridge.

Leach said the National Party in the city council was prepared to "consider applications for accommodation of deserving cases on merit" on condition they comply to the quality of life and the standards to be set by the Government in general or of a specific area, "and to accordingly make recommendations to the Government"

A DP spokesman last week slammed the management committee's refusal to support an application by Dr. AN Tlailane to acquire a dwelling in Waterkloof Ridge as "hurtful and short-sighted"

Leach said yesterday it was a fact that the Government was in the process of eliminating the

Group Areas Act

"The Government has already said there would in the future be no more space for the Group Areas Act, and all indications are that the act will be abolished next year," he said

"The town-planning

scheme may stipulate in the future that only one family be allowed per dwelling

Leach emphasised that "everything will not be thrown open at this stage" *Sowetan Correspondent*

More towns opt for rent boycott talks

Star 5/9/90

(127)

Staff Reporters
and Sapa

The explosive rent-boycott issue was further defused yesterday, with three more local authorities opting for negotiation with township residents.

● The electricity cut-off due at 2 pm yesterday in Sharpeville was not implemented.

● The Ennerdale local authority stopped legal proceedings against residents in arrears for their water and electricity accounts, in the hope of ending the two-year crisis.

● The NP-ruled town council of Parys in the Free State will be meeting the Tumahole Civic Association and the Consumer Boycott Committee soon to discuss various contentious issues, including rent arrears.

Vereeniging town clerk DP Steyn said there were ongoing meetings between the Vereeniging Town Council, the Lekoa Town Council and Eskom, to try to defuse the situation in Sharpeville, where residents have boycotted rents and service charges since 1984.

Mr Steyn said supplies would not be cut off until a final decision was made.

Ennerdale executive officer Jimmy Oliver said the local development board would meet next week to work out a system whereby residents in debt could pay back in instalments the amount owed.

A spokesman for the Tumahole committee, Ace Magashule, said tomorrow's meeting was expected to resolve the consumer boycott.

nesday, September 5 1990

'Black RSC' key to arrears crisis?

By CHRIS BATEMAN

UNLESS the government centralised black local authorities in a single body and created alternative revenue sources, the arrears problem on Peninsula services (estimated at well over R10m) would reach crisis proportions, Khayelitsha town clerk Mr Graham Lawrence said yesterday

Khayelitsha's Lingeletu West Town Council is running at a loss of R3 291 563 since its inception in 1984. Ikapa Town Council, responsible for Langa, Nyanga, New Crossroads, KTC and Guguletu, is running at a loss of more than R7 million. Figures for Old Crossroads were not available yesterday.

The three areas are separate administrative entities.

Warnings

Asked what could be done to reduce the deficit, Mr Lawrence said there was "nothing", apart from cutting off electricity to payment defaulters after several warnings.

"We have no established revenue

Sharpeville still switched on

VEREENIGING. — Vereeniging town clerk Mr D P Steyn said Monday's planned electricity cut-off at Sharpeville had not been implemented.

He said the Vereeniging Town Council, the Lekoa Town Council and Eskom were meeting to try to defuse the situation in Sharpeville where residents have boycotted rents and service charges since 1984.

Water and power to the township were to have been cut off on Monday, but after meetings this was delayed for 24 hours.

Mr Steyn said supplies would not be cut off before a final decision had been reached, possibly later yesterday. — Sapa

enue basis except for service charges and rentals — there has to be an economic basis which we're not even near to at present," he warned.

He appealed for a system "such as the Regional Services Council" which he said would immedi-

ately cut down on administrative costs and give bargaining power when dealing with bulk suppliers of services.

"We also need some form of tax basis to generate revenue. A regional form of local government would enable us to tax the haves and distribute what is available on a more equitable basis among the have-nots," he said.

The backlog was becoming "critical" and unless a centralised system was instituted, major government subsidisation would have to continue.

Backlog

Recently promulgated sub-economic tariffs for services which would be put into immediate effect in Khayelitsha were expected to generate some R400 000 a month. Before this the township's 300 000 residents paid only for electricity. The Khayelitsha backlog (non-payment) on electricity alone up to the end of June was R922 966.

A spokesman for the CPA said that the backlog in rent and services charges in Western Cape black townships was R13 989 325.

● The total for the Cape was R86 903 574.

Sharpeville gets a reprieve

PRETORIA — Sharpeville residents were given an 11th hour reprieve from having their electricity cut off yesterday afternoon, when Eskom undertook to guarantee payment for the supply of electricity to the Vereeniging Town Council.

The council warned on Monday that it would cut electricity, water and sewage disposal to Sharpeville at 2pm yesterday unless Eskom, the TPA or government guaranteed payment for September's services. *B1 Day 5/9/90*

The council's management committee chairman, Mario Milani, said yesterday the council had stuck to its guns that it would cut the services unless it got a guarantee of R450 000 by 2pm.

However, at 1 30pm yesterday, Eskom gave the council assurances which enabled

EDYTH BULBRING

the council to continue its services to Sharpeville, Milani said

He would not elaborate on the assurances given. But he emphasised that the council would have suspended the services unless it received an iron-clad guarantee that it would not have to pay the bill.

"We received the type of assurances we wanted. Work it out for yourself," Milani said.

He said he was relieved the council had been able to continue to supply Sharpeville, as an electricity cut off would have resulted in "total anarchy, loss of life and rampant crime"

To Page 2

Sharpeville *B1 Day 5/9/90*

Milani said the problem was solved in the short term but if certain conditions were not met in the medium term, the council would be back where it had started.

Eskom communications manager Johan du Plessis said Eskom was able to demonstrate sufficiently to the Vereeniging council that solutions could be found to the problems of services' payments.

From Page 1

Eskom yesterday entered into negotiations with the Lekoa Town Council, which administers Sharpeville. These negotiations would continue today until a solution was found, he said.

The Vereeniging council agreed not to suspend the services to Sharpeville until the negotiations had been concluded.

Rent write-off not applicable to all

Soweto 6/9/90

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THE Transvaal Provincial Administration announced in Pretoria yesterday that the writing-off of arrears in black residential areas experiencing rent boycotts will not be implemented throughout the province.

Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC for the local government and regional services councils, told reporters that cases involving the non-payment of rent differed from place to place and therefore the solution which

By ALINAH DUBE

was arrived at by the TPA and the Soweto People's Delegation was not applicable in other areas.

Emphasis was put on the fact that the TPA was merely a provider of bridging finance and could not decide whether services should be cut in a particular residential area.

The province is presently left with R10,5 million a month in bridging finance for the remainder of its financial year.

'Sell-out' slur denied

Cowetan 6/9/90
THE Alexandra Civic Association has denied responsibility for a slur pamphlet distributed in the township yesterday branding members of the rival Alexandra Civic Organisation "sell-outs who are not working for our people".

ACA chairman Mr Mike Beea said the pamphlet was "obviously the work of the enemy who did not wish to see peace prevailing in the townships".

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Cash crisis ¹²⁷ in Daveyton

DAVEYTON Mayor Mr Tom Boya yesterday said his council had limited funds to meet its obligations to suppliers of electricity and water services because of the continuing rent boycott in the township. ^{Soweto} ~~township~~ ⁷¹⁹¹⁹⁰

Boya was replying to a statement by the town clerk of Benoni, Mr Denys Conradie, that the Benoni Town Council was aware that residents in Daveyton and Wattville were paying their accounts.

The Benoni Town Council is facing a law suit of R3,4 million by Eskom for the electricity account arrears of Daveyton and Wattville councils

Katlehong services 'collapse'

By 719190 (127)

WILSON ZWANE

SEWERAGE blockages are imminent in the East Rand township of Katlehong as all equipment has become unserviceable due to the lack of repair and maintenance funds.

In a statement, Katlehong mayor Gideon Molotsi said essential services in the township were "collapsing" as the rent boycott continued. The rent boycott began in Katlehong about five months ago.

Molotsi added that, apart

from the blockage of sewers, refuse and rubble could not be removed in the township any longer as his council owed a private firm "a considerable amount of money".

This private firm suspended its services on Tuesday, Molotsi said.

"Also, certain sections of the township have been without electricity for six days because most of the

power sub-stations are not serviced regularly due to the lack of funds. Some of the sub-stations have also been destroyed by acts of vandalism," he said.

Molotsi appealed to the community to pay at least "the temporary flat rates" to enable the council to provide essential services.

Monthly flat rates are R30 for people without electricity, R50 for people who have electricity and R130 for shop owners.

Crossroads mayor 'rejects peace call'

CAPE TOWN — An opponent of Crossroads mayor Johnson Ngxobongwana, Jeffrey Nongwe, said yesterday he was prepared to "talk peace".

He had conveyed this to the controversial leader — but had received a negative reply. By 719190

Old Crossroads resembled a deserted war zone yesterday. For more than two weeks faction fighting has brought normal community life to a standstill.

More than 30 shacks were torched on Wednesday. A number were still smouldering yesterday as residents salvaged building materials and prepared to move away.

Nongwe was one of Ngxobongwana's headmen, but a dispute over rent caused

him to break away with 14 other headmen.

Ngxobongwana's brick house, the only one in the area, was burnt to the ground at the weekend. It had been shot at on a number of occasions.

"We have had enough fighting. I do not know why Ngxobongwana does not want to talk. The children must go to school, we cannot go on like this," Nongwe said.

More than 50 families whose shacks were razed moved into classrooms at Noxolo Primary School, forcing the school to close. After negotiations, the people moved to the Topcor Training Centre and from there to temporary tents nearby, while others put up shacks — Sapa

esday August 29 1990

Azapo's plan for hostel dwellers

Sowetan 29/8/90

127

By NKOPANE
MAKOBANE

THE Azanian People's Organisation has proposed that Vosloorus hostel dwellers be transferred temporarily to a mine-owned hostel in Boksburg.

The organisation said it was ready to negotiate with employers for transport to and from the East Rand Proprietary Mine hostel, 20km away

In addition, employers would be asked to continue to pay the dwellers' rent at the ERPM hostel

These plans were suggested by Azapo at a meeting in Vosloorus on Monday called to resolve



NEFOLOVHODWE

the conflict between the hostel dwellers and local residents

The meeting was attended by representatives of the PAC, ANC, Azapo, local churches and the

Vosloorus Town Council

Fighting between the two parties claimed dozens of lives in the past fortnight

Azapo's general secretary of Azapo Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe said his organisation had tabled several views and proposals at the meeting

They felt hostel dwellers should be treated not as Xhosas and Zulus in conflict, but as oppressed and exploited blacks who were part of the black working class, forced to live in those conditions by the apartheid system

Azapo hoped that the hostel dwellers would be temporarily housed at the ERPM hostel for two

months while alternative measures were being investigated by local leaders

It believed solutions to the problems should be treated on a long and short-term basis with a view to establishing unity between the warring parties

The organisation also called for a rally where all parties would bind themselves to the interim solutions

"Although these proposals pertain to Vosloorus, Azapo calls on student organisations, trade unions, civic associations and other organisations in other areas to consider them urgently," Nefolovhodwe said

Hostel system must be ended — Tutu

WASHINGTON - Anglican Church leader Archbishop Desmond Tutu told a US television interviewer this week he hoped talks to end violence in South Africa would culminate with a meeting between Inkatha president Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and ANC Mr Nelson Mandela. (127)

Bishop Tutu, who cut short his visit to Canada to return to South Africa because of last week's bloodshed in the townships, said he was hoping the virtual state of emergency in various areas that had been declared unrest areas would reduce the violence to nil. *Sowetan 29/4/90*

Fighting

Then something had to be done about the single-sex hostels which had housed so many of the people responsible for the fighting, he said.

The hostels system had to be ended and the buildings turned into family units, he told NBC in an interview from Johannesburg.

The police also had to be seen to be impartial, they must not just be impartial, he added.

Tutu said it would then be the time for talks, especially between Inkatha and the ANC, culminating in a meeting between Buthelezi and Mandela -
Sowetan Correspondent

It's over!
Soweto rent
boycott is
now history

THE scrapping of the massive Soweto rent debt represents one of the most important breakthroughs in the quest for a new South Africa

The R516-million debt was written off this week after lengthy meetings among the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD), officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Soweto Council

Parties at the meetings said the agreement would only be applicable to the greater Soweto townships, but could be persuasive in other areas.

It was agreed that each household in greater Soweto will pay R55 tomorrow to cover September's bills and thereafter R23 a month plus 12c a unit for electricity

During the debate, delegates agreed that residents will pay an extra R5 from January 1991 as a levy towards the Greater Soweto People's Fund - to be established for community development and assistance. The fund will be controlled by an independent board of trustees and nominees from all principal bodies will serve on it.

A similar levy on businesses in greater Soweto is being considered.

The board is to establish a Metropolitan Chamber for the Central Witwatersrand to serve as an interim forum with the primary function of investigating and formulating regional, non-racial and democratic policies.

A sixth principal body

Staff Reporters

the Johannesburg City Council - will be invited to participate

A table of electricity discounts was also formulated at the meetings. They are:

- 33,3 percent for the first 250 units
- 25 percent from 251 to 350 units
- 20 percent from 351 to 450 units
- 15 percent from 451 to

550 units.

■ 10 percent from 551 to 650 units

■ For non-metered consumption (such as meters out of order) the charge will be based on 400 units

Soweto Civic Association (SCA) president Isaac Mogase, who attended the meetings, said yesterday he had been inundated with congratulatory calls from residents.

He said. "They ex-

pressed their jubilation at the announcement and we would also like to express our gratitude to them for their support and co-operation throughout the marathon negotiations"

Mogase said the SCA would embark on an information campaign to explain clearly to all residents the terms of the agreement

Charles Khuluse, a father of three, said elimination of rent arrears was a welcome gesture from the authorities, but that the whole thing needed to be explained clearly.

"Residents want to know exactly the amount they are required to pay.

"If the amount is not stated clearly, they may later change their minds and make us pay exorbitant amounts, as before"

Thalitha Matsoporo, a disabled pensioner, from Naledi in Soweto, said "people were prepared to pay, but let it be the right amount"

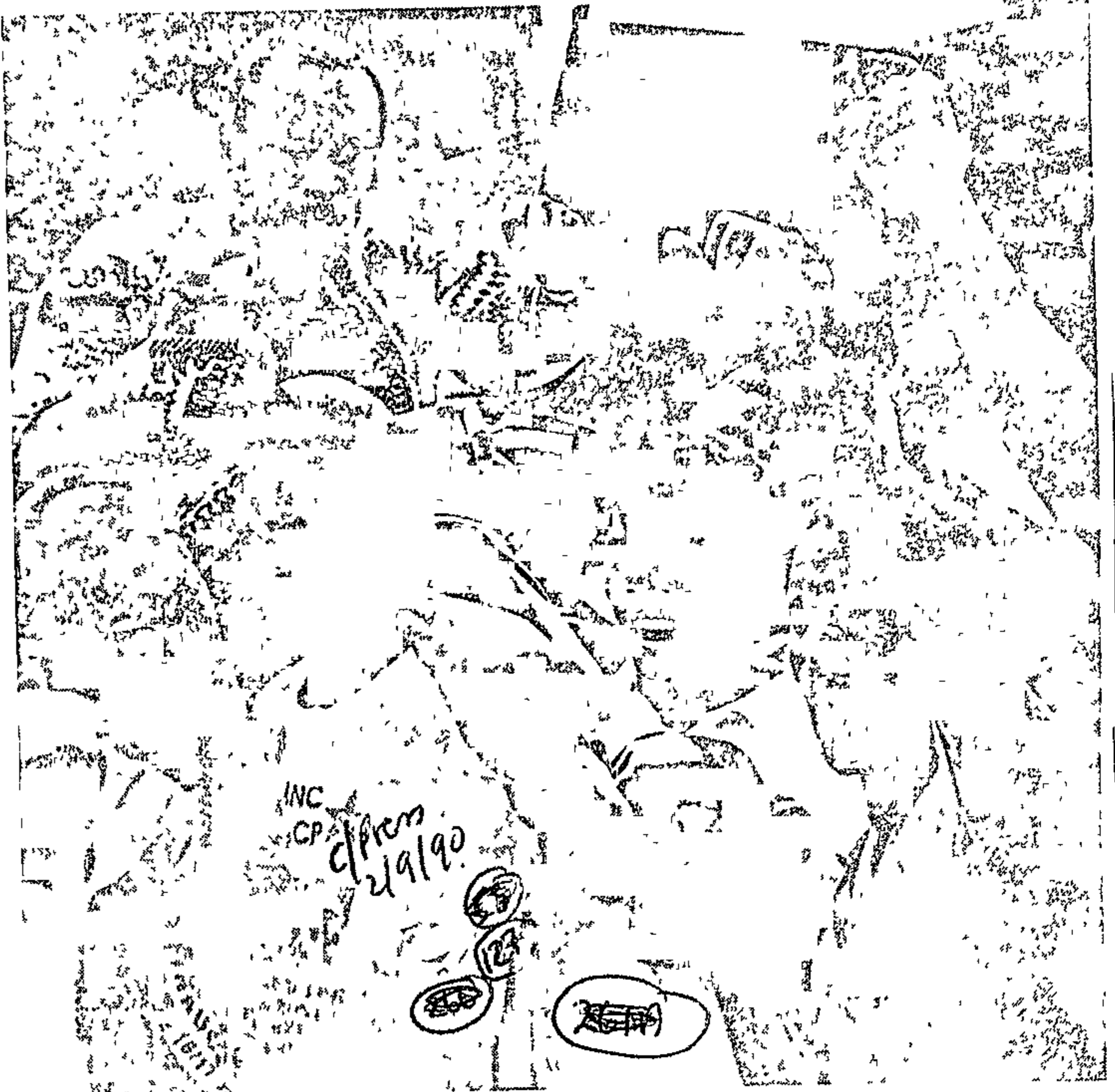
Welcoming the move, Matsoporo also said these measures should apply countrywide.

"We only hope the write-off won't mean overcharging residents again," she said

John Khambule of Zola in Soweto was pessimistic, saying authorities haven't done enough.

He said. "Before they started removing us from our old freehold areas they promised that after 20 years the house becomes yours. This has not happened"

Political comment and newsbills by K Sibiyi, headlines and more by K Naidoo, both of 2 Herb Street, New Doornfontein, Johannesburg.



On a high ... Soweto Civic Association president Isaac Mogase (above), who has announced an information campaign to help explain the rent breakthrough.



BACKGROUND

Fierce debate over the role of hostels

Although many fingers have been pointed at the hostel system as a major contributing factor to the recent township carnage, mining houses have insisted that they stay

In the wake of recent violence which has claimed more than 500 lives calls have been made by ANC and church leaders for the hostel network to be destroyed and for hostel dwellers to be given property in the townships so that they can become integrated members of the community

But according to the country's mining houses, the need for the hostel system remains, although the original intention of hostel dwellings — to entrench the National Party's for-

mer influx control policy — is no longer valid
"Hostels will remain a feature of mining life as long as there are single labourers seeking temporary work," says Adrian du Plessis, spokesman for Anglo American
And as long as there is legislation stipulating that migrant workers and their families may not be housed within South Africa, the hostel system will serve a purpose, according to Genmin chief executive, management resources, At du Plessis

For local mineworkers seeking a way out of the hostels, however, the mining houses have offered an alternative
All have embarked on a subsidised home ownership scheme

In the wake of the recent ethnic violence between hostel dwellers and township residents, calls have been made to do away with the hostel system. But the likelihood of single men's hostels becoming a dinosaur in labour history is remote. **HELEN GRANGE** reports

in an effort to give workers the choice of being reunited with their families and living close to work
Subsidised housing bonds are on offer and, according to Mr du Plessis, a number of black miners are exercising this choice
"We have committed ourselves to promoting home ownership among the miners and part of the fruits will be the depopulation of the hostels. We are hoping that through this

programme, conditions in hostel life will improve," Mr du Plessis said
However, according to National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) spokesman Jerry Majatladi, the housing scheme is only within reach of black middle management and does not benefit lower-income miners
"The plan is elitist because they are building houses that most miners can't afford. Why can't the mining houses establish mining villages for blacks

as they did for white miners — on mine property?
"These villages could be racially integrated. They could also build flats where people who choose to bring their families could do so," Mr Majatladi said
He added that as far as the NUM was concerned, hostels or compounds — "institutions deliberately created by capital in collusion with the State to control and cheapen black labour" — should be destroyed completely
"The compounds are a social disaster — not only in terms of separating breadwinners from families, but in terms of the psychological strains placed on workers in them"

Mr Majatladi claimed the hostel system also denied the dwellers the right to expression and also entrenched tribalism
"In some hostels even today, mine management has tribal leaders called 'indunas' elected to administer Hostel violence, in the majority of cases, is instigated by management's insistence on these methods"
The system also made it impossible for the union to organise workers because union leaders had to ask permission from mine management to enter hostel premises
"Hostel dwellers are controlled by management to the extent that they become aliens in their own country. They can't enjoy the same privileges that the community around them does," Mr Majatladi said

But despite the concession by mining houses that the hostel system imposes hardships on workers they believe the answer is not to destroy the system but rather to improve the conditions
As far as ethnicity is concerned, we do not encourage it in the hostels. We have taken a deliberate decision to integrate them," Mr du Plessis said
"And we believe that by depopulating the hostels of miners who will become homeowners, the conditions for those workers who wish not to settle will improve"

The hostel system is now a subject of fierce debate between the NUM and mining houses

clips 9/9/90
**Bid to
end rent
boycott
in Vaal** *127*

THE Vaal Civic Association and the Vaal African Chamber of Commerce will meet the Le-ko-a City Council this week in a bid to resolve the rent-and-service-charges boycott.

The council announced it would attempt to persuade the Vereeniging Town Council and Eskom not to disconnect the electricity supply to Sharpeville and other townships within the council's jurisdiction.

This week the TPA said steps to cut off water and electricity supplies would be taken by the Black Local Authorities — which are autonomous bodies over which the TPA has no say and thus cannot prohibit or order to cut off bulk supplies.

Report back on rent talks

Express 9/9/90
MEETINGS will be held in Soweto today to discuss the rent agreement reached last week between the Soweto People's Delegation, the Soweto Civic Association, the three councils and the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Residents in Alexandra, Vosloorus, Thokoza, Katlehong and Mamelodi will also meet to discuss the ending of the rent-and-service-charges boycott.

In Dobsonville residents will meet at the Kopanong Hall at 9am, and will be addressed by Sister Bernard Ncube. SCA president Isaac Mogase will address residents at the Diepkloof Hall at 2pm.

127 *243* *267*
The SPD's Cyril Ramaphosa will address a meeting at the Meadowlands Stadium at 2pm, Ellen Khuzwayo will speak at the Ibhongo High School in Dlamini at 2pm, and Rev Lebamang Sebidi will speak at the Dutch Reformed Church in Pinville at 2pm. SPD secretary Pat Lephunya will address meetings at Khuthala Lower Primary School in Protea North at 10am, at the Roman Catholic Church in Tshiawelo at 2pm, and at the Lutheran Church in Naledi at 3pm.

214
The SPD and the SCA have proposed that single, non-racial town councils be established and all arrears be written off.

Report back on rent talks

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The SPD and the SCA have proposed that single, non-racial town councils be established and all arrears be written off.

cracked, the emotion caused by the memory of the past is strong. The

The final reason I am writing about the women in my family life is, I be-

The women of all races must provide the cement to put this house in order.

Tembisa faces power switch-off 127

TEMBISA residents may face an electricity switch-off if the town council does not pay three months electricity arrears to Eskom. *Sowetan 10/9/90*

The mayor of Tembisa, Mr SB More, yesterday said following a meeting they held with Eskom representatives, it was made clear by Eskom that unless the council made satisfactory arrangements to pay the arrears for June to August, electricity supply to the township may be switched off.

Tembisa council owes Eskom R2,5 million of unpaid electricity account.

He made an earnest appeal to resi-

dents to save the township from power cut-off and said stringent measures will be applied to those who do not pay electricity.

"The council of Tembisa took a resolution at a special meeting that all those who do not pay will have their electricity cut off.

"Residents found reconnecting their electricity illegally, will have their cables cut, which means that to get power supply again a new cable, which costs around R700, will have to be applied for by the house owner," said More.

Enthusiasm over rent arrangements

(127)

By SY MAKARINGE

(2/16)

THE tentative agreement reached between the Soweto Peoples Delegation and the TPA on the ending of the Soweto rent boycott has been met with great enthusiasm, according to Mr Isaac Mogase, president of the Soweto Civic Associations.

Mogase was one of six executives members of the SPD who addressed eight report-back meetings held in various parts of Soweto at the weekend.

He said the SPD was given an overwhelming support by Soweto residents who also wished them well in future negotiations with the TPA.

The agreement was reached nearly two weeks ago after a series of meetings which also involved the three Greater Soweto councils.

Sowetan 11/9/90

In return of assurances that the residents would start paying for their services, the TPA agreed to write off arrears totalling more than R500-million accumulated over the past four years.

The parties also agreed on an interim service charge of R23 a month which comes into effect next month. Electricity consumption costs 12 cents a unit.

Parys cuts power, water to township

By Melody McDougall,
Vereeniging Bureau

The Parys Town Council yesterday cut electricity services and 90 percent of the water supply to residents of Tumahole.

About 40 000 people are affected. Parys town clerk Joop Ferreira yesterday said the disconnection of services was the result of township residents not having paid their bills for the past three months.

He said Tumahole owed the council about R235 000.

Stressing that the decision to cut services was not a political one, Mr Ferreira said it was strictly a business matter.

Mr Ferreira said the water supply had been reduced to 10 percent of normal flow. This would ensure sufficient water for drinking and cooking purposes.

According to Mr Ferreira, a meeting would be held on Thursday between the town council, the Tumahole Town Committee, the police and the Tumahole Civic Association to discuss the issue.

Toekomsrus residents air their grievances

Sowetan 12/9/90 (127)

A PEACEFUL crowd of about 1 000 Toekomsrus residents handed over a petition of grievances to the Randfontein Town Clerk Mr Louw Brits yesterday morning

Toekomsrus Crisis Committee secretary Shadean Butler said Brits had been given an

ultimatum to reply to the petition within a week.

There was a strong police and SA Defence Force presence along the road from the township playing fields into town but there were no incidents

White residents along the way kept a low profile

Another Toekomsrus resident, Mr Cecil Byron, said high rents were the main source of unhappiness in the area.

For a four-roomed house "very old, nothing more than a matchbox",

said Byron, residents paid R380 a month

Another woman said although many residents in Toekomsrus had bought their homes, electricity and water rents were crippling, high - R400-R500 a month she claimed.

Another resident from this Western Transvaal township, Mr John Eiland, said Labour Party leaders the Rev Allan Hendrickse and Mr David Curry were desperately needed to help the community. - Sapa

Switch-off catches residents unawares

By Musa Mapisa

The disconnection of water and electricity in Tumahole township near Parys on Monday has changed the lifestyle of the 40 000 residents

Parys Town Clerk Joop Ferreira said the disconnection had come about because residents had not paid their bills for three months

Buckets

The township now owed the council about R235 000

Mr Ferreira said the decision to cut services was strictly a business matter, not a political one

Women who had forgotten to store water before leaving for work

yesterday were seen in the afternoon moving in streets with buckets on their heads

After touring the township, The Star team stopped at a supermarket to buy cold drinks. They were warm

The stench of rotting meat hung heavily in the air.

One customer was buying candles, while a small boy struggled out of the shop with a five-litre container of paraffin.

Some residents, like the Modise family, were using gas for cooking and lighting

Music could be heard from their home. It came from a battery-operated hi-fi set

Dec 12/9/90

E Rand power cuts loom

By Therese Anders and Abel Mabelane

The electricity supply will be cut off in Tokoza and Katilehong tomorrow, according to notices issued to residents yesterday.

Pamphlets warning of the power cuts in the township were dropped by helicopter.

The notice said "As a result of your five-month rent and service charge boycott, it has become inevitable that the provision of essential services by the council can no longer be rendered. The funds of Katilehong are now exhausted."

Tokoza administrator Gert Muller said power would be cut at 7 am tomorrow. He said Tokoza owed the Alberton City Council R1,5 million in electricity bills.

Mr Muller said the Alberton City Council had agreed that

power would be restored if residents could pay the average daily usage of power.

He said various community organisations such as the ANC, the civic association, the taxi association and the local chamber of commerce had been invited to a meeting with the council today in an attempt to avert the power cut.

● According to ANC regional secretary Joe Nkuna, many eastern Transvaal township residents are loath to begin paying their service accounts because of councillors' previous records of corruption.

Mr Nkuna has urged the Transvaal Provincial Administration to step in quickly and appoint administrators in all townships throughout the eastern Transvaal.

He was commenting on why many township residents were

still not paying, although the rent and services boycott was called off on August 31.

All service payments are to be made before September 17, yet The Star has been told that in KwaGugqa (Wirbank), Mhluzi (Middelburg) and Wesselton (Ermelo) there has been little or no response.

In KwaGugqa, the TPA appointed three councillors as administrators several months ago.

It has subsequently been discovered that these were illegal in terms of the Black Local Authorities Act.

● The Mamelodi People's Delegation and the local city council are due to meet tomorrow to discuss the rent issue in the township.

Suggestions from both parties will be submitted to the TPA for consideration.

● The Kimberley City Council has announced that water and electricity services to the nearby Galeshewe township will be cut from September 18, prompting township mayor Paolo Bosvark to appeal to residents to start paying their rentals and service charges arrears.

Mr Bosvark said residents had been boycotting rent and services charges since March this year, and they now owed about R6 million to Kimberley Town Council.

He said it was not his council's intention to cut services, but since the suppliers were intent on doing this there was nothing the council could do.

If residents started paying by September 18, they might be able to convince the town council not to proceed with a switch-off, the mayor said.

Kimberley poised to switch off power

KIMBERLEY yesterday threatened to withhold electricity from its neighbour, Galeshewe, which owes about R6m in service bills.

The threat came as Tumahole township business began to feel the bite after the Parys Town Council cut off electricity and reduced water supplies by 90% on Monday morning.

Kimberley's threat to switch off follows close on the heels of Carolina in the Eastern Transvaal, Alberton in the East Rand and Vereeniging in the Vaal triangle. The cutting of supplies to neighbouring townships was prevented by means of negotiation and intervention by Eskom and the TPA.

Sapa reports that Kimberley City Council said yesterday water and electricity to nearby Galeshewe township would be cut from September 18.

The report quotes township

mayor Taolo Bosvark as saying residents had been boycotting rent and service charges since March this year, and they now owed about R6m to the Kimberley council.

Pleading with residents to pay, Bosvark said his council might be able to convince Kimberley not to proceed with the switch-off.

Meanwhile, Tumahole butcher Solly Mlambo had to send R14 000 worth of meat back to the supplier yesterday because of the blanket electricity cut by Parys.

Parys cut services to Tumahole after the township had run up three-month arrears of about R235 000, according to Town Secretary Joop Ferreira.

Mlambo runs a butchery with a daily turnover of R8 000, and his adjacent grocery shop averages about the same turnover.

"But with the electric saw, the scales, the fridge and the till not working, I had to send the meat I had in stock to Vereeniging for cutting. I had to serve customers without a scale, and my stock was getting bad."

"So when the supplier came with new stock I had to send the stuff back because I could not keep rotating meat on the premises," Mlambo said.

Dry cleaner Peter Monkhe had piles of clothing sitting at his factory that had been brought by clients who hoped power would be restored.

"I keep hoping electricity will be restored, and the people hope their clothes will be cleaned. It's puzzling because not one business owes money. The Tumahole Town Committee cuts off power if you owe," Monkhe said.

His assertion was echoed by al-

most all businessmen interviewed, including grocer Ruth Tladi, who reduced orders as milk, chicken, milk products and other items began to go bad.

A meeting between the Parys Town Council, the local civic association, the Tumahole Town Committee and the SAP is scheduled for tomorrow.

And according to Sapa, about 1 000 Toekomsrus residents yesterday handed a petition of grievances to Randfontein town clerk Louw Brits, demanding the immediate and unconditional resignation of the management committee.

The residents gave the Randfontein council a week to reply.

The march, which had all the makings of a showdown between "coloured" participants and conservative white residents of Randfontein, was peaceful.

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THEO RAWANA

APR 13 13/9/90
127

Katlehong power off today

JOHANNESBURG — The Katlehong Town Council has confirmed that electricity will be switched off today

Council spokesman Mr Fanie Maree said a time had not been confirmed. Pamphlets distributed by helicopter to residents on Tuesday apparently put the cut-off time at 7am, however

The council is R4 million in arrears in its Eskom electricity account, and also owes about R1,5 million to the Rand Water Board because of a rent and service-payment boycott extending back to April 1, he said.

By yesterday afternoon the situation was extremely tense in the township.

"Every road is blocked off," said Mr Maree "You can hardly get into the area. None of our employees have turned up for work."

The Katlehong Civic Association (KCA) has refused to meet councillors on the issue because, it says, they are not representative of the community.

Hospitals and police stations would not have their power cut. It would also be unfair to cut the electricity in the Katlehong hostels, Mr Maree indicated, because accounts had been paid.

● Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports noted that electricity will also be switched off in Thokoza today — Sapa

POWER

cut

Residents
worried about
attacks in
the dark

fears

*Someter
13/7/90*



COUNCILLORS have threatened to cut off electricity in the troubled East Rand townships today.

The Katlehong Town Council yesterday used a helicopter to distribute pamphlets warning residents that electricity would be cut off because there were "no funds" to run the township.

Earlier in the week Tembisa mayor Mr SB More announced that his council had resolved to discontinue the supply of

By SY MAKARINGE

electricity to rent defaulters.

More than 10 people were killed this week in the dark township of Vosloorus.

Mr Cyril Jantjies, an

African National Congress representative on the East Rand, has warned of a disaster "if the councils go ahead with their decision to cut off electricity in the

townships".

The ANC said the cutting of electricity "will give vigilantes a perfect chance of launching their violent attacks on our people".

Said Jantjies. "There is clear evidence that these attacks are not directed at specific people but are carried out at random".

There was no reason why the councils were reluctant to negotiate with the civic associations in resolving the problem

Publicity secretary of the Tembisa Residents Association Mr George Bila said the council's decision to cut off the elec-

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OronPad

23 municipalities owe money to Eskom

Highveld Bureau

Twenty-three Transvaal municipalities are now in arrears with Eskom since the Government stopped bridging finance two weeks ago to townships boycotting rent and service payments.

Eskom refuses to divulge how much it is now owed, but it

is believed to run to several million rand.

Communication manager Johan du Plessis said Eskom was confident of being repaid the outstanding millions, which were accruing interest from the day of default.

"We feel (the situation) is under control at present, but there is cause for concern

where some white local authorities are cutting off supplies to townships"

He said each defaulting local authority would be given 60 days to meet its payment, after which legal action would be taken.

However, he stressed that Eskom's policy was to negotiate with townships.

Half a million on East Rand face blackout

By Claire Robertson,
Pretoria Bureau

More than 500 000 East Rand residents could be without electricity from today as the first blackout hits Reef towns.

Tokoza and Katlehong — the latter the scene of some of the worst recent township violence — were informed by way of leaflets dropped from helicopters this week that electricity would be cut this morning

The move follows austerity measures introduced by the Government at the end of August. Local authorities hit by rent and service-charges boycotts were informed that bridging-finance coffers had run dry and assistance with service payments would be curtailed.

Germiston town clerk Tone Heynecke yesterday received offers of help from local industries who had heard of the Katlehong blackout. Some wanted to help pay for electricity

Tokoza officials have said they would continue with attempts to resolve the rent boycott through negotiations

A meeting between organisations and the township administration on Monday ended in a deadlock, said the Transvaal Provincial Administration. The TPA could not comment further on the blackouts as "each local authority is autonomous"

Katlehong and Tokoza are two of the most cash-strapped East Rand townships.

Board recommends opening of two areas in Johannesburg

PRETORIA — The Free Settlement Areas Board (FSAB) has recommended in two reports sent to President F W de Klerk that two areas affecting 15 suburbs be declared Johannesburg's first open residential areas. Yesterday FSAB chairman Hein Kruger declined to comment on the contents of the reports.

One report is based on investigations into Mayfair and Pageview, while the other concerns 14 suburbs in eastern Johannesburg.

However, sources told Business Day the one report recommended that only Mayfair be declared a free settlement area.

The other report recommended all 14 suburbs be declared one free settlement area.

EDYTH BULBRING

These are Hillbrow, Bellevue, Yeoville, Berea, Doornfontein, New Doornfontein, Judith's Paarl, Bertrams, Lorentzville, portions surrounding Joubert Park, a portion of Houghton Estate up to its boundaries with Killarney Golf Course, Oaklands, Norwood and Orange Grove.

Decision

Kruger said the FSAB received an application from the Johannesburg City Council on Tuesday asking that the board investigate opening the whole of Johannesburg.

The board would decide this week whether it would investigate the application.

The recommendations contained in the two completed reports would not affect a possible investigation by the board into the whole of Johannesburg as it was the board's responsibility to investigate applications, and make recommendations to the President who would make his decision on the basis of the report, Kruger said.

Johannesburg City Council management committee chairman Ian Davidson said last night the two reports were irrelevant in light of Johannesburg's application.

He said he hoped De Klerk would not act on the recommendations until the board had finalised its investigation into the whole of Johannesburg.

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CAPE TOWN 13/9/90
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By yesterday afternoon the situation was extremely tense in the township.

“Every road is blocked off,” said Mr Maree. “You can hardly get into the area. None of our employees have turned up for work.”

The Katlehong Civic Association (KCA) has refused to meet councillors on the issue because, it says, they are not representative of the community

Hospitals and police stations would not have their power cut. It would also be unfair to cut the electricity in the Katlehong hostels, Mr Maree indicated, because accounts had been paid.

● Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports noted that electricity will also be switched off in Thokoza today — Sapa

Into Tumahole's burning heart of darkness

14/9-20/9/90 (127)
The Parys municipality's

four-day switch-off of electricity and water services to Tumahole township this week left residents angry and frustrated, reports

JO-ANNE COLLINGE

TYRES burned in the streets of Tumahole on Wednesday night. Maybe they were flares of defiance at the cutting off of electricity and water supplies to the township by the neighbouring municipality of Parys on Monday.

But in the ultra dark night they appeared as beacons to light the way, placed at even intervals along the road.

The community was readying itself for yesterday's protest which resulted in the reconnection of services. Pamphlets reading "No electricity, no talks, no work" issued by a range of ANC aligned organisations were distributed.

In the Jackpot Cafe and Bar Lounge on Wednesday, owner Stanley Mosia listened anxiously to the hum of a generator as assistants served customers in the honey glow of candlelight.

The generator, bought two hours earlier for R3 500, had not yet worked up enough "steam" to cool the refrigerators and send a flood of light into the township beyond, beckoning customers.

"In three days I think I've lost about R4 500 in sales and stock needing refrigeration," said Mosia. "And that's not including the bar lounge." Was it faring any better? "Beer must be cold," he replied. "Who can keep a cold beer here anymore?"

Mosia was furious at the injustice. "I don't owe. I've been paying my bills. So why punish me? Let them cut off the lights of those who don't pay. If I murder someone, should you be arrested?"

He saw the electricity cut-off as a response to the consumer boycott which has been in force in Parys since August 29. "I think this is retaliation. People are now angrier than ever because since the boycott (of white shops) began we gave them the right things at the right prices so they did not have to shop in town."

He rejected the notion of negotiating a resumption of services. "For those who have paid there's no negotiation because we don't owe them." Mosia, like other businessmen, favoured challenging the Parys Town Council in court. The Tumahole Civic Association had instructed Johannesburg lawyers earlier that day to lay the ground for an urgent application to the Supreme Court.

Suddenly, as a primus stove changed



Youths warm their hands at one of the burning tyres which form the only illumination in Tumahole streets

Picture KEVIN CARTER

hands over the counter, the generator proved its worth and the lights went on in Jackpot Cafe. A little cheer went up from the customers. Not from the owner. "If this doesn't pull the people, I'm still the loser."

Across the road, the Modisenyane family was facing losses of another kind. Medi Modisenyane, one of the sons, died earlier in the week.

Alinah Modisenyane, a matric pupil, worried about the impending examinations. Not only did the service cut mean

studying by candlelight, but schools had been empty since the shut-down.

That factor aside, children have become a valued source of house-help in Tumahole. Morosi Modisenyane, a sales manageress in a Sasolburg store, finds there is no time to fetch water from one of the few functioning taps each morning. Not only are they few and far between, but the queues go on for ever.

"We don't have small kids at home so this morning we paid R5 to a young girl to fetch two little buckets of water. Even-

ry day it'll be the same — another R5."

She reflected that even if she wanted to go to work next day in the face of the stayaway call it would be impossible. "My child is at the creche. And the creche closed down today because there's no water."

Teacher Jerry Mascko said: "We are all proud of the fact that Tumahole was the first to take up the housing issue in 1984 — we initiated it. So we think we will be able to find a solution too. Personally I think there will have to be a compromise."

In July of 1984 Tumahole residents embarked on protests against rent increases by the Tumahole Town Council, saying the new rent was unaffordable. It was a time of barricades and clashes.

These events prefigured developments in the Vaal Triangle, where rent increases led to the explosive protests of September 3 — a date often cited as the "starting point" for years of mass struggle which was critical to forcing the present national negotiations.

Tom Letsuonyo, a member of the Tumahole People's Delegation (chosen to negotiate on rents and service charges, was an inexperienced activist at the time of the 1984 protests. Now a veteran of detention, having been tried for Umkhonto we Sizwe activities, he said his expectations were that the "atmosphere of mutual trust that the leadership talks about should work parallel from the highest to the lowest levels."

Tumahole dances as the lights go back on

By MONDLI MAKHANYA

THERE was dancing in the streets of Tumahole near Parys last night following the resignation of the township council, the resolution of the rent boycott and the resumption of the supply of electricity to the township.

Agreement was reached after several hours of negotiations between the Tumahole Civic Association (TCA), the town councils of Tumahole and Parys, the Orange Free State Provincial Administration and the South African Police.

As a result of the negotiated settlement, an R18 50 service charge will be implemented from the end of September, the R7 million rent arrears were written off, and an administrator is to be appointed by the province to replace the township council.

The six-year old boycott of service charges will be lifted. Residents will pay rent to the Parys town council until an administrator is appointed.

A Joint Working Committee has been established the function of which will be to investigate a new system of local government — a single tax base and affordable service charges for the Parys area.

TCA chairman Tumo Modibedi said last night that the settlement represented a "victory for the people of Tumahole."

BLACKOUT AS PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES PULL THE PLUG

THE long standing threat to cut off supplies of electricity and water to townships where residents are refusing to pay for services became a reality in several townships this week.

In the bloodied and battered East Rand areas of Katlehong and Tokoza electricity supplies were cut early yesterday.

The response of residents was one of fear rather than anger, as they felt that the intensity of night time attacks could only increase under cover of complete darkness.

In Katlehong, boycotts have resulted in the local council being owed R4-million in arrears electricity payments and R1.5-million for water.

The Katlehong Civic Association, holding to the position that the council is illegitimate, is attempting to negotiate with provincial authorities.

Council spokesman Fanle Maree

told Sapa this week that the KCA had firm arrangements to meet the TPA, but that the council was not pleased that its official status was not being recognised.

On Monday the Parys Town Council cut off supplies to the township of Tumahole — leaving just a trickle of water, a mere 10 percent of the normal supply, to cater to residents' basic needs.

According to Parys town secretary Joop Ferreira the Tumahole Town Council owes the Parys council R200 000 for services.

Tumahole school pupils immediately began boycotting classes and yesterday the overwhelming majority of workers stayed home in protest as members of the Tumahole People's Delegation met councillors, the police and provincial authorities in a bid to solve the problem.

The Tumahole situation is compounded by a consumer boycott of white owned shops which began on August 29.

Services are due to be chopped in the Kimberley township of Galeshewe within days.

Two months ago, when the council suspended services, a sit in of residents at the mayor's house resulted in their rapid resumption according to sources in the community.

Silobela near Carolina was the first boycotting township to experience a cut in services.

The drastic action by local authorities has been prompted by the fact that provincial authorities are no longer able or willing to provide bridging finance to enable municipalities to pay their bills to Eskom and various water suppliers.

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Daveyton rent arrears indaba

RESIDENTS of Daveyton near Benoni are invited to a mass meeting at the Sinaba Stadium on Sunday to discuss rent arrears

The meeting, called by the Daveyton Civic Association, starts at 8am

In a statement, the civic association said it was time it and the white council met to work out a new model and start negotiations on the rent arrears

Sowetan 14/1/90

(127)

UDF attacks power cuts on the East Rand

THE UDF has attacked the decision to cut off electricity to Katlehong and Tokoza from yesterday

The UDF's Mr Ronnie Mamoepa called on the Transvaal Provincial Administration to "immediately withdraw this decision before it is too late to contemplate the disastrous consequences for the East Rand in view of the violence sweeping the townships".

This step would only serve the interests of those who wish to perpetuate violence under the cover of darkness, the UDF spokesman said.

"At a time when the

country is seeking ways and means of addressing this violence, we perceive this move by the TPA as a creation of a climate which is conducive for the escalation of violence and must be condemned," he said.

The UDF noted that the TPA should learn from its experience with the Soweto People's Delegation - which resulted in the resolution of the rent boycott.

"High-handed methods can never resolve matters but on the contrary, discussions and debates will yield an everlasting solution to this crisis," the statement added. - Sapa

Soweto 14/9/90

127

Atteridgeville (127) residents to ^{Sowetan} discuss boycott 14/9/90

By ALINAH DUBE

THE Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation (ASRO) has called a meeting for Sunday to discuss the current rent boycott in Atteridgeville

The meeting, which will take place at the Super Stadium starting at 11am, is the first after a three-month ban on public meetings by the Atteridgeville City Council

Political and civic organisations were barred from using council facilities following special council meetings on June 25 and 27 this year.

The decision to lift the ban is a sequel to a meeting between ASRO, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the local council a week ago. It was resolved that ASRO be allowed to use public amenities provided they gave a written guarantee that no violence would be proposed at their meetings

An ASRO spokesman yesterday said to ensure the people's safety, the organisation had applied for permission, appointed lawyers to serve on a joint security monitoring committee and formed a committee of marshalls to assist in crowd control

Decisions taken on Sunday will be discussed at a meeting of ASRO and the TPA next Tuesday

Rentals (127)
frozen *Sowetan*
14/9/90

THE Mamelodi People's Delegation and the Mamelodi City Council have agreed on the freezing of rental arrears in the township

This was announced in a brief joint statement issued after the two parties met at the council chambers to discuss the rent crisis yesterday

Their recommendations are to be referred to the TPA for a final decision - *Sowetan Correspondent*

CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS (127) ~~127~~ ~~127~~
EDGING INTO POWER

FIM 1419190

Township civic associations representing several million Reef residents will meet this weekend to forge closer ties

The meeting on September 15 in Johannesburg, hosted by the UDF, will launch the Southern Transvaal region of civic associations as a prelude to the formation of a national civic association early next year. Delegates will attend from 97 "civics" across the Reef and will elect a 15-member executive body.

Regional civics are already established in Border and the northern Transvaal.

In effect, the move should be seen as the ANC-UDF establishing local government structures as future alternatives to existing local authorities, now struggling to survive. The local authorities, which face deficits of tens of billions of rand as a consequence of a four-year rent boycott and a five-month rates boycott, have had bridging finance turned off by the Transvaal Provincial Administration. This in turn is leading to supply switch-offs in some townships and deteriorating health conditions as sewage

CURRENT AFFAIRS FIM 1419190
(127) ~~127~~ ~~127~~

removal is not effected in some areas. All the authorities are on their knees.

Titus Mafolo, UDF publicity secretary, said the rents and rates crisis had revealed the need for a national civic association. "While the TPA is negotiating as a provincial structure we have been negotiating as individual civics. There has been no cohesion in terms of approach," Mafolo pointed out that not only would the bargaining position of civics be strengthened from within a national forum, but situations such as boycotts could "be resolved more amicably and quicker by a national structure."

Late last week, the UDF again approached Minister of Planning & Provincial Affairs HERNUS KRIEL for an answer to a suggestion when they met with him three weeks ago that the UDF should serve on the National Land Commission. However, Kriel is abroad until September 17.

The initial meeting with Kriel took place after a UDF decision — since rescinded — that squatters should occupy vacant property. Mafolo said the UDF wanted to sit on the land commission to know best which land was available for informal settlement and to promote cohesion between communities and civic organisations with government land policies. He said that last week's destruction of shacks at Dobsonville was indicative of the poor communication between government and local authorities.

Charlene Smith

Big blackout hits township business

THE first victims of the electricity blackout that hit the East Rand townships of Thokoza and Katlehong yesterday were the local petrol stations.

As the Thokoza town committee and the local civic association were deeply locked in negotiations to resolve the electricity-bill question, taxis operating in the adjacent areas were speeding to the nearest filling station — an Indian-owned operation on the Alberton side of the border of the two townships.

The two councils cut off power to the townships yesterday morning after the five-month rent boycott in the areas.

Meanwhile, Tumahole township was celebrating last night after electricity and water were restored after talks between the local township administration, the civic association and the Parys Town Council.

Parys withdrew the services on Monday after the township failed to pay its R235 000 bill to the council, town secretary Joop Ferreira said earlier.

A Thokoza garage owner said yesterday all her filling station operations had come to a standstill.

Taxi driver Sandile Mbhele said he had to get his petrol from a station over the bridge when electricity was cut off yesterday.

THEO RAWANA

"I sympathise with Thokoza and Katlehong garage owners, but I also have to keep my operation going," he said.

Katlehong's switch-off was selective, with emergency services such as the local hospital and the police station spared. Some street lights were on in Katlehong and the local shopping centre had power reinstated in the afternoon.

But Thokoza, whose town committee had asked Alberton to cut off its electricity supply, had a complete blackout.

Businesses in areas outside Katlehong's shopping centre experienced a day of lowered turnovers as butcheries had to do without refrigeration.

Weighing facilities were affected and meat had to be cut with butcher-knives instead of electric saws.

Shops had to use calculators instead of tills and could not keep food fresh.

Witwatersrand SAP spokesman Col Frans Malherbe said last night police had made no arrangements for street lights to be switched on in the trouble-torn areas.

"We are deeply concerned about the street lights being switched off and are going to talk to the people involved tomorrow," he said.

NEGOTIATION BREAKTHROUGH

Delicate talks solve rent boycott

Special Correspondent
Clarens 16/9/80

VERY few people knew how delicate the negotiations were which led to the solving of the rent boycott in Greater Soweto - or what the consequences could be.

The local authority and the ANC-orientated Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) have agreed to co-operate after nearly five years of boycott action.

Just three months ago members of the SPD and councillors of Soweto Diepsmeadow and Dobsonville did not even talk to each other. Now they are co-operating with the Transvaal Provincial Administration in an effort to solve Soweto's problems. Decisions are being taken by the five groups based on investigations done by a Joint Technical Committee (JTC) which they have appointed.

The great breakthrough is that for the first time Soweto leaders have accepted that people have to pay for services while local black councils and regional service councils are being recognised. Leaders like Albertina Sisulu, Ellen Kuzwayo and Cyril Ramaphosa - who were considered to be too radical to negotiate with - now support the new proposals and are presently explaining it to the street committees in Soweto. The groups are expected to sign the final agreement on September 24.

For September an all-inclusive tariff of R55 per home is payable. From October an interim service fee of R23 a month will apply, plus 12 cents per unit for electricity consumed, with discount on a sliding scale for low usage of electricity. A working group of the Joint Technical Committee is to make proposals on realistic and affordable tariffs.

Electricity meters were destroyed on a large scale during the boycott action. In cases where accounts were delivered the figures were often untrustworthy without control over costs. The use of electricity went sky-high and the average household was con-

suming up to four times more than a similar household in Johannesburg.

Meanwhile the meters have been repaired and a computer system installed in the TPA's Johannesburg offices to handle bills for the three councils of Greater Soweto and Alexandra.

An important factor in the agreement is that representatives of the Soweto Civic Association will accompany meter readers on test readings. During the boycott action some of the meter readers were murdered.

Soweto residents will now have to be disciplined in their use of electricity. For years electrical heaters have been used day and night, and the plates of stoves turned on to heat homes.

Electricity will now have to be used according to need and ability to pay which should bring about savings for the councils. Eskom has been approached to launch an information campaign in this regard.

Bills to the value of R116 million as well as an amount of R399 million were written off on August 31 this year. The term bridging finance is misleading because these amounts are never repaid.

Instead of paying instalments on amounts in arrears, each household in Soweto will also pay an additional levy of R3 per month which will be used to form a community fund under the control of an independent trust in which all five parties will be represented.

The finance obtained through the new payment system will only cover about a quarter of Soweto's running expenditure. This is considered to be a first step to make inhabitants used to paying for services and the amount will be gradually increased.

The Soweto Council's running costs for each household averages R256 a month. With the new tariff the monthly deficit for each household will be R196.

The money for the deficit will have to be partially financed by the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council, the TPA and the government.

In Johannesburg 70 percent of the income comes

from property tax and profit on payments for electricity by the private sector - as well as 11 percent from public bodies. The people in Johannesburg would be paying very high tariffs if the business sector - which is supposed to serve the complete metropolis - did not make a contribution.

A joint source of income already exists in the form of regional services council levies. About 85 percent is already being paid by businesses in Johannesburg and 77 percent of these amounts are being spent on improving infrastructure in the areas of black councils.

The five groups plan to form a Metropolitan Chamber to serve as an interim consultative forum with the aim of conducting research on proposals for non-racist and democratic approaches towards policy within the metropolitan area. The Johannesburg City Council will be invited to serve in the Chamber as the sixth institution.

The Joint Technical Committee will once again be instituted under the Metropolitan Chamber. Working groups will do research on a variety of important issues including problems of financing local management, possibilities of a joint fiscal basis for the metropolitan area, transfer of houses to tenants, and the upgrading of hostels services and infrastructure.

What would be the position of the TPA in this process? Firstly, it has become clear the image of the TPA has improved among black people as a result of the negotiations under the leadership of Olaus van Zyl, MEC and the conduct of Fanie Ferreira, MEC, who chaired the meetings. Further, the TPA recently "saved" the black township at Carolina when the CP-controlled town council threatened to cut off water and electricity.

These negotiations form the framework for successful negotiations elsewhere in the region. While the boycott had been a political action in the past, it has now become a local issue. Many problems still have to be addressed but they can be overcome through negotiations.



Evictions stalled .. this could have been a possible scenario if the almost five-year rent boycott was not solved. Residents will now gradually be made used to paying for their services.

Sharpeville's power to be cut off today

Star 4/9/90 (127) (82)

Staff Reporters

The power supply to Sharpeville township in the Vaal Triangle will be cut off from today, and in Katlehong on the East Rand, refuse collection has been suspended because the town council cannot pay its bills.

In other East Rand townships, plans are afoot to limit refuse removal to once every two weeks to try to cut costs.

Vereeniging management committee chairman M L Milani yesterday announced the power cut to Sharpeville, which becomes the second Transvaal town — after Silobela township near Carolina in the eastern Transvaal — to have its power cut

The power cut in Sharpeville, where residents have boycotted rent since 1984, will affect at least 6 000 homes.

Dr Milani said the Vereeniging council was owed about R900 000 for electricity supply, and attempts to recover the money had been unsuccessful.

Reconnected

"We have held discussions with the ANC, Cosatu, the SACP, the Lekoa council, the TPA and the local civic association on the matter but we have made no headway."

Dr Milani said it cost the council R460 000 a month to supply power to Sharpeville. The council could no longer afford to foot the bill

He said that even if residents started paying their electricity bills now, it would take about three weeks to have power reconnected.

In Evaton, the Vaal Civic Association's local chairman Thembiso Radebe told residents at a meeting that the rent boycott would continue in the Vaal regardless of what happened in other black townships

He said the slogan "Asinama-li" (we have no money) was still relevant — six years after it was adopted.

Hilda Stewart, marketing director of a refuse collection company, Multi-Waste, said the company had been informed by the Katlehong Town Council that there was no money to pay it and it was therefore cancelling the contract, which still had seven years to run.

Mrs Stewart said her company removed up to 200 tons of refuse a day from Katlehong and she feared that the uncollected rubbish could become a major health hazard.

A source from Katlehong said the collection of refuse had merely been suspended.

Vosloorus acting town clerk Andries Vrey said the Vosloorus Town Council decided yesterday to limit refuse removal to once every two weeks to try to cut costs

● The Soweto Town Council will hold another round of talks with the Transvaal Provincial Administration on September 24 regarding the end of the rent boycott. Arrears amounting to R516 million have been written off

Hostel

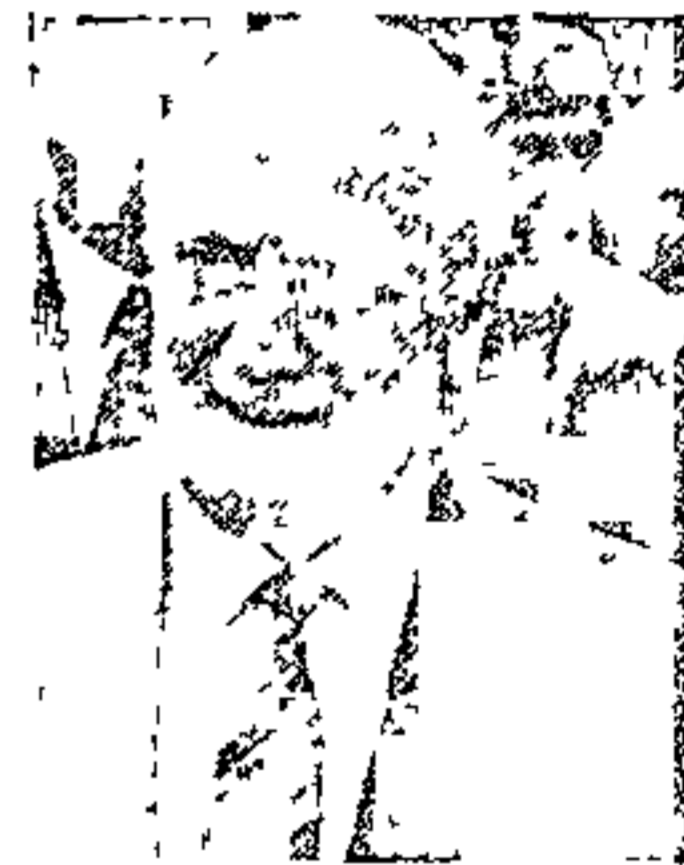
127

Shocks

Soweto 5/9/90

FWW

Conditions
are not
acceptable
- President



FW DE KLERK

PRESIDENT FW de Klerk said conditions at a Soweto hostel he visited yesterday were unacceptable.

As a result, De Klerk said the Government would have to seriously consider turning hostels into family housing.

De Klerk was speaking after a surprise visit to Soweto.

He saw living conditions at Nancefield Hostel - one of the trouble spots in the recent wave of township violence.

He went into a section of the hostel and also a communal toilet in another section.

As De Klerk came out of the toilet his expression was one of shock at the conditions and the stench.

He later told a media conference that he was pleased that he had visited the hostel.

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

The conditions his delegation had seen were unacceptable, but improvements could be made.

He reiterated an earlier announcement that Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter would coordinate a proper investigation of hostel problems in South Africa.

He said the Government was in favour of family housing.

De Klerk received a warm welcome during his two-hour tour of the township.

It was his first visit to Soweto since becoming State President last September.

He was accompanied by Minister of Education and Development Aid Dr Stoffel van der Merwe and Venter.

They were later joined by Minister of Law and Order Mr Adriaan Vlok at the Protea Police headquarters where De Klerk addressed

the police and the media

Vlok flew in by helicopter from Sebokeng where violence flared up again yesterday.

His visit had given him hope, De Klerk said

He pointed out that the decision to visit Soweto was made only a few days ago.

The tour took De Klerk to Baragwanath Hospital, Winnie Ngwekazi Primary School in Pimville, Nancefield Hostel and the Tshawelo Business Centre.

At all these places, De Klerk shook hands, smiled and waved at the excited crowds

He said that with the exception of Baragwanath, the visit was not planned.

"The visit is not a public relations exercise, but the start of a programme to appraise myself of the situation in Soweto and other trouble spots in South Africa

● To Page 2

Atteridgeville to continue boycott

By Mckeed Kotlolo,
Pretoria Bureau

Atteridgeville residents yesterday resolved to continue the rent boycott until the local council resigns

A mass meeting convened by the Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organisation (Asro) and attended by hundreds of residents rejected the freezing of rent arrears in the area and demanded that they be written off.

Speakers from various area committees of Asro expressed their constituency's decision to demand the immediate resignation of the councillors. The residents

127 17/9/90
unanimously resolved to continue with the rent boycott which started in April this year

The areas' representatives said residents were not even prepared to pay the flat rate because the local council was guilty of misusing funds

"Our case is different from that of Soweto and other areas where a flat rate had been suggested, because their councils did not misuse any funds as was the case in Atteridgeville," said one speaker.

The residents also rejected a decision that Asro take part in the planned joint committees with the council.

17/9/90
But they mandated Asro to continue to negotiate with the council so that they could "educate councillors and show them their faults".

One speaker said the council had early this year been found guilty of gross mismanagement by the Kriel Commission of Inquiry, which recommended to the Transvaal Provincial Administration that the council be disbanded

They also called on the Government to build affordable houses for the people and demanded a single tax base for the whole of Pretoria.

Asro is to meet the local council tomorrow.

Tokoza lights stay on

By SY MAKARINGE

TOKOZA residents, whose electricity supply was to have been cut off last Friday by the Alberton Town Council, have been given a week's reprieve. (127)

The Alberton Industries Association came to the rescue when it paid R100 000 to cover the bill until next Monday. *Southern 16/9/90*

At a meeting attended by officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Tokoza Civic Association agreed to advise residents to start paying for essential services immediately.

Mr Nigel Mandy, a mediator brought in by the TPA, said the meeting had agreed on an interim charge of R70 a month for houses which had been wired. Residents whose houses had not been wired would pay R10 a month.

RESIDENTS and migrant workers living in hostels should stop the senseless carnage and unite in the struggle against apartheid, Transkei President Tutor Ndamase said in Sebokeng yesterday.

He was speaking to thousands of people at a peace rally at the local stadium

Ndamase told the people to "refuse to be used by faceless, hidden forces behind the violence".

Language did not determine the nationhood of Xhosas and Zulus as they were "equally oppressed and share a lot in common", he said.

Commitment

He called on people to "demonstrate their commitment to democracy" through freedom of speech and of association.

"Let us tolerate one another and agree to differ"

While he complimented President FW de Klerk's reform initiatives, he called on the Government to "secure the

Stop the senseless carnage - Ndamase

Sowetan 18/9/90

127

21023

SOWETAN Tuesday

safety of all people living in South Africa".

Speaking at the rally, Vaal Civic Association official Mr Ernest Softu accused Inkatha of "acting in collusion with the police" and of being "the

perpetrators of violence in Sebokeng".

He expressed concern over Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini's absence from the peace rally

Zwelithini was said to be consulting with an In-

katha leader in the region

The rally was delayed for two hours by Ndamase and his delegation, who flew into Sebokeng by helicopter after meeting Sebokeng Council members earlier

About 1 000 singing migrant workers, some armed with knobkerries, had earlier gathered in front of the hostels opposite the stadium before joining the residents

Sapa

Still no queues to pay rent

Star 18/9/90
By Montshiwa Moroke

Most Soweto residents have not yet started paying rent in spite of an agreement in principle between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) and the Greater Soweto councils to end the rent boycott

This was revealed by a check at the townships' administration offices yesterday

After a 15-hour meeting in Pretoria on August 30 it was decided that township residents would pay a uniform tariff of R55 for September and from October an interim service charge of R23 a household plus electricity on metered consumption of 12c a unit

The Soweto agreement was to have been referred to various parties' constituencies for ratification and another meeting has been scheduled for September 24 for formal agreement

Comments from sources ranged

from "no change at all" to "a slight improvement" compared to the period before the latest developments

It appears to council sources that residents have adopted a "wait and see" attitude before they decide to pay because there had not been any formal agreement between the three parties

The other assumption is that people have not fully grasped the implications of what was discussed at the talks and are perhaps waiting for a mass consensus on whether to pay

The rent boycott was started in June 1986 after the Government's declaration of the state of emergency. The state of emergency was revoked in June this year

There are still no queues at rent office

The mayor of Soweto, Samuel Mkhwanazi, said "We are keeping our fingers crossed"

Committee on rents formed

AN interim working committee to address the rent boycott *19/9/90*

The organisations involved are the Vaal Civic Association, Zamdela Civic Association, Vaal African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the city councils of Vereeniging, Vanderbijlpark, Lekwa and Evaton, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and Eskom - Sapa.

Soweto's elderly may lose out

127
By Montshiwa Moroke

Soweto tenants who continued to pay their rent during the four-year boycott, are waiting to see what the attitude of the authorities is going to be towards them.

Those who appear to have been mostly affected are the pensioners and conservative residents

They continued to pay, in spite of warnings by civic organisations not to do so, because they were afraid of losing their homes when the council started evicting defaulters.

A council administration source confirmed that the only people who had been

consistent with their payments were the pensioners

Diepmeadow mayor Moses Khumalo said it was the council's view that residents should be compensated for the risks they took in the face of serious threats to their lives and property.

He said that when the matter was raised at last month's meeting between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), Greater Soweto councils and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD), discussion was totally rejected by the SPD

"As far as negotiation with the SPD is concerned,

those who were paying their rent during the boycott have lost out. They did not want even to consider the matter

"For the sake of peace we let the matter rest. If the issue should come up again it will be dealt with by councils outside negotiations with the SPD," Mr Khumala said

A spokesman for TPA said the matter had been discussed with the other parties

"We have to wait until Monday when the signing of the formal agreement takes place. Then, you will have to get all five standpoints on how they are going to address the matter"



Visiting British junior foreign minister William Waldegrave talks to Dr Ntatho Motlana, director and trustee of Promat, during the unveiling of a plaque at the new Promat Independent Teacher Training College outside Pretoria yesterday. Picture CATHERINE ROSS

Tembisa residents take council to court over electricity cuts

THE rent crisis which has gripped many Transvaal townships takes on a new dimension today when residents of Tembisa, on the East Rand, take legal action against the local town council for cutting off electricity supplies

Electricity was switched off in a quarter of Tembisa on Tuesday night

Tembisa Residents' Association (TRA) official Amon Msane said his organisation felt it was illegal for the town council to cut off electricity as residents were not against the payment of services tariffs

"Residents do want to pay, but they want to pay for what they consume. There are people who get electricity bills despite the fact that their houses are not electrified

"The cutting off of electricity goes against assurances given by the TPA that no essential services will be terminated pending the outcome of our negotiations with the town council, TPA and Eskom"

The Tembisa Town Council could not be reached for comment

Earlier this week Eskom deputy GM, marketing and distribution, Allen Morgan said his company was discussing with the Tembisa Town Council and TRA how to resolve problems causing the non-payment of services tariffs

In another development, the Alberton Town Council, Thokoza Town Council, Thokoza Civic Association, Eskom, business-

WILSON ZWANE

men and the TPA meet tomorrow to review Thokoza's rent crisis

The move follows the cutting off of electricity to the East Rand township by the Alberton council last week. Power was restored after it was agreed that Thokoza residents would again pay for services

Thokoza council chairman Gert Muller said "We are meeting to review progress achieved so far. We have until Monday to ensure that enough funds are generated to enable the Thokoza council to pay the Alberton council. Failure to generate those funds will result in an immediate electricity cut-off."

Thokoza Civic Association president Sam Ntuli said he had "no fears of power cut-offs on Monday", as residents would begin paying again for services today

Sapa reports that CP MP for Brakpan Frank le Roux has criticised government for giving away taxpayers' money by donating R27,7m belonging to the East Rand Regional Services Council to the TPA.

"This money has now been donated merely to catch up on unpaid water and electricity bills"

As a result, upgrading of infrastructure in black townships would be postponed indefinitely, Le Roux said

Half an hour later another police spokes-

No clarity yet over 'Spruit' rent arrears

50 copies
21/9/90

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AN agreement has not yet been reached between the Katlehong Civic Association and the Transvaal Provincial Administration on how much the residents should pay in the meantime for arrears on services, KCA spokesman Mr Oupa Thibile said yesterday.

A compromise was reached at a meeting earlier this month for Katlehong Council officials to restore electricity in the township, while the KCA and the

TPA were still sorting out the technical problems, he said.

Thibile blamed what he called "the arrogance and obstinacy of the councillors" for the present boycott.

"Katlehong residents have always been willing to pay but were not going to pay for ridiculous service charges, which councillors and council officials failed to explain," he said.

The KCA will meet the TPA's consultant, Mr Nigel Mandy, next Tuesday, Thibile said - *Sapa*.

TPA firm on call for payment

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has reiterated its call to residents in areas affected by the rent boycott to pay their tariffs.

The call comes in the wake of an announcement by the Pretoria City Council that it intended cutting electricity in Atteridgeville and Mamelodi on September 25 Sowetan 21/9/90

Mr Olaus van Zyl, the Transvaal MEC entrusted with local government and regional services councils, said at a Press conference in Pretoria yesterday that consumers should note that bulk suppliers would not be able to render services indefinitely without payment to local authorities.

Van Zyl said. "I wish to emphasise that black consumers in boycott-affected areas will eventually suffer most, since money set aside for capital or development projects or for part of such projects, will now be used for financing essential services."

The SADI will probe the blast

Accord for rent boycott agreement

CP Press 23/9/90
THE signing of an accord to ratify an agreement ending the rent-and-service-charges boycott will take place in Soweto tomorrow.

The accord will include the writing-off of arrears, the establishment of a metropolitan chamber to investigate the setting of regional, non-racial and democratic approaches, the creation of the Greater Soweto People's Trust and the creation of a joint technical committee in which the Johannesburg City Council will be invited to take part.

'Third force' ANC dissidents - Vlok

CP Press 23/9/90
ALTHOUGH the matter was "still being investigated", it had been argued that the so-called third force in the violence might be a dissident group within the ANC, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said on Friday.

Addressing the NP-dominated President's Council, Vlok said the "most worrying" aspect was that the moderate faction of the ANC leadership apparently did not know about this as it had "lost control of the militant youth who were in favour of this dissident faction".

However, he said police had so far found no proof of the existence of the so-called third force.

Reports by CP Staff, CP Correspondents and Sapa.

Pretoria townships face big switch-off

THE lingering feud about the non-payment of electricity accounts by black communities seems set to move to Pretoria

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The chairman of Pretoria's management committee, Mr James Leach, said that the councils of Atteridgeville and Mamelodi had been warned their electricity supply from Pretoria may be terminated without warning from next Monday unless they paid their overdue bills

Sowetan 24/9/90

Their respective arrear amounts are R1,7 million and R3 million

Formal end to rent boycott

Staff Reporter

Soweto's four-year rent and services boycott is set to end today with the historic signing of the Greater Soweto Accord ratifying an agreement reached last month to write off the R516 million in rent arrears.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) and the Soweto, Dobsonville and Diepmeadow local councils will all sign the accord.

One of the most important decisions to be

reached will be the establishment of a metropolitan chamber by the five signatories

The Johannesburg City Council will be invited to join the chamber and look at new models for local government and investigate the possibility of a common tax base for Johannesburg and Soweto.

The Soweto agreement comes in the wake of a decision by the province to cut bridging finance to black councils. MEC Fanie Ferreira will chair the meeting.

Councils try to head off power cuts

24/9/90

Mamelodi City Council, which has until today to pay the R3,5 million it owes Pretoria City Council, has urged local residents to pay their rent and service charges promptly to avoid power cuts.

In Daveyton, the town council said yesterday it would accept a service charge of R70 per household per month in an effort to recover more than R3 million owed to Benoni Town Council for electricity.

A statement issued by the Daveyton council said agreement had been reached with about 10 000 residents who attended a meeting yesterday

their current monthly accounts. The local council and the Mamelodi People's Delegation (MPD) reached an agreement two weeks ago to freeze rent and service charges arrears on condition that the defaulters paid their current accounts.

"The council is optimistic that the residents will realise the gravity of the matter and make an earnest attempt to settle their accounts."

Daveyton council said about 10 000 residents met yesterday to discuss threats by Benoni Town Council to cut the black area's power unless the debt was settled.

The flat rate of R70 per month for services was an interim rate, the statement said. Daveyton mayor Tom Boya pleaded with residents at the meeting to pay more than the agreed amount if possible to help prevent a switch-off.

Residents of Daveyton's lower-income area of Etwatwa are excluded from the R70 charge. They will only have to pay R50 per month for services.

The agreement represents a compromise on the part of the Daveyton council. It entered the meeting with the demand that some residents, like those living in the township's new extensions, pay R130 per month for services — Pretoria Bureau-Sapa.

Notices

Pretoria City Council has issued notices to both Mamelodi and Atteridgeville councils giving them until today to pay their electricity accounts or face a blackout.

Mamelodi and Atteridgeville owe Pretoria about R3,5 million and R1,7 million respectively.

Mamelodi council revealed that rent and service charge arrears by local residents amounted to R22 million. It warned residents that they could find themselves without vital services in the months ahead unless they paid at least

Battling without power

By Thabo Leshulo

"It's surprising how we take things for granted, but miss them immediately we stop having them. Then their importance dawned on you like never before."

were warm

A few kilometres away, in Xubeni section, The Star team met a mother of three, Linah Ndubani, returning from Oakmore station where she had gone to collect water in a



Life goes on — Annah Soko uses three pressure cookers to cope with her chores after electricity was cut in Tembisa. Picture by Alf Kumalo

Official trips abroad to be queried

By Louise Burgers, Municipal Reporter

Questions will be asked at the Johannesburg City Council's monthly meeting tomorrow about its planned sending of

accompanied by two secretaries — at a total cost of R110 000. Every Johannesburg mayor has the opportunity to travel abroad when in office and can choose between Eu-

involved with housing problems to attend the conference to find out how other countries coped with their problems.

Management committee chairman Ian Davidson, city

Mr Davidson said criticism of the trips was unjustified — officials travelled business class to save money, and the budget for overseas trips by council officials had been cut to

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Battling without power

By Thabo Leshilo

"It's surprising how we take things for granted, but miss them immediately we stop having them. Then their importance dawns on you like never before"

This was Anna Soko's reaction to the "big switch-off" after parts of Tembisa on the East Rand were plunged into darkness when the town council cut off electricity

The council also cut off the water supply elsewhere in the township

Mrs Soko (37), mother of five and spaza shop owner, said the power cut had disrupted her family's life

When The Star visited her home she was cooking potatoes on a paraffin stove before going to sell food at local schools.

"I now have to wake up at 3 am — two hours earlier — to be able to cook the food that I sell, before boiling water for the children's bath and breakfast," she said

Mrs Soko said electricity in her section had been cut off without notice on Friday

She was losing income because perishable food got spoilt and customers were not buying her cooldrinks because they

were warm.

A few kilometres away, in Xubeni section, The Star team met a mother of three, Linah Ndubani, returning from Oakmore station where she had gone to collect water in a 20 litre container. She was unable to get the water because the queue was too long

Ms Ndubani (31) had her youngest child on her back and was carrying a parcel of clothing she intended to wash at a house near the station.

"It's tough in Tembisa," she remarked.

She said the water supply had been cut off last Monday.

"I don't know why they trouble us like this."

Asked how she had coped since Monday, she replied that her only option was to wake up and go and collect water at the station about 1 km away

"I go to the station in the morning and at 2 pm. Sometimes, like today, I return with nothing because of the long queues"

When approached, town clerk Anton Reihan refused to comment and referred The Star to the township mayor. The mayor could not be reached at the time of going to press

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Pay up, Mamelodi urges folk

Sowetan
THE Mamelodi City Council, which has until today to pay the R3,5-million it owes the City Council of Pretoria (CCP), has urged the local residents to promptly pay their rent and service charges to avoid the pend-

24/9/90
ing power cut. *(24) 127*
A Press statement by the Mamelodi council called on the residents to pay their end-of-the-month accounts to avoid the possible cut of some of the township's "vital services next month".

The CCP has issued notices to both the Mamelodi and Atteridgeville city councils giving its sister councils until today to pay their electricity debts accounts or face a blackout

Mamelodi and Atteridgeville councils owe CCP R3,5-million and R1,7-million, respectively.

The Mamelodi council said it was doing its best to get financial help to pay its debts

Move to delay electricity cut in Pretoria

By MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville City Council, which faces electricity power cuts today unless they pay the Pretoria City Council more than R1 million for arrear bills, has asked the council for a four-week reprieve.

Mr Daan Mouton, acting town clerk of Atteridgeville, said yesterday they were scheduled to meet with officials of the local civic association (Asro) later in the day to resolve the rent boycott that started on April 1, this year.

Mouton, who confirmed that the council had lost about R6 million in revenue since the boycott started, said the Pretoria City Council had written them a letter threatening to cut off electricity supply to the township today unless they paid the arrears of more than R1 million.

sowetan 25/9/90
Urgent meeting

"We have asked the Pretoria City Council to give us an extension of four weeks to discuss the issue again with Asro. We also asked for an urgent meeting between our executive committee and that of the Pretoria City Council. We are aware that the power cuts would result in serious consequences," Mouton said.

At a public meeting at the Super Stadium last Sunday, residents resolved that rent would only be paid after councillors resigned. A spokesman for Asro said this decision followed the finding of a commission of inquiry which investigated irregularities in the council last year and recommended that the council be dissolved following alleged mismanagement of public funds.

The commission, which was appointed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, also recommended that the council not be allocated bridging finance until their finances are properly controlled.

Township plans hit by boycotts

By Therese Anders,
Highveld Bureau

Multimillion-rand township development projects are being shelved in Transvaal areas afflicted by payment boycotts as the funds allocated for these projects are used to pay for essential services.

The projects expected to be affected include electrification programmes, the upgrading of stormwater facilities and the erection of buildings such as community centres.

Essential

The funds earmarked for these projects by regional services councils (RSCs) are in many cases to be used as bridging finance to pay for essential services such as water, sewerage and waste removal.

The relocation of RSC funds has been given the blessing of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, but the TPA has stipulated that no RSC money is to be used for settling township electricity accounts.

This means that while boycotting townships no longer face the threat of having their water supply cut, they could still have power blackouts.

Eskom communications manager Johan du Plessis said defaulting townships were now R30 million in arrears to the electricity giant.

He stressed that Eskom would not be suspending supplies to any of the more than 20 defaulting townships until all avenues had been exhausted. Eskom was now holding discussions with 15 townships in a bid to resolve payment problems, he said.

The TPA said the supply of clean water and sewage removal were absolutely essential services in all communities.

"In order to ensure that these indispensable services are rendered and that the bulk suppliers — these are in many cases the adjacent white local authorities — are paid, high-level discussions were held on the possible rescheduling of funds with RSCs.

"At this stage the only possible alternative is that local authorities with a cash-flow problem should approach RSCs with the request that capital projects earmarked for such local authorities be suspended, and that those funds be used to pay bulk suppliers for their services."

25/9/90

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Councils try to avert power cuts

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WILSON ZWANE

TWO major meetings are due to take place on the Reef over the next two days in a bid to avert electricity cut-offs

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A Pretoria City Council spokesman confirmed yesterday that the city's management committee would meet today to discuss the rent crisis affecting Atteridgeville and Mamelodi townships

The move follows council threats that Mamelodi and Atteridgeville would have their electricity cut if they did not pay overdue accounts by yesterday.

Mamelodi and Atteridgeville owe the Pretoria City Council about R3,5m and R1,7m respectively.

In another development, Daveyton mayor Tom Boya said his town council would meet Benoni council officials tomorrow to report on a residents' resolution to resume services payments

"Residents agreed on Sunday to start paying interim rates of R70 and R50 a month for services in order to recover

more than R3m owed to the Benoni Town Council," Boya said

Boya also pleaded with Daveyton residents to pay more than the agreed interim rates if possible to prevent a switch-off

All residents, except those living in the low-income area of Etwatwa, will pay R70 a month for services as opposed to the original demand for R130 a month. Etwatwa residents will pay R50 a month.

The rent boycott in Thokoza was broken on Friday Administrator Gert Muller said the township's council had collected R60 000 from residents for services.

The money would help to pay for the electricity supply to the township for the next six days, Muller said.

He added that the Thokoza Town Council had agreed to pay the Alberton Town Council a minimum of R10 000 a day until an economical rental could be worked out

SPD, mayors clash after rent accord

Sowetan 25/9/90

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THE Soweto Peoples Delegation and mayors of the three Greater Soweto councils clashed bitterly yesterday, minutes after signing the Greater Soweto accord to mark the end of the four-year-old rent boycott.

The clash took place at a Press conference at Tshiawelo Community Centre when Mr Pat Lephunya, secretary of the SPD, said the curfew could jeopardise the entire agreement if it was not lifted.

Lephunya said the resignation of councillors "in line with a long-standing demand from the community must now take place as the first step in the dismantling of the Black Local Authorities and the apartheid local government system".

Mr Steve Nkatlo of Dobsonville said it was not decent for Lephunya to call for the resignation of councillors as they had been elected by 46 percent of Soweto residents.

Mr MJ Khumalo, mayor of Diepmeadow, said councillors refused to be called liars.

By SY MAKARINGE

"We are here to see to it that peace prevails in our area," he said

An obviously shocked Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC for Transvaal, said the mere fact the SPD had agreed to sign the accord meant that the councillors were recognised.

The drama ended when Mr Fanie Ferreira, MEC for Health Services, stopped the proceedings

From next month the monthly account will comprise a service debit of R23 plus a charge for electricity consumption

The five groups agreed to establish a Metropolitan Chamber which would investigate and make recommendations on issues such as the setting up of regional, non-racial and democratic structures

They also agreed to set up the Greater Soweto Peoples Fund for community development and assistance to the people

Residents will from January next year be expected to pay a R5 levy into the fund

Seal of approval on Soweto accord

B/DW 25/9/90

THEO RAWANA

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THE Greater Soweto Accord, which formally wrote off the area's R516m in rent arrears and ended the five-year boycott, was signed in Soweto yesterday.

The accord ratified and adopted an agreement reached at the end of last month between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the Greater Soweto city councils of Soweto, Diepmeadow and Dobsonville and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD).

Transvaal Health Services MEC Fanie Ferreira, who acted as chairman at the signing ceremony, said the accord was significant because "the councils and the civic association have come together in a spirit of conciliation and mutual understanding, in the best interests of all the people of Soweto."

The accord provided for writing off arrears, ending the boycott and re-

sumption of monthly payments.

The document also adopted the establishment of a Metropolitan Chamber (comprising the five signatories) which would be a forum whose main purpose would be to formulate the setting up of regional, non-racial and democratic approaches for longer-term implementation of measures for the constitutional, economic, institutional and social development of the metropolis.

The Johannesburg City Council has been invited to join the chamber as a sixth member.

A Greater Soweto People's Trust was created for community development and would be financed, inter alia, by a R5 rent levy.

A Joint Technical Committee was created under the Metropolitan Chamber. The committee's working

groups are to investigate and make recommendations on implementing solutions, upgrading the services and infrastructure of Greater Soweto; affordable tariffs; transferring the rented housing stock to the residents, and the establishment of a common fiscal base.

Ferreira said the different tariffs previously applied for residential units in the three council areas would be made uniform, and a flat rate of R55 a month was to be paid for September "as a goodwill gesture".

"From October onwards, and until proper affordable tariffs have been established, the monthly account will comprise a miscellaneous service debit of R23, plus a charge for metered electricity," Ferreira said.

Residents had had many justifiable complaints concerning accounts rendered to them, but he hoped trust would be restored.

Vosloo rejects flat rent rates

A BID to impose flat rental rates in Vosloorus township, Boksburg, appeared doomed yesterday with residents rejecting the unilateral move and warning of trouble if the local authorities went ahead. (127)

Mayor M M Sinukela announced flat rates last week which he said would be reconsidered after three months.

"The residents of Vosloorus reject the said flat rate in its entirety in that they have had enough of these tribal leaders imposing themselves on their community," Mr Keith Montsitsi, spokesman for the township's civic association, said in a statement.

Any attempts to cut power to coerce residents would unleash events "ghastly to contemplate", he warned.

Residents, complaining of high rentals, demanded flat rates in January. Montsitsi attacked the authorities for coming with a response after eight months.

Meanwhile the chairman of the Klerksdorp Town Council's management committee, Mr Chris van Eeden, says the council and Jouberton had entered into a co-operation agreement because the black local authority cannot function normally due to a shortage of funds.

Van Eeden said at the latest council meeting that Jouberton needed R750 000 a month to function normally but that its present income was R60 000 a month - Sapa. Sowetan 26/9/90

Daveyton council agrees to R70 (127) flat rate charges

Eskom 24/9/90
By DON SEOKANE

THE Daveyton Council has agreed to a proposal by residents to pay a flat rate of R70 a month in a bid to avert imminent cuts to power at the end of the month.

The council's public relations officer, Mr JM Moropa, said the council had met residents and agreed to the flat rate and that residents of Etwatwa would pay a flat rate of R50 a month.

Moropa said the council had agreed to a temporary freezing of arrears while negotiations between the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the council and the Daveyton Interim Committee were continuing.

The council owed R3,2 million in electricity arrears to the Benoni Town Council at the end of August.

Eskom has instituted a R3,4 million lawsuit against the Benoni Council for the electricity arrears of Daveyton and Wattville townships.

Meanwhile, the Alberton Town Council will meet Mr Olauf van Zyl of the TPA today in connection with R2,2 million electricity arrears owed by the Tokoza Council, Alberton Town Clerk Mr AS de Beer said yesterday.

Cops slate call to defy night curfew

Sowetan 26/9/90

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THE SA Police yesterday expressed concern that calls had been made for township residents to defy curfew regulations which became effective last night.

A statement from SAP liaison chief Major-General Herman Stadler called on the public to support the security forces.

"These non-aggressive measures are aimed at protecting defenceless, law-abiding residents and to ensure they sleep in peace."

The curfew became effective in seven Reef townships last night, as part of "Operation Iron Fist" announced by police and the Government to stop violence in these areas.

The Civic Associations of the Transvaal (Cast) on Monday said it opposed the curfew.

Cast said the regulations were a reversion to "the old draconian apartheid-style repression", aimed at instilling fear and panic in people.

They also facilitated attacks by vigilantes and hit squads.

Stadler gave the assurance the intention was not to punish people or make life difficult for them.

Police were determined to see an end to the violence and urged residents to ignore people inciting them to defy the regulations, Stadler said.

Withdraw

The United Democratic Front would consider defying the curfew in Reef townships if the State did not withdraw the new measures.

In a statement, the organisation's publicity

secretary, Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said the curfew would not end the violence in townships.

While the UDF welcomed the present calm in the townships, it believed it was temporary until the underlying causes had been addressed.

These included the abolition of the hostel system, the arrest and prosecution of warlords, the institution of independent tribunals and the weeding of elements in the security forces that were intent on destroying the negotiation process.

Lights go out in two townships

Pretoria Bureau

Electricity supplies to Mamelodi and Atteridgeville, adjoining Pretoria, were cut off at 4 am this morning.

No notice of the decision was given to 500 000 people living in the area.

The bulk supplier, the Pretoria City Council, decided last night that as the townships owed it about R6,5 million for electricity, and had had three months in which to pay the arrears, there was no alternative but to cut off supplies.

The large Kalafong Hospital in Atteridgeville was not expected to be affected by today's switch-off, but clinics in both areas are likely to be without electricity.

Pretoria's management committee chairman James Leach said of the proposed power cut "This is merely a suspension. We are not following to the letter the contract between ourselves and Mamelodi and Atteridgeville, which called for a cut-off of supplies in the event of default."

He said representatives of the two townships would be attending talks today in a bid to resolve the situation. The council would maintain an "open door" policy.

Power cuts spark threats of boycotts

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Sowetan
27/9/90

THE Atteridgeville and Mamelodi civic associations yesterday threatened to take legal action and to organise stayaways and consumer boycotts against the Pretoria City Council for cutting electricity to both townships.

Both the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents Organisation and the Mamelodi Civic Association have called on State President Mr FW de Klerk to intervene and stop the Pretoria Council from cutting electricity to the townships.

By MONK NKOMO

The call was made by Asro official Dr Abe Nkomo and MCA executive Mr Moss Chikane at a Press conference in Pretoria.

The townships were plunged into darkness at 4am yesterday. The blackout followed an announcement by Mr James Leach, chairman of the council's management committee, on Tuesday that electricity would be suspended until both town councils paid arrears, totalling about R6 million.

The civic associations

accused the Pretoria municipality of "encouraging forces of apartheid to operate under cover of darkness to kill, maim and rape innocent people in the townships"

Business owners in both townships, especially funeral undertakers, expressed concern about the council's decision

Mr Elias Ledwaba, a funeral undertaker in Atteridgeville, said "Our businesses are in a chaotic state because the bodies are going to rot. I don't even know why my lights were switched off because I don't owe the local council a cent"

Pretoria townships light up after emergency plan

B1009 27/9/90

(127)



GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — The lights are on again in Pretoria's Mamelodi and Atteridgeville townships, where power had been cut off

A Pretoria City Council spokesman said the municipality decided yesterday afternoon to conditionally restore power to the townships

Power was cut off on Tuesday afternoon after the township councils had failed to pay arrears totalling R4,7m

At an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon, an appeal was made to the Pretoria RSC for a loan for the two township councils

Pretoria RSC chairman Piet Delpoort said a meeting would be held in October to consider the application

The council spokesman said Pretoria's management committee was confident a settlement could be reached at the meeting "and pending final agreement by not later than October 12 the council is prepared temporarily to restore power immediately"

Delpoort stressed the loan could only be considered if residents paid their accounts

UDF publicity secretary Ronnie Mamoepa said the council had come

"cap in hand" after residents announced they were planning to initiate court action for an order declaring the action illegal

The power cut was met with anger and bewilderment by thousands of township families

A police spokesman said extra police were deployed in Atteridgeville and Mamelodi yesterday but no incidents had been reported up to late yesterday

WILSON ZWANE reports that residents of the East Rand townships of Wattville and Daveyton have until tomorrow to raise more than R1m for electricity or face power cuts

This ultimatum was issued after a meeting between the Benoni Town Council officials and representatives of Wattville and Daveyton town councils yesterday

Benoni acting town clerk Andre de Jager said the meeting agreed that electricity would not be switched off if the two townships paid their October electricity in advance

"The agreement represents an interim arrangement Daveyton and Wattville still have to pay the Benoni Town Council about R6m in electri-

city arrears," De Jager said

He added that in terms of the arrangement advance payments of R1,2m and R180 000 had to be made by the Daveyton Town Council and Wattville Town Council respectively

Daveyton mayor Tom Boya said "Residents have started paying the flat rates we agreed upon on Sunday and I am confident that we will raise money to avert the switch-off"

Boya said he did not think the Daveyton council would be able to raise the R1,2m within the given time "But if we raise a portion of it we can negotiate with the Benoni Town Council for a few days breathing space"

Wattville mayor George Nkosi said the executive committee of Wattville Town Council would hold a special meeting today to discuss the matter This would be followed by consultations with residents, he added

Another East Rand township, Katlehong, faces a power cut unless more than R3m in electricity arrears is paid to Eskom before October 8

Mayor Gideon Molotsi yesterday urged residents to pay monthly flat rates of R70 (for houses with electricity) and R30 (for houses without electricity) to avert a switch-off

Davidson: overseas trips a carrot for city officials

TANIA LEVY

OVERSEAS trips were one of the carrots offered to highly experienced council officials in the absence of competitive salaries, Johannesburg management committee chairman Ian Davidson said yesterday

The Town Clerks Remuneration Act, which placed a ceiling on the salaries of all other officials, prevented council from trying to com-

pete with the private sector for the top professional people, he said

The management committee has been accused of being extravagant by sending groups of officials on overseas trips

Davidson said he and four others would be travelling to the UK to at-

tend a four-day conference on financial modelling systems and would spend 10 days assessing systems implemented by the councils of London, Birmingham and Manchester

Johannesburg's financial management systems were antiquated to the extent that the management committee did not have the tools to manage the city financially, he said

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Dr. Charles Schul

R65 000 spent on home improvements 'not improper'

IMPROVEMENTS worth R65 000 made to Johannesburg Town Clerk Manie Venter's R325 000 rent-free Houghton home were not improper, the Hiemstra Commission has found.

The commission also commended the Johannesburg City Council for "valiant action" taken to protect its officials. B104 27/9/90

Apart from the town clerk's residence, which is owned by the council, an additional amount of R120 445 was spent on safeguarding the homes of councillors and officials.

However, the commission found

TIM COHEN

that from an accounting point of view the expenditure on Venter's home was of a permanent nature and ought to have been capitalised

The expenditure was instead roughly divided between the council's general expenses vote and the repairs and maintenance vote.

The management committee was advised that Venter was at risk, which necessitated security measures to protect him and council

property, the commission found.

During the commission, Advocate Dennis Fine — acting for the commission — cross-examined Venter on the R24 000 used for improvements which included the building of an extension to the garage consisting of a kitchen, toilet and shower.

The commission did not find that this practice was improper.

"Should expenditure on improvement be divorced from direct security expenditure... any attempts to keep a veil of secrecy over the town clerk's house would be futile."

Treasurer was aware of 'cash for spies'

PAYMENTS made to Johannesburg City Council informers over five years "slipped through the net of audit investigations" because of a lack of acceptable accounting and audit procedures.

The Hiemstra Commission of Inquiry found that former city treasurer Perry Rabe and previous chief internal auditor Colin Findlay were fully aware of cash payments made to informers. However, records had not been kept in accordance with rigid accounting standards and the information slipped through the net of audit investigations.

The commission did not agree with the argument that payment of R14 355 to spies, R4 250 in operational expenses and R2 200 for criminal investigations was insignificant, or

TANIA LEVY

that about R1,8m absorbed by the information section in five years was minimal when measured against council's total R5bn annual budget.

Ratepayers and citizens of Johannesburg demanded accountability from their local authority. They were entitled to value for money.

Rabe should have realised that covert activities bred contempt for generally accepted legal and accounting principles. If he had complied with his statutory duties the accounting problems could at least have been eliminated. He should have indicated to his accountants how to record the payments to comply with rigid accounting standards.

Specific instructions should have

been given to internal auditors to exercise extreme vigilance concerning the transactions.

A breakdown in the internal audit function, caused by Findlay's actions, had led to far-reaching complications, said the commission. Findlay had failed to instruct his staff to include these transactions in audit programmes for regular checking.

Chief internal auditor Pieter Cruywagen testified that audit programmes currently in use were in operation when he was appointed in 1988. They contained no reference to the information section or payments to spies.

The commission said external auditor Casper Venter and his staff had been unaware of payments made over five years.

ay September 27 1990

Objections to ER 'Berlin Wall' plan

Sowetan 27/9/90 (127)

A WAR of words has erupted between the Brakpan Town Council and the Wattville Concerned Residents Committee over a plan by residents of a white suburb to build a wall to separate them from Tamboville.

The Dalpark Residents Committee has sent a petition to State President Mr FW de Klerk and the Brakpan Town Council about their plans to erect the "Berlin Wall" between Dalpark Extension Six and the informal housing project on the outskirts of Wattville township.

Dalpark residents said in a memorandum sent to the council that the development of Tamboville would lead to an increase in burglaries and devalue properties.

A spokesman for the DRC, Mr Chris de Lange, was quoted in a local newspaper as saying "We do not want a squatter camp on our doorstep."

The chairman of the WCRC, Mr Abbey Nyalunga, has lashed out at the proposed plan and vowed that his

By MATSHUBE MFOLOE and IDO LEKOTA

organisation would not recognise the buffer.

He said residents visiting Dalpark were domestic workers and it was absurd to blame crime on black people.

However, the acting town clerk of Benoni, Mr JA de Jager, said the development of Tamboville would go ahead as planned.

Tamboville is a stretch of land bordering the Brakpan suburb and Wattville.

Early this year, more than 3 000 families were poised to erect shacks on the land and some were demolished by authorities because they had occupied private land.

The Benoni Town Council later entered into an agreement with the WCRC that it would develop the land and build low-cost houses.

Townships face more power cuts

THE Pretoria City Council yesterday warned the Atteridgeville and Mamelodi town councils that it would cut off the electricity supplies again - this time indefinitely - if they did not pay their debts on or before October 12.

The Pretoria Council cut off the supplies to the two townships at 4am on Wednesday after the local

By **MONK NKOMO**

municipalities failed to pay the electricity arrear bills totalling about R6 million

Electricity was restored about 4pm the same day following a meeting between the three councils and Mr Piet Delpoort, chairman of the Pretoria Regional Services Council

In a joint statement released yesterday, the parties said an appeal had

been made to the Pretoria Regional Services Council to lend money to the two councils so they could pay their debts

Delpoort told the parties, however, that a special meeting to consider their request for money could be held next week, only after residents in these townships have undertaken to pay their accounts

The Mamelodi Civic Association is scheduled to meet the local council today (Fri) to discuss a flat rate to be paid by residents. The council has already agreed to freeze R22 million owed by residents.

A spokesman for the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Asro), said a public meeting would be held at the Community Hall at 2pm on Sunday to work out new strategies to resolve the rent boycott they started in April

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S 6941

Plea to ER townships to pay electricity bills ¹²⁷

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

THE Tokoza and Katlehong councils have appealed to residents to pay electricity bills in order to maintain the supply of electricity in the two townships.

The appeal was relayed yesterday through Mr Nigel Mandy, chairman and mediator in negotiations in various black local authorities *Gowetam 28/9/90*

He said people in Tokoza had started paying the interim charge of R70 for houses with electricity since last week and the response had been good

In Katlehong, they were still negotiating with the civic association which had, as an interim measure, offered that each house pay R30

"We have said R30 is acceptable for houses without electricity. However, R70 is required for those with it.

Talks on township payment under way

Municipal Reporter

Negotiations are under way between the Province and civic associations to end rent and service-charge boycotts in Tokoza and Katlehong

The chairman of the mediation team, Nigel Mandy, said about one-third of Tokoza residents had already come forward to pay for electricity this week

In Katlehong — where Eskom is owed R5 million — Mr Mandy said the civic association had expressed willingness to resume payments

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28/9/90
They have offered R30 a house, whether it has an electricity connection or not," he said

Eskom has given the Katlehong Town Council until October 8 to repay a substantial part of its debt or it would be forced to "take action"

Katlehong mayor Gideon Molotsi said pamphlets calling on residents to abandon the rent boycott would be distributed.

He said that if there was no response from residents, the power cut would be enforced on October 8

We want an independent administrator, say Sowetans

W/Mon 28/9-4/10/90
By ELSABE WESSELS

THE Soweto Civic Association (SCA) this week called for the appointment of independent administrators to run Reef townships until a new local government constitution has been established.

The demand was made by SCA secretary Pat Lephunya following the signing of the historic accord between the Soweto People's Delegation — the negotiating arm of the SCA — and the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) on Monday. (127)

"Such administrators will be responsible for running the townships from day to day while the new structure is put in place," Lephunya said.

The accord paves the way for an irrevocable process of change to third tier government in the Central Witwatersrand.

The implementation of the guidelines set out in the accord will affect the redefinition of local government borders in the region and secure the complete elimination of apartheid at that level.

Lephunya this week described the signing of the accord as a victory for the SCA. The programme of action it stipulates echoes the demands of Sowetans since they embarked on a mass rent boycott in June 1986, he said, underlining the significance of the accord "Through the establishment of a Joint Metropolitan Chamber we have secured a structural mechanism to address and solve the problems of apartheid local government.

"The Chamber will begin to redress the legacies of the past, and the leaders delegated to it will draft the new constitution."

The new single metropolitan area would include Johannesburg, greater Soweto, Roodepoort, Sandton, Alexandra, Eldorado Park, Lenasia and Marlboro Gardens. It is envisaged that delegates from all these local government bodies will be represented on the Chamber.

Another major victory claimed by the SCA is the transference of houses to Soweto residents. Lephunya said the handing over of housing stock to the people recognised the permanence of blacks in South Africa's cities.

He envisaged that the accord would fundamentally impact on the restructuring of local government countrywide.

East Rand residents face power cuts on Sunday

By GLENDA DANIELS (127)

RESIDENTS in the East Rand townships of Daveyton and Wattville face power cuts on Sunday unless they pay R1,38-million for electricity supplies by today. Wattville 2819 - 4110190
Daveyton has to pay R1,2-million and Wattville R180 000 for October.

An interim measure was agreed to this week between officials of the councils and the Benoni council's acting town clerk, Andre de Jager. The two councils owe a total of R5-million in unpaid bills.

Meanwhile, residents of Duduza on the East Rand this week embarked on a consumer boycott demanding that the Nigel town council switch on electricity to the township. The electricity supply has been cut since June.

Electricity supplies were cut off to about 600 000 people in Pretoria townships in the middle of the week to force them to pay R4,7-million in service arrears.

The Pretoria City Council confirmed power had been restored following an urgent meeting of the parties involved.

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Protest halts cop's posting

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51 Times
30/9/90

Sunday Times Reporter

TOWNSHIP residents have won the battle to stop the transfer of their popular police station commander.

Lt Roy Govender, who is stationed at Laudium, was due to start his new job tomorrow, at police headquarters in Pretoria.

Now police chiefs have decided to bow to pressure from community and religious bodies not to move the crime-busting policeman.

Lt Govender so endeared himself to the people of Laudium that when they heard he was going to be transferred they started a petition.

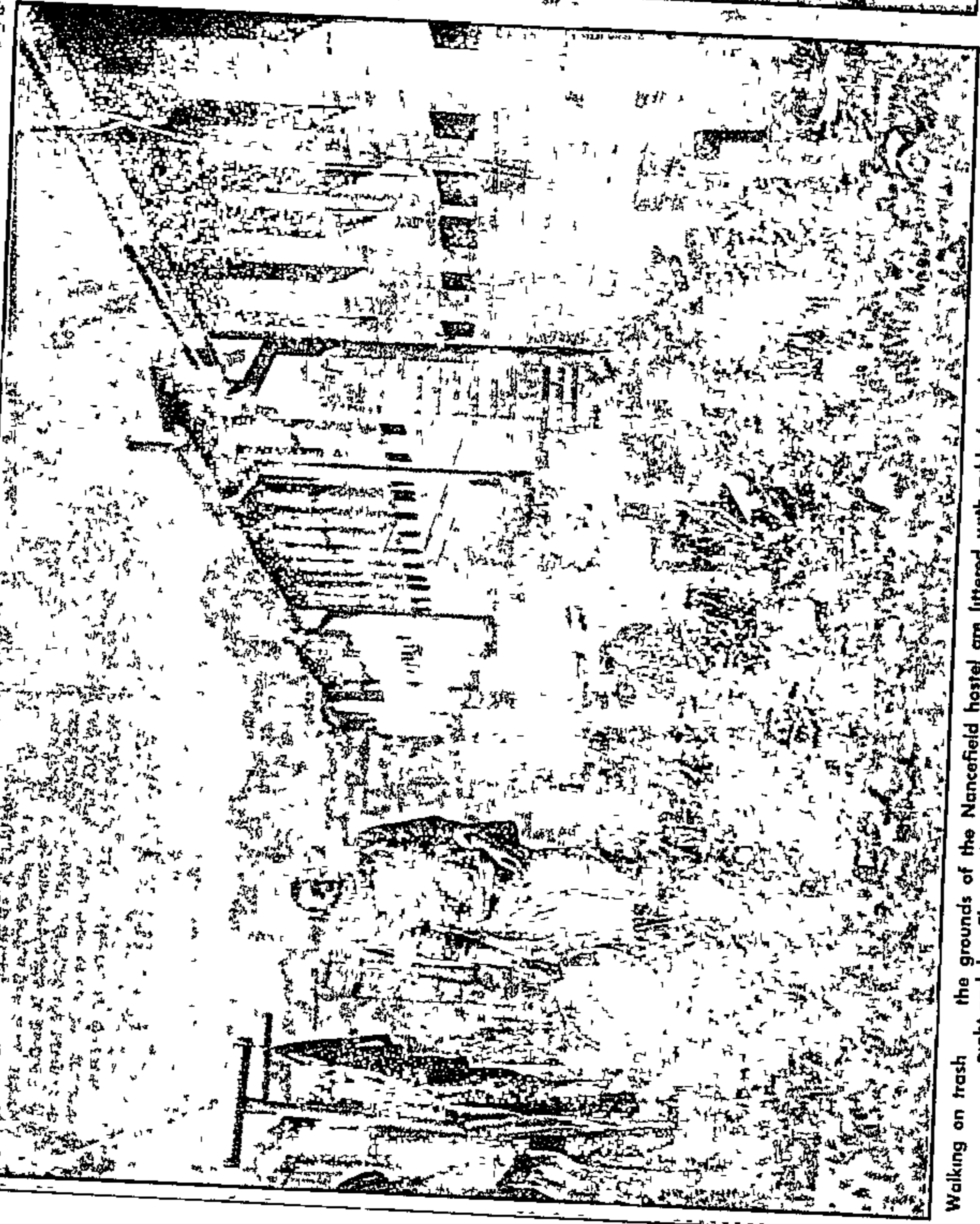
The 2 000-signature petition and letters of support from educational, civic and religious bodies were handed to commissioner of police for the Northern Transvaal Major-General Sarel Strydom this week.

Former House of Delegates MP Boetie Abramjee, who headed the delegation, said the police had agreed to keep Lt Govender at Laudium.

Star 6/9/90

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What FW saw: dark, smelly hostel filth



Walking on trash the grounds of the Nancefield hostel are littered with rubbish and a strong stench pervades the air night and day. Flies and rodents feast daily on the refuse, and the threat of disease is constant

By Montshiwa Moroke

Hostels in the townships, or anywhere else in South Africa, are not home — but people are living there — President de Klerk discovered this week.

Mr de Klerk paid a surprise visit to Soweto on Tuesday, and one of the places he visited was the Nancefield hostel, which houses several thousand migrant labourers. When he emerged from the hostel, he did not have the same happy face he had had before entering.

He did not like what he saw — something other men come home to every night after a hard day's work.

Yesterday The Star visited the hostel to see what the President probably saw.

Welcoming us to the first buildings was a sharp stench — that we found would accompany us throughout our hour-long stay.

The smell came from heaps of uncleared rubbish, which are commonplace in the hostel grounds between and in puddles of dirty and smelly water. Something immediately tells

you there is something wrong as you stand at the door. The room inside is dark. No one welcomes you with a smile.

As you enter the dingy room, you are more likely to be greeted by pots lying all over the place, and sometimes strips of meat hanging from pieces of wire suspended from the rafters. You are looking at a part of someone's supper.

This place is called a kitchen-cum-dining room. The walls and roof are covered with

black soot from the pressure stoves, which burn every night and morning.

The bungalow has eight steel beds where eight men have to sleep for most of the year while they provide labour, often ex-tortunately cheap to the industrial cities and towns.

There is a nauseating smell, so bad that it immediately suggests that no human being could live in it. The lack of light only amplifies the stench.

Piles of rubbish, dirty water everywhere

The male inhabitants of these rooms are married with children out in the 'homelands' whom they cannot bring to stay with them.

To be able to acquire this narrow bed, which comes without a mattress you first have to pay R75. Then you have to pay R12,50 (present rate) a month, including 'service charges'.

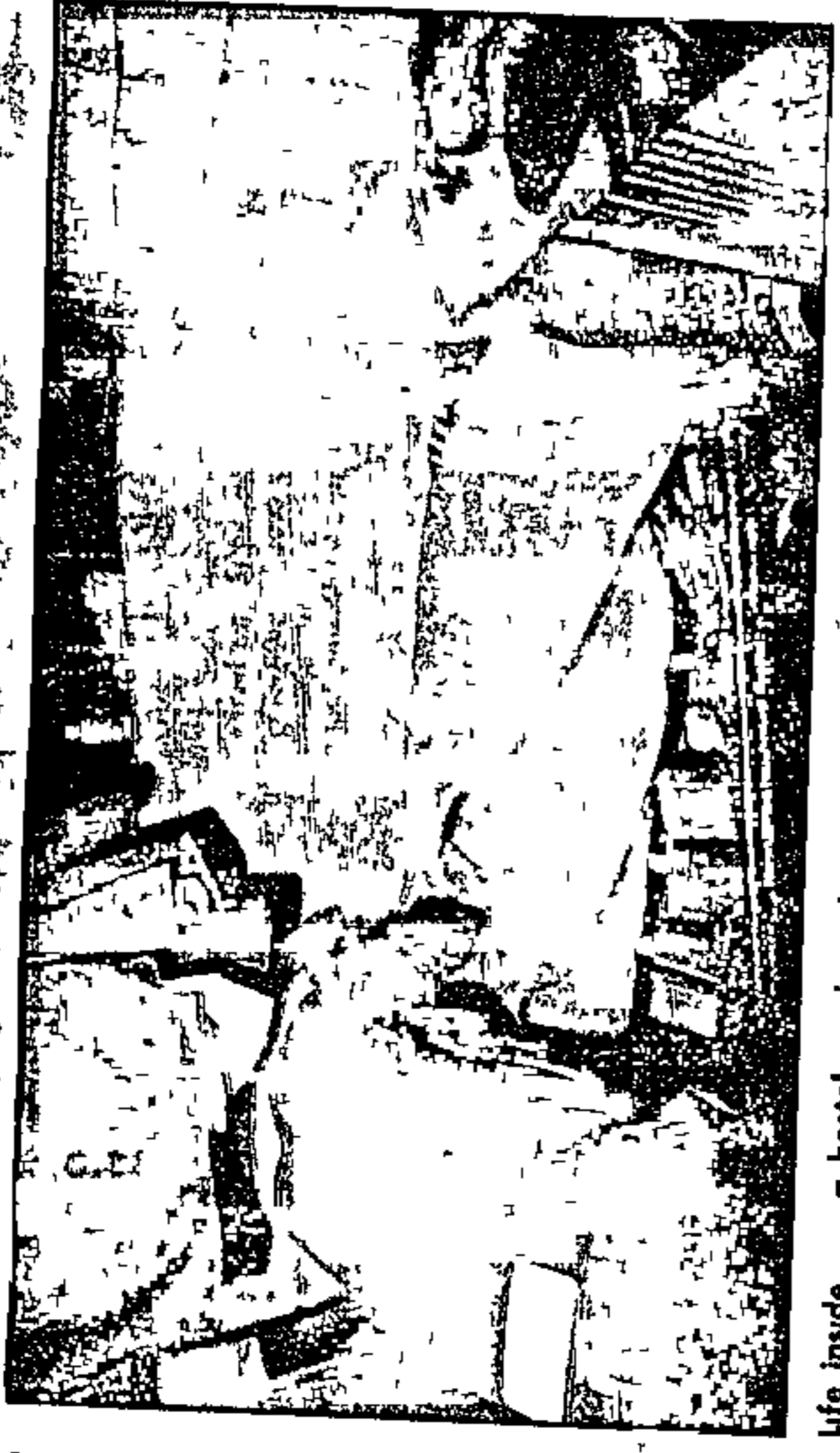
For comfort, the men use sponges as mattresses. There are steel lockers for hanging

clothes but most clothes are hung on the walls or on hangers hooked on wire — rubbing shoulders with the dangling, drying meat.

There is no privacy in this place. There is a single bulb in this bungalow — in some quarters there is no electricity. The cement floors are bare and there are no curtains over the windows.

The dirty toilets — with their lined buckets — have no privacy either.

Inmates said one of their greatest problems was the lack of heated water.



Life inside ... a hostel resident shows his springless bed in the Nancefield hostel, which houses several thousand migrant labourers



Cleaning up ... a man does his laundry at the Nancefield hostel in basins sometimes also used in preference to the cold showers. Pictures by Sean Woods

"We have complained many times about the water but there is nothing else we can do because authorities do not attend to the problem," said Mabuti Mlaugeni, from Bergville in Natal.

Another inmate said "This is no place to live. We live here because there is nowhere else to stay."

"From work we cook on our primus stoves, eat and then go to bed. On weekends there is nothing to do and those who drink either go to the beerhall or to shebeens inside the hos-

Talking hate out of the hostels

HOSTEL dwellers, long South Africa's forgotten people, have made headline news in the past month. "The Hostels of Hate" and "the Dismal Hostels of Death", as newspapers have called them, featured prominently in daily radio and TV broadcasts giving the latest casualty figures.

Now that the state's security response seems to have put an end to the carnage, hostel dwellers and their problems are set to slip

back into obscurity. But before this happens it is important that the hostel issue is understood more clearly. Hostels in their present form must go, but some thought is needed before the bulldozers move in.

A national housing backlog of about 800 000 homes coupled with a demand four times the present rate of delivery until the year 2000 makes it essential that no habitable structures in this country are destroyed. The hostels there-

fore must be upgraded and converted to suit new needs. For nearly two years we have been working on a detailed study of hostels, visiting many and discussing their conditions with residents.

While many younger workers would like to bring their families to the city, others, particularly the older men, have no intention of uprooting their families from rural areas. Their reasons are many, the strongest being the

917190

concept of a long-established home with a nearby ancestral burial place.

Of almost equal importance is the fear of children being corrupted by urban life, of losing out on education through school boycotts or, worst of all, falling victim to township violence.

There is also a little understood economic reason forcing many men to continue working as migrant labourers. Their earnings do not just support them and their immediate families

DEPENDENT

Our surveys have shown that an extended family of between 20 and 28 people in a rural area can rely entirely on one man's earnings in the city.

We are faced with a large body of workers who need temporary single accommodation in the towns and cities. It is important, in the short term at least, to continue accommodating them in decent hostels where adequate standards are monitored and maintained.

Those migrants prepared to move to the towns with their families will be obvious

IAN BERNHARDT and JO DUNSTAN suggest that the hostels, site of much recent violence, should be adapted rather than abolished

candidates for the new hostels, which presumably will be available for sale or rent.

Changes to the hostel system had already begun before the August explosion. For example, in Duduza a limited number of good conversions had taken place under the auspices of the local council. "Do-it-yourself" conversions had already been made to the Meadowlands Hostel in Soweto.

Companies have also begun to rethink the issue, many are now clearly embarrassed by their involvement in the hostel system.

The aim now is to be rid of hostels, with company managements eager to be free of the hassles of administration, control and maintenance. This has led to fundamental changes in recruitment policies, with medium to long-term deci-

sions to phase out migrant workers.

Since the creation of politically independent but financially unviable black town councils, there has been no money to run the hostels properly. One hostel manager, who was eager to do a good job, told us how his budget for basic cleaning materials had been scrapped.

In order to get rid of their hostel headaches, many councils have opted for privatisation. Great differences emerged between the profit motives of those interested in buying and the needs of the hostel dwellers.

In areas like Kagiso and Vosloorus privatisation plans were aborted because of strong community reaction. The great lesson is that decisions about hostels cannot be made unilaterally. Hostel dwellers must be consulted. Civic organisations

admit to having neglected the hostels and the recent crisis has shown they can no longer afford to do so. Hostel dwellers have to be accepted by local residents and integrated into community life.

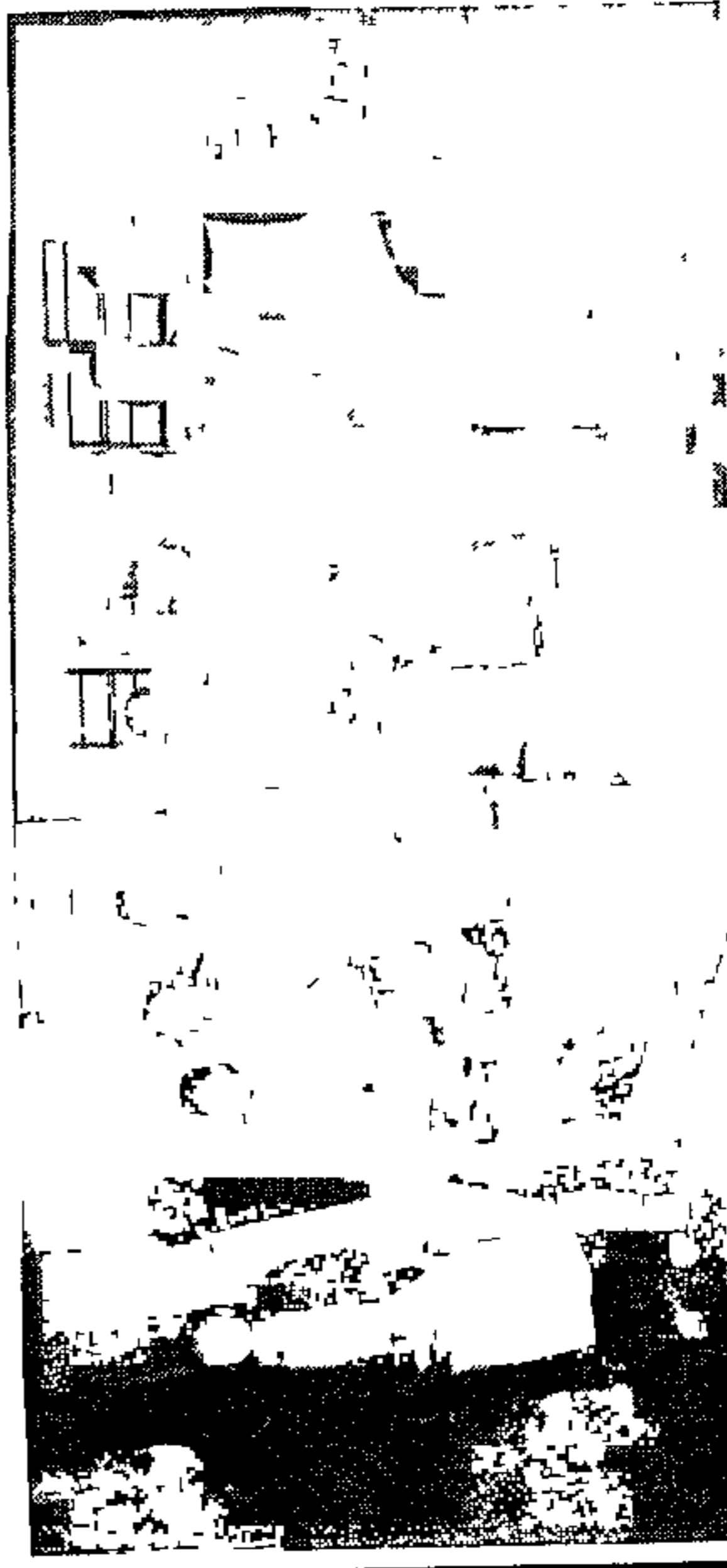
If this can be achieved successfully, then many hostel workers could feel encouraged to buy a township home for the duration of their working lives, one which can be sold to pay for a retirement in the ancestral rural area. Employers are also a key in the process.

SPIRIT

In the past hostels have largely belonged to local authorities but it is now clear that new ownership structures must be created, structures in which both hostel dwellers and employers are involved.

The structures must reflect the spirit of a new South Africa, giving the hostel dwellers a say in how they live as well as some of the responsibilities of ownership.

□ Ian Bernhardt and Jo Dunstan are worker housing consultants.



■ SUPPORT SYSTEM... up to 28 people can rely on one hostel dweller's wages

Toekomsrus marchers may face violence

THE CP has warned of a possibly violent confrontation today between conservative whites and residents of Toekomsrus township - if an authorised protest march proceeds through the white residential area.

Dr C P Mulder, CP MP for Randfontein, said in a statement yesterday he had lodged his party's opposition with the Randfontein magistrate, the town clerk and the local SAP Security Branch

"The white residential area through which the march is to take place has about 30 000 to 40 000 white residents. This is CP country and we have heard persistent rumours that some people will not allow this march through their area.

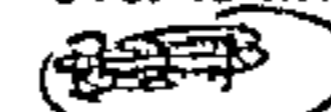
"We fear residents may even form impromptu commandos to confront the marchers," Mulder warned.

He was highly upset about the authorities allowing the planned protest march through a white area, which was organised by the Toekomsrus Crisis Committee.

"This is looking for confrontation," Mulder warned.

"The Conservative Party will hold the National Party, which allows these marches through white areas, responsible for any damage or incidents resulting from this," he concluded.

Town Clerk Mr Louw Brits, approached for comment, said the march would start at 10am from the Toekomsrus sports fields. Residents would march to the municipal offices where a petition against the high municipal service costs would be handed over to the town clerk.

 **Objection**

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Brits said he had received the CP objection on Sunday - and had moreover proposed to receive the petition in Toekomsrus itself to save residents from having to march *Sowetan 11/9/90*

About 100 municipal traffic officers and policemen would be on duty to control the march, and another 100 reservists would be standing by.

Brits said he had also sent a letter to all residents along the route, asking them to remove their cars and not to interfere with the marchers - *Sapa*

Soweto acts on hostel transformation plans

THE future of Soweto hostels, scenes of sporadic incidents of violence in recent weeks, is receiving serious attention from the Soweto City Council with a view to turning them into family units.

A spokesman for the council yesterday said a decision taken in January last year to upgrade the single-sex hostels, which ac-

By SY MAKARINGE

commodated more than 16 000 men and women, had been finalised. *Sowetan* 10/9/90

He said the plan included the upgrading of electrical infrastructure, conversion of the hostels into family units and bachelor flats.

He said the council had applied for funds to upgrade the Mzimhlophe Women's Hostel which accommodated more than 800 women. A project to upgrade the Dube Men's Hostel was kept in abeyance last year as an alternative was being sought for the inmates.

The spokesman said the council had appointed consul-

tants to investigate the possibility of improving other hostels.

"The whole venture will urgently be referred to the Minister of Health, Dr Rina Venter. The Minister will be asked to scrutinise the reports and to financially assist the change in the living conditions in the hostels," he said.



Health Minister Rina Venter

Fortress' hostel On Reef razed

CAPT 71415

13/9/86

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JOHANNESBURG — The Vosloorus municipality has begun demolishing a hostel complex which township residents regard as one of the causes of the violence of the past two months.

A Vosloorus resident said the section demolished was the key to peace because it had served as a fortress for Inkatha supporters.

Vosloorus mayor Mr Morrisson Simu-kele said the decision was taken in response to a request by a residents' delegation to the town council.

Yesterday several thousand residents watched peacefully as a mechanical shovel demolished the first row of dwellings.

Mr Simu-kele said the first row was being totally demolished as a symbolic gesture that residents' wishes were be-

ing respected.

The rest of the dwellings in the large complex would be stripped of roofing material and other useful items which would be redistributed to needy residents over the next few months.

He said former residents of the complex could approach the municipality for alternative housing. The hostel complex would be replaced by a low-cost housing scheme for families.

He was confident the demolition of the hostel would make a major contribution towards reducing tensions at Vosloorus and that residents would afterwards be able to live together regardless of ethnic origin.

Other residents agreed that the demolition would herald peace in the area. The situation was fairly calm yesterday, with the exception of an early-

morning fight which left three people dead. Police reported 13 people killed overnight.

Yesterday about 20 000 people marched towards the Vosloorus hostel demanding its immediate destruction.

They were stopped by police who told them not to proceed until a captain had spoken to them, but the people said they would not move until the hostels had been totally destroyed.

This followed a march to the council offices on Tuesday by about 200 women protesting against the ongoing fighting. Yesterday's demolition started at 11.30am and ceased about 4.15pm when the council bulldozer ran out of fuel. Work is due to continue today.

A number of hostel-dwellers could be seen in the inner section of the hostel which had not been demolished. — Sapa

Hostel ⁽¹²⁷⁾ complex goes ^(13/9/90)

THE Vosloorus municipality has begun demolishing a hostel complex which township residents regard as one of the causes of violence which has plagued Vosloorus over the past two months.

Vosloorus mayor Mr Morrisson Sinukele said the decision to demolish the hostel complex was in response to a delegation sent to the Town Council by residents.

Yesterday afternoon a large crowd of several thousand residents watched peacefully as a mechanical shovel demolished the first row of dwellings. - Sapa

Joy as Vosloorus hostel crashes down

By ELIAS MALULEKE and Sapa

C/Press 16/9/90

VOSLOORUS residents rejoiced this week when the local hostel was partially demolished, but their joy was short-lived as their electricity was disconnected on Friday night, plunging the East Rand township into darkness.

Local civic association publicity secretary Keith Montsisi said it was not known why the electricity was disconnected at about 6pm.

He confirmed township residents had embarked on a rent and services boycott in May, but maintained they should have been informed of any "switch-off"

Montsisi informed the Pretoria police after the electricity was disconnected and told them there were no patrols in the town-

ship. "I was concerned about what might happen in the darkness following what happened on Tuesday"

Pretoria police liaison officer Maj Steve Senegal said. "There is definitely a police presence in the area"

On Friday the Vosloorus council told police the electricity would be reconnected that night

Residents were woken on Wednesday morning by bulldozers moving in to demolish the hostel Vosloorus is the second township to demolish hostels after Tsakane, whose hostels were pulled down in 1985 after a bitter battle between hostel inmates and township residents

Kagiso in the West Rand is also about to demolish its hostels fol-

lowing the council's resolution to resettle the inmates at Durban Deep Mines in Roodepoort

The Vosloorus demolition comes after women marched to the council offices and demanded the hostel be demolished immediately. The council initially turned down their request, saying inmates had until September 21 to occupy the hostel

Vosloorus councillor Sydwell Mofokeng said the inmates would be temporarily housed at the Nguni hostel, which has already been partly demolished to make way for family units

However, a shortage of funds means there is still a long wait before hostels are phased out for residents of Soweto, Katlehong, and Thokoza

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Cape Times, Thursday, September 13 1990 5

'The fighting makes us feel like men'

By MALCOLM FRIED



HOMELESS . . . Residents of Proda Park, near Johannesburg, outside their burnt out shack yesterday after an attack by Zulu migrant workers.

SOEWETO — The eight middle-aged Zulu hostel-dwellers share one pot of steamed corn for dinner. Afterwards, they plan to get drunk in the beer hall. And perhaps later they'll go out and kill a few Xhosas.

Dormitory senior and acknowledged seer Joseph Dhladhla scoops his fingers through the stiff, bland porridge.

"It used to be that we would just eat here and then drink in the hall. But for now our blood is up."

Dhladhla, 58, did not come to his hostel in Soweto to fight. Neither did an estimated 150 000 other residents of the migrant-worker hostels dotting Johannesburg's townships, which have become the centers of savage factional violence.

Mostly Zulus, they came from villages in their barren tribal homelands to find work in the mines and industries of South Africa's richest city.

But along with jobs, they found one of apartheid's meaner creations, the single-sex hostel system with all the loneliness and frustration that it breeds.

After decades of government neglect, President F W de Klerk is beginning to address the system's inequities. But dramatic improvement is far off.

"We are men, not animals," says Dhladhla, born in Natal to be an honoured southsayer but now surveying the soot-stained raw-brick walls, concrete floors and stick furniture of the room he shares with seven others.

So when for reasons still unclear the vicious battles flared on August 13 between the migrant Zulus and Soweto's predominantly Xhosa residents,

Dhladhla explains, "We decided to fight like men because the fighting makes us feel like men. If we want to fight again later, we will."

The violence has killed some 600 people.

The only other occurrence that makes the migrants feel like men is their annual pilgrimage back to their villages. They take leave to return to their families one month a year.

Factory clerk Dhladhla has lived in Nancefield Hostel for eight years. He has spent seven months with a son born the year he came to Soweto.

"These people's frustrations are for the moment manifesting themselves in the latest fighting," notes a researcher for the Institute of Race Relations.

The average resident of one of Soweto's five hostels — together officially accommodating 21 982

people, but in fact many more — is required to pay the local authorities R80 per month. The majority refuse.

Mr De Klerk, shocked at the outbreak of factional violence, on September 2 ordered Health Minister Rina Venter to probe the hostel system and the possibility of turning units into family quarters.

Two days later, Mr De Klerk toured Soweto, grimly stepping across piles of muck at Nancefield and poking his head into the gloomy rooms.

But anti-apartheid activists stress that even though influx control has been abolished and blacks may move with freedom, the single directive from Mr De Klerk will not solve the hostel problem.

Joseph Dhladhla is stoic.

"We can wait. We want to work here. We must wait." — UPI

HOUSING & HOSTELS - TRANSVAAL

1990

OCT. - DEC.

Council is reviewing its policy on homes as offices

Blow 11/9/90

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THE Johannesburg City Council is in the process of reviewing its regulation concerning people using their homes as offices and workplaces.

However, the council's current home/office laws would still be "strictly" applied, said the council's acting deputy director of planning Morag Gilbert

Clause 29 of the Johannesburg Town Planning Scheme currently limits the amount of floor space that can be used for office purposes in homes to 20% of the total floorspace available.

The current regulations allow a home-owner to apply for permission to extend the amount of floorspace used from 20% to 25% and to apply for permission to employ two people

According to a council survey, it was estimated that there were currently about 3 500 home offices in the Johannesburg municipal area, both legal and illegal, which constituted 3.8% of the city's total housing stock

The survey found that about 90% of the home offices could be accommodated in terms of the existing regulations which make provision for the

TIM COHEN

employment of two people at the home office on application

The new proposal would permit the employment of two people without application provided there was no negative effect on neighbourhood

The draft proposals would also allow other alternatives for Johannesburg residents to use home as offices, but people who wished to acquire these rights would have to apply to the council

Rezoning

The second category would allow the employment of more than two people which would be allowed if, among other things, a Site Development Plan was approved

The third category would allow for the rezoning of residential houses

Gilbert said in this category council planners had in mind houses adjacent to shopping centres

She said the proposals had been sent to residents' organisations, which in the past had been hostile to the idea

Responses had been received and

the council would decide finally on the proposals in the light of the comments received from the residents' associations

In the motivation for the new policy, the town planning department pointed out "there is a problem of having little control over the type of home office activities which cannot be accommodated in terms of the current Clause 29 requirements".

It also said that SA could not rely on mineral exports as a stimulus to growth and there was therefore a need for "inward industrialisation" and the generation of informal activity of every kind

"This implies a great need for flexibility, freedom from constraints and positive action for nurturing growth wherever it occurs spontaneously."

The Johannesburg City Council is currently engaged in a court case against well known Johannesburg artist Braam Kruger, who allegedly used more than 20% of his Yeoville home for painting

Kruger and his wife Wimpie have pleaded not guilty to the charges in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court

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Council rent move backfires

Sowetan 3/10/90

By SY MAKARINGE

THE Diepmeadow Council's attempt to recover rent arrears when it hired a firm of attorneys backfired after it was slapped with a R2-million bill in legal fees.

The cash-strapped council hired Scholtz and Botha Attorneys in July this year to collect more than R37-million owed by Diepmeadow residents. This was after several black local authorities had been warned by the Transvaal Provincial Administration that essential ser-

vices would be discontinued if they failed to collect rents.

The firm sent several letters of demand to residents in July warning them to pay their arrears or risk being taken to court. The impression given at the time was that the council would not incur any legal costs as these would be borne by the residents.

But the plan to take the residents to court was halted when the Diepmeadow Civic Association intervened on behalf of the residents.

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Postal workers in protest over high electricity bills

Soweto 3/10/70

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ABOUT 50 placard-wielding, toyi-toying and ululating members of the Post and Telecommunications Workers Association demonstrated outside the Johannesburg Central Post Office yesterday to protest against exorbitant electricity bills.

The protesters were all residents of Molapo Villa in Soweto, a housing complex erected by the Department of Posts and Telecommunications for Post Office workers.

The department was deducting up to R450 from residents' salaries each month for electricity, but without taking electricity meter readings, one of the demonstrators, Mr Albert Malatgi, claimed.

No power

Some houses had no electricity at all while others had no meters, he said.

Potwa had requested an arrangement whereby Molapo Villa residents could pay their electricity bills directly to the Soweto City Council, but this had been rejected by the department, he said.

"The city council would charge us R55 a month for electricity," he added.

Another demonstrator, Mr M S Chauka said: "I am only earning R1 000 a month and then they still deduct R350 for electricity. I cannot afford it. I've got children to support."

Potwa spokesman at the protest, Mr Sizwe Matshikiza, said Molapo Villa's electricity bills were based on average consumption and not cal-

culated from individual meter readings.

The union was therefore demanding individual meter readings.

Police maintained a visible but low profile while protestors paraded in front of the post office

- Sapa

Hillbrow flat raids

JOHANNESBURG — Police and Inkatha members are assisting landlords who exploit black tenants in grey residential areas, it was claimed here.

The allegation made by Actstop, however, were denied by the police and Inkatha's youth leader, Mr Themba Khoza. *127 South 4/10-10/10/90*

Actstop has 75 flat committees in Hillbrow and adjoining suburbs. Actstop spokesperson, Mr Presage Nkosi, said police on Monday evicted residents from a flat in Hillbrow for a landlord without a court order. Actstop members had said they would set up a mechanism to defend themselves.

Approached for comment, a Hillbrow police spokesperson said: "I am prepared to say anything to you about Actstop".

Sayco campaign to clean Sebokeng

AN environmental awareness campaign has been launched by the Sebokeng branch of the South African Youth Congress, the Vaal Civic Association and the African National Congress, writes SELLO MOTLHABAKWE

Sayco president for Sebokeng, Mr. Viva Manqa, said the township had been

dirty since the recent outbreak of violence in the Vaal

Manqa said Sebokeng residents should donate 50 cents each at Sayco offices for the campaign.

Manqa said the campaign would also be aimed at using open spaces as parks to brighten the township.

Rent boycott to stay until demands met — Mayekiso

Spe 5/10/90
By Esmaré van der Merwe,
Political Reporter

Rent boycotts would continue until a wide variety of demands, including the scrapping of all discriminatory laws and the current system of local government had been met, the president of the newly formed Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal said last night

Moses Mayekiso said the organisation would meet on Sunday to draw up a plan of action on violence, the curfew and the "mini state of emergency" in several townships

Speaking at the ANC's first conference on local authorities in Johannesburg yesterday, Mr Mayekiso said civic associations should retain their independence, stay clear of any political affiliation and should not replace local government structures

They should remain pressure groups fighting for better socio-economic conditions and should act as watchdogs over any future government

Demands which should be met before the rent boycotts were called off included

- Scrapping of the black local authority system
- A start to negotiations on a system of nonracial municipalities
- Ending of the "mini states of emergencies" and phasing out of the hostel system
- Abolition of discriminatory laws
- A stop to the privatisation of housing, with civic associations taking control of residential development
- Removal of imbalances in the distribution of wealth through economic restructuring, including nationalisation

Soweto rent payments pour in after accord

THEO RAWANA

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SOWETO residents are queuing at municipal offices to pay their rent and service accounts in the wake of the Greater Soweto Accord, which wrote off R515m in arrears. *Blom 5/10/90*

Amounts collected over the past month have risen by between 145% and 917%, according to township administrators.

The accord, signed by the TPA, the three Greater Soweto councils of Diepmeadow, Dobsonville and Soweto and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) on September 24, marked the end of a five-year-old rent boycott.

The Soweto City Council released figures on payments yesterday

□ One township that had collected R12 778 on September 1 collected R31 257 on October 1 — an increase of 145%;

□ Another received R3 438 on September 1 and increased its takings by 535% on October 1 to R21 834;

□ The R22 322 collected in one township on October 1 was a 202% increase on the R7 398 collected on September 1; and

□ In another township the R26 758 received on October 1 was 917% above the R2 631 collected on September 1.

Soweto mayor Sam Mkhwanazi said he was heartened by the way residents had responded.

"The deal with the TPA was reached after long, tough negotiations and the chances of any write-off of arrears after this are remote," he said.

Diepmeadow mayor Moses Khumalo said the response of residents was "nothing short of fantastic".

The two townships of Meadowlands and Diepkloof, which had been hit by a near-total boycott, had had a phenomenal turnout of residents who had come to pay since the accord was signed.

Although he had no comparable figures readily available, Khumalo said: "Last Saturday, which was half a day, the Diepkloof office collected R60 000, while Meadowlands had R38 000. Meadowlands collected R58 000 on Monday and the trend has been followed in the past two days."

Loan Guarantee Fund finances first project

THE Perm's new low-cost housing development in Daveyton, aimed at people with incomes from as low as R600 a month, is the first project financed by the Loan Guarantee Fund

MARIETTE DU PLESSIS

Borrowers qualifying for a loan would be required to pay monthly instalments of at least R120

The first phase, to be completed in November 1991, comprised 550 houses ranging from 30m² up to houses of 55m² and would be available for purchasers from R12 540

He said the supply of housing must match the real affordability of the community and as such this project aimed at the lowest possible cost for formal

housing, opening up a range of housing options not previously addressed by the industry

Through this private sector initiative, low-income earners in the informal sector, small business and domestic service could become eligible for loans.

Development

Creighton said the planning was done with an integrated approach which balanced township design and construction in order to reduce costs and increase delivery speed

Being concerned with the micro and macro environmental conditions within which the housing process developed, the Perm actively involved the local community in the development of the concept, he said.

The houses would "cluster" around the courtyard, replacing some 60% of the formal streets and meeting the social and cultural needs of the target area, he said.

Services provided included the availability of waterborne sewage, reticulated water, electricity and hard-surface roads

Power cuts loom for thousands

Sta 8/10/90



By Therese Anders,
Highveld Bureau

As the rent and services boycott continues in 27 Transvaal townships, many thousands of people face power cut-offs this week.

Cash-strapped town councils now owe Eskom R70 million, an increase of R47 million since the Government cut bridging finance on September 1.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) reports that after recent agreements, service payments in Soweto and in the Eastern Transvaal have improved.

However, the situation has deteriorated on the East Rand, and more towns have joined the boycott in the Western Transvaal.

Last week Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal president Moses Mayekiso announced the boycott would con-

tinue until a number of demands had been met, including the scrapping of discriminatory laws and the system of local government.

The organisation later said the boycott in Soweto was off.

Carolina's Conservative Party-led council, which cut electricity, water and sewerage services to Silobela township several weeks ago, has warned it will cut services again today.

Flat rate

Vosloorus residents, who are already having their power cut for up to six hours a day, have until Thursday to pay up.

Unless accounts are paid, the Pretoria City Council will cut power to a number of townships, including Mamelodi and Atteridgeville, on Friday.

In many Eastern Transvaal townships, residents are paying a flat rate for rent and ser-

vices that is well below the amount needed to cover the ratepayer's true electricity and water consumption charges.

This still leaves black local authorities with big bulk-supply accounts that they cannot pay.

The TPA, therefore, is allowing councils to apply for funds earmarked by regional services councils for township capital projects.

Eskom communication manager Johan du Plessis said the electricity giant viewed the boycott in a serious light.

"But we are not anxious about it because we are negotiating rather than switching towns off."

He said the fact that people were starting to pay meant they felt they could "pull this thing through".

He stressed Eskom would not consider writing off any of the R70 million debt.

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NATIONAL

Rent boycotts in townships to go on

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Rent boycotts in all Transvaal townships except Soweto will continue until agreements have been reached

Mr Cas Coovadia, assistant secretary for the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast), said the Soweto boycott remained "off"

The boycott ended last month with the signing of an agreement between the Transvaal Provincial Authority, the greater Soweto town councils and the Soweto People's Delegation

Mr Coovadia clarified remarks made last week by association president Mr Moses Mayekiso on the continuation of the boycotts

"Soweto's rent boycott is off — at least for the time being

People are starting to pay. But other boycotts will continue

"The Soweto agreement had very positive aspects and has brought about tremendous gains for the community. But the struggle in Soweto is far more advanced than in other areas

"Cast now needs to examine how the TPA can be pressured into extending the agreement to other townships.

"Cast will draw up guidelines which could be used by civic associations to ensure that the Soweto signing is not used by the TPA to pressure other structures into signing"

Cast, formed last month, represents 38 civic associations

Mr Coovadia said a national civic association would be formed early next year

Sowetans queue to pay rent

By Montshiwa Moroke

There has been a dramatic increase in the payment of rent and service charges in Soweto since the signing of the Greater Soweto Accord about two weeks ago, says the Soweto City Council.

The accord was signed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the three Greater Soweto councils of Diepmeadow, Dobsonville and Soweto, and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) on September 24.

Star 8/10/90 (27)
Figures released by Soweto town clerk Plet Geers for the period between September 1 and October 4 show dramatic increases of between 15 and 917 percent.

On September 1 Jabavu collected R12 778 in rent and on October 1 R31 257 — an increase of 144 percent.

On the same days, Chiawelo collected R8 668 and R19 861 (129 percent); Orlando East R9 165 and R26 228 (186 percent); and Zola R3 438 and R21 834 (535 percent).

Tladi's rent collection showed a 917 percent increase from last month.

Mr Geers said the department had taken extra security measures at pay points since the increase in payments.

The acting town clerk of Diepmeadow, Tom Mabambe, said the response to the accord had been good.

A spokesman for the Dobsonville treasury department, Chris van Zyl, said that from Tuesday last week, cashiers had been fairly busy.

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Project will house 5 000

By Jovial Rantao

A R25 million housing project, which will accommodate an estimated 5 000 black people in Daveyton, was launched last week.

The "Emaphupheni" project has a community centre and school.

Speaking at the launch of the project, general manager of housing of the Permanent Building Society — chief funders of the project — Denis Creighton, said there was already a waiting list of more than 1 000 registered homeowners signed up for houses costing between R12 540 and R27 800.

peared to have been stolen from the house

State lifts Soweto

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Curfew

Soweto 8/10/90

MINISTER of Law and Order Mr Adriaan Vlok at the weekend announced the lifting of the controversial 9pm to 4am curfew in Soweto.

However, the curfew still in force in Tembisa, Katlehong and Tokoza on the East Rand.

The curfew was condemned by many organisations and residents when it was declared by State President FW de Klerk on September 25. They claimed it would not only leave residents unprotected but would also make them vulnerable to attacks by the "forces of darkness".

Vlok said the drop in the crime rate in Greater Soweto areas like Meadowlands, Dobsonville and Diepkloof justified the lifting of the curfew.

He said the Government could lift the curfew

By IDO LEKOTA

quickly because of "the wonderful co-operation" of the people of Soweto in the past weeks.

The Pan Africanist Congress said they had always condemned the curfew. A spokesman said the PAC saw Operation Iron Fist as a continuation of the earlier operation Watchdog which was the Government's plan to disarm the residents. The spokesman said the Government was using the recent violence as an excuse to continue with the campaign under a new name.

Azapo general secretary Pandelani Nefolohodwe said residents are most probably happy about the lifting of the curfew "in relation to their original call for the removal of the army from townships".

WILSON ZWANE

Blacks seeking better standards in white areas

INTOLERABLE conditions in the townships coupled with a desire for a better life have contributed to an influx of black professionals into white suburbs

This emerged from interviews with some of the black professionals who have abandoned townships around Johannesburg

A businessman, who requested anonymity, said the living conditions in the "traditional" townships were abominable and forced people with "means" to find better living places in the white suburbs

"Some people have moved into the new extensions. Living conditions there are better than in the traditional townships. However, people like me, who could afford it, went for the best — the white suburbs,"

he said.
A young doctor said ever since he left Soweto more than a year ago he had had no reason to "yearn for what I left behind".

He said that in a Johannesburg suburb he had more privacy than ever before as he now had a bigger house.

Consumer Institute for Research and Promotion director Elridge Mathebula described conditions in the townships as "barbaric and not conducive to human habitation"

Mathebula, who recently vacated his Parktown house for a house in Spruitview (a new black suburb on the East Rand), said he had been forced to leave

the township because of the "unacceptable" conditions there.

"Black townships are barbaric. The streets are dusty and litter is strewn all over the place. The houses and yards are small. You do not have room for a proper garden or a swimming pool," he said.

He conceded, however, that life in a white suburb was not always "rosy" and had taken its toll on him

"I found myself exposed to a totally different culture. I started missing being among my own people.

"But I was not keen on returning to the township mess I had left behind. That is why I decided to leave the city and move into Spruitview," he said.

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Coetzee gives evidence at UK hearing

LONDON — A detailed description of the office and home of SAP forensics chief Lt Gen Lothar Neethling, and details of how he allegedly provided poison to kill anti-government activists, were led in evidence at a special hearing in London yesterday.

Alleged former police hit squad leader Dirk Coetzee was giving evidence at the start of Neethling's R1,5m defamation and damages suit against the editors and publishers of Vrye Weekblad and the Weekly Mail

Defending

The newspapers are defending their publication of allegations by the former security force police captain that he obtained "knock-out" drops and poison from Neethling

Coetzee said it was intended to kill activists and ANC members in 1981, when he was in charge of the alleged Vlakplaas death squad camp near Pretoria.

The civil action is linked to the inquiry into hit squads by the Harms Commission, before which Neethling denied Coetzee's claims, suggesting Coetzee might have seen his office and home during the course of his duties while he was posted to the police narcotics bureau, Sanab.

The Rand Supreme Court, which is to begin hearings on November 12, gave permission for evidence to be heard in London from Coetzee, who is now in exile. — Sapa.

No end yet in sight to township rent boycotts

RENT and service payments in Transvaal townships improved in September, but there was still no indication that the payments boycott had been broken, TPA official Liesl Vermeulen said yesterday.

Residents of 57 Transvaal townships are refusing to pay rent and services charges. Of these, 26 owe Eskom R70m in electricity arrears

Meanwhile a body representing southern Transvaal township civic organisations yesterday reiterated a call for the rent boycott to continue until the authorities had met its demands

A conference of 30 civic organisations, organised by the Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast), unanimously resolved to co-ordinate "mass activity" within the next three weeks to demand the scrapping of rent arrears and abolition of racially based local authorities

At a Press conference yesterday, Cast president Moses Mayekiso said the envisaged mass activity would include protest marches and mass meetings

Vermeulen said in a statement that payments improved last month after agreements had been reached in Greater Soweto, eastern Transvaal and the East Rand townships of Daveyton and KwaThema

"However that is no indication that the boycott has been broken as yet, as only two regions (eastern Transvaal and far northern Transvaal) had payments of over 50% "

WILSON ZWANE and
TIM COHEN

It was the TPA's view that any township that did not maintain a payment percentage of 80% was engaged in a rent and services boycott, she said

Talks on how to resolve the boycott were under way, but were not going well in some affected townships such as Atteridgeville and Zithobeni, Vermeulen said

She added that Mamelodi and Atteridgeville faced power cuts unless electricity payments were made to the Pretoria City Council by Friday

Eskom communications manager Johan du Plessis said Eskom would not consider writing off any of the R70m electricity arrears as it still hoped to recoup them

He said Eskom had a strategy to achieve this.

Rand Water Board PRO Louise Fourie said the board would not discontinue or reduce any water supplies before exhausting all legal remedies

The Cast conference also rejected flat rates for township services

Instead, the TPA would be given a specific period to repair or install working meters and charge affordable rates

Cast intended requesting urgent meetings with Eskom, the Rand Water Board and the TPA to discuss guidelines for negotiations between provincial bodies and civic organisations, said Mayekiso

See Page 9

Maguire fears for life after being freed

BULAWAYO — The Zimbabwean government has unconditionally released Rory Burt Maguire, 39, who two years ago was jailed for failing to report the presence of SA agents and of assisting them in carrying out sabotage.

Maguire — who prison sources said was freed about two months ago — told Ziana national news agency on Monday he was afraid for his life

He was jailed for seven years on July 14

1988 for withholding information from authorities about the fatal bomb attack on January 11 1988, at a house in Trenance suburb, Bulawayo, which resulted in Obert Mwanza being killed and a number of SA refugees being injured.

It is not clear whether Maguire's release was in terms of the presidential amnesty proclaimed last July, when President Robert Mugabe pardoned a wide range of criminals — Sapa

Top law firms joining the battle over township rents

B/Dy 9/10/90

CIVIC associations in rent-defaulting townships are making increasing use of top legal firms as they swap confrontation tactics for negotiations

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WILSON ZWANE

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) national director Brian Currin says a number of civic associations in townships threatened with service cuts have approached his organisation for assistance

"We then instruct other law firms to handle these cases for us. Some law firms handle our cases for nothing and others charge us tariffs," Currin says, adding "There are 50 law firms in Johannesburg that handle our cases for nothing"

Those who do charge tariffs do so at about a third of the going rate, says Currin

According to Currin, the municipalities are not entitled to switch off electricity just because township residents are boycotting these and other service payments.

Procedures

"If a tenant does not perform according to the agreement with his landlord, the landlord cannot take the law into his hands and evict him or cut his electricity off. He must get a court order," Currin says

Lawyers Dan Rosengarten and Sue Albertyn of Bell Dewar and Hall — one of the law firms that handles LHR cases — maintain that municipalities, in cutting off electricity, should follow proper procedures and consider individual circumstances

"A blanket cut-off is unfair in that it affects everyone including those who have paid for electricity," Albertyn says

Bell Dewar and Hall represents, among others, the townships of Thokoza, Spruit-

view on the East Rand and Tumahole in the Free State

"What we do is threaten municipalities who have cut off services with a legal action until services are restored," Rosengarten says, adding "Threatened legal action coupled with sustained and organised pressure from the community have sparked off negotiations among interested parties — the town councils, Transvaal Provincial Administration, Eskom and residents. We have attended some of these negotiations to give advice to our clients," Rosengarten says

According to Rosengarten all parties are now willing to resolve rent boycotts through negotiations

Thokoza administrator Gert Muller argues that a blanket discontinuation of services, while not ideal, does protect the paying residents from victimisation by the unpaying residents

"Some of the paying residents do request us to cut power in the whole township. These people fear for their lives," he says.

However, electricity is not cut off until residents have been given notice.

"Residents are given enough time either to pay or make other arrangements," says Muller, adding that there is no law preventing the town councils from cutting off electricity if it is not paid for.

"It is only the Health Act that prohibits the cutting off of water. But while the Act says water should be provided, it does not stipulate that individual houses should be provided with it," Muller says

Katlehong rent talks

NEGOTIATIONS between representatives of the Katlehong Civic Association, Eskom, Katlehong City Council and Transvaal Provincial Administration resume today in a bid to resolve the rent and service charges boycott in the East Rand township.

The meeting follows proposals made last week that residents in houses with electricity pay R45 and those without electricity pay R10.

The payments were proposed by the civic association to enable Eskom's electricity supply to continue for this month while negotiations continued.

Katlehong and 27 other Transvaal townships owe Eskom R70 million.

The council owes Eskom about R5 million.

* Residents of Vosloorus on the East Rand could face power cuts tomorrow - *Sowetan Reporter.*

Plan to topple local govt

CIVIC associations in the Transvaal are to organise stayaways, boycotts and protest marches in a bid to bring about the collapse of the local government system.

This was announced by the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) this week.

The organisation, which was formed last month as an umbrella body for 38 civic associations, announced at a Press conference in Johannesburg that "mass grassroots struggles and campaigns will be intensified to force the resignation of councillors and the adoption of a new non-racial municipal dispensation".

Protest actions

Cast president Moses Mayekiso said civic associations would determine the nature of protest actions which would take place within the next few weeks.

Cast announced several decisions which had been taken at a one-day meeting in Johannesburg.

These included:

- *Racial local government structures should be disbanded and replaced with a system of single tax-bases in townships and cities

- *One person, one vote municipal elections for non-racial municipalities.

Family units

- *All service charge arrears must be written off and houses should be transferred to "those who had paid for them".

- *Cast would establish community trust funds to contribute towards the building of new houses

- *All development schemes by the private and public sectors should involve community participation

- *Cast would campaign for the conversion of hostels into family units and the development of shacks into formal housing

Township violence

Asked whether residents could be mobilised into mass action in view of the recent spate of township violence and continuing negotiations on national level, Mr Mayekiso said

"The militancy of the people is still there. The violence has not hampered mass action. Instead, people are angry with the State for undermining their organisations and are committed to intensifying the struggle."

Sowetan 11/10/90

Encountering how the other half lives

HUNDREDS of white South Africans, most of whom have no inkling of what township life is like, will next month gain first-hand experience of the hustle and bustle of Soweto in what will be known as the "Soweto Encounter".

Organised by Koinonia, a Christian agency for reconciliation, the exercise is aimed at promoting "contact between divided communities" of South Africa and to keep the friendship going in the interests of the country.

Hundreds of Soweto families are expected to open their doors - and their hearts - to their fellow countrymen between November 23 and November 25 and share with them their fears and their hopes, their tribulations and their expectations

Guests

The guests, from plush northern Johannesburg suburbs and other areas, will spend three days and two nights with their hosts in overcrowded match-box houses in Soweto where in many cases a kitchen is also a bedroom.

At best they will share evening meals - which can be anything from pap and morogo *a la carte* to *mnqushu* and *mogodu* (samp and offal) - in dining rooms which serve as bedrooms at night. At worst they will go to bed with an empty stomach.

They won't have the luxury of eating out as the number of restaurants in this sprawling and dusty city can be counted on one hand and are seldom patronised by the cash-strapped residents



Scene from a previous encounter held in Mamelodi.

By SY MAKARINGE

Some of them will be thrown into the deep end of the "Wild West" where only the fit survive and where the knife used to rule the roost before guns became fashionable. They will have to sleep with one eye wide open and be ready to get dressed and scuttle for cover in case of an eventuality

Bathrooms are non-existent in more than 90 percent of Soweto's homes. The visitors will have to make do with wash bowls

Hot water here is a luxury. The visitors will be very lucky to get a warm bath in the morning as the word geyser is a foreign concept.

If they have to answer the call of nature in the

FOCUS

middle of the night they will have to venture into the darkness outside as most Soweto homes do not have inside toilets

A Sunday afternoon stroll through the narrow streets of the townships may be spoilt by the sight of streams of faeces coming from blocked sewers - a sight which Soweto residents have come to regard as normal

Of course. Soweto is a city of contrasts. Some of the "lucky" visitors will be hosted in cosy homes in places such as Diepkloof Extension, Protea North and Beverly Hills where life is no more different than in the northern suburbs of the Golden City. But the

danger there is that they will go back home with an impression that "all is well in Soweto".

Soweto also has places of interest such as Club 707 in Orlando West and the Blue Fountain in Mapetla where they can dine in style

Regional co-ordinator of Koinonia Becky Ginsburg said although black people were known to be very hospitable she did not expect them to go out of their way just to please their guests

"Just be normal and be free," she said

Ginsburg said guests would be encouraged to experience Soweto life as fully as possible. She said she would be very happy if people in areas such as Mshenguville came forward and volunteered to host the visitors. Are

there any takers from Nancefield Hostel?

The Soweto Encounter is one of many programmes Koinonia has organised in the past three years in an effort to afford white South Africans, especially, an opportunity to see how "the other half" lives

The first was about three years ago when hundreds of whites spent a weekend with their township hosts in Mamelodi. Many had been apprehensive before they ventured into the township. But in the three days that they had been rubbing shoulders with township residents they became impressed by the people's openness and hospitality

Unrest

Questioned on the possible effect of the unrest in the township Ginsburg said "As with all previous Koinonia Encounters we will take steps to ensure the safety of all participants. We are optimistic that violence will have subsided by late November. If it does not we will have to reassess the viability of the encounter, unfortunately."

Koinonia was started by Dr Nico Smith, former pastor of the Mamelodi NG Kerk in Afrika, in 1986. The organisation helps South Africans prepare for a non-racial future by providing them with opportunities for personal and meaningful contact with people of other communities

* Anyone who is interested in hosting a white family or individuals can write to Koinonia, PO Box 33596, Jeppestown, 2043 or phone Ginsburg at (011) 618-4272

Curfew to be lifted soon, hints Vlok

LAW and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok has hinted that the 9pm to 4am curfew in the East Rand townships of Tokoza, Vosloorus and Katlehong will be lifted shortly.

Addressing a Press conference at the Vosloorus Police Station on Tuesday night Vlok said after evaluating the situation on the ground, he believed that the curfew could not remain in force "for a long period".

"We will lift it as soon as circumstances permit but I want to stress that if violence breaks out again we will not hesitate to reimpose the curfew," he said.

He and several top police officials, including Commissioner of Police General Johan van der Merwe, had earlier visited a police roadblock at the Phola Park squatter camp in Tokoza.

Vlok talked to motorists while their vehicles were being searched.

Vlok's party, accompanied by representatives of the media, then drove through the seemingly deserted squatter camp before returning to Vosloorus.

At the Press conference Vlok said that he had been pleased to find that residents were heeding the curfew and co-operating with police, but added that electricity blackouts in certain areas made law enforcement difficult.

Vosloorus mayor Mr Morrison Sinukela said the imposition of the curfew had saved "very many lives in Vosloorus" and had been welcomed by local residents.

"Before the curfew more than 200 people died in this town," he said.

He said that as the situation was normalising he hoped the curfew would be lifted during next week.

A nightly seven-hour curfew went into effect in Soweto, Katlehong, Tokoza and Vosloorus on September 25.

The measure was lifted in Soweto last week - *Sowetan Correspondent*

Sowetan
11/10/90

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Pretoria townships face power cuts

Sowetan 12/10/90

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RESIDENTS of Atteridgeville and Mamelodi are bracing themselves for electricity cuts again today following unsuccessful attempts by both town councils to urge residents to pay rent.

The executive committee of the Pretoria Regional Services Council met late yesterday to

By MONK NKOMO

consider loan applications totalling about R9 million from the two town councils to enable them to pay its outstanding electricity bills to the Pretoria City Council.

Mr Piet Delport, chairman of the RSC, said he was optimistic the loan would be granted. "I think there is going to be an application settlement."

The Pretoria City Council, which cut electricity supplies to both townships for 12 hours on September 26, has threatened to take similar action unless the arrears

are paid today.

A spokesman for the city council said Mr James Leach, chairman of the management committee, "is full of hope that the loan will be granted."

She added that no final decision had been reached on whether to switch off electricity should the amount owed not be paid today.

Civic groups in the two townships have threatened to take court action.

They have also threatened mass action including a consumer boycott should electricity supplies be cut off.

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former diplomat's best known book is probably *The Labyrinth of Solitude* Paz was visiting New York when the award was announced. Picture REUTERS

wyk counsel for the JSE m application on a number of Argument continues toda

Pretoria's townships given ⁽¹²⁷⁾ power reprieve pending loan

Monday 12/10/90.

WILSON ZWANE

THE Pretoria City Council would not cut power to neighbouring townships today pending the Pretoria Regional Services Council's decision to step in with loans to help the townships

The council had threatened to discontinue power to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi today unless about R6m in electricity arrears was paid

At a Press conference yesterday Pretoria City Council's management committee chairman James Leach said the Pretoria Regional Services' executive committee would make recommendations at a special meeting next Thursday that loans be granted to the town councils of Atteridgeville, Mamelodi and Zithobeni to enable them to pay their accounts.

Until then the Pretoria City Council management committee would not take action to cut the main electricity supply to

Atteridgeville and Mamelodi, Leach said

The city council cut electricity supply to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi last month and restored it hours later on the condition that the townships made payments on their arrears today

In another development, negotiations among the TPA, Eskom, Katlehong Town Council and the Katlehong Civic Associations began last night

Katlehong mayor Gideon Molotsi had said the talks would centre on the interim flat rates residents would have to pay to keep essential services going

"If residents accept our proposed monthly flat rates then they will pay R50 for houses with electricity and R30 for houses without electricity. The businessmen will pay R130," Molotsi said

Intravenous drips withdrawn for testing

SABAX, manufacturer of intravenous drips supplied to clinics in Johannesburg where a number of babies had died, said in a statement yesterday it had brought a microbiological specialist from the UK to help evaluate its procedures.

Monday 12/10/90
The Department of National Health and Population Development said tests of drips supplied to the department by Sabax had "shown contamination of the prepared medicines"

Sabax spokesman F F Erasmus said it had "suspended all of the admixed products which may, or may not, have been implicated pending the outcome of intensive investigations"

The clinics had withdrawn use of the drips after an unspecified number of neonatal babies had died. Park Lane Clinic said yesterday that laboratories had found the medical products in question contained the same bacteria as found in infected babies at the clinic. — Sapa

No non-racial cities under apartheid — ANC expert

By JO-ANNE COLLINGE

THE African National Congress has urged civic associations to guard against subverting the thrust of national constitutional negotiations as they engage local and provincial authorities in talks about service provisions.

It is also taking concrete steps to help civic structures avoid concluding pacts that will lend legitimacy to these structures.

Hard on the heels of the ANC's intervention, made during its conference on local government matters last week, comes the announcement by the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) — with more than 30 affiliates — that it is to step up mass action to secure the resignation of township councillors.

Work stayaways, rent boycotts and mass protests are being discussed as possible forms of action.

Cast says it intends reviewing aspects of recent agreements reached between its affiliates and the authorities, looking for "loopholes" to free civics from the provisions of the agreements.

The developments are an implicit indictment of the formation last month of the Metropolitan Chamber for the Central Witwatersrand — where the civic-linked Soweto People's Delegation sits side-by-side with the councils of Soweto, Dobsonville and Diepmeadow as well as the Johannesburg City Council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

In an interview with *The Weekly Mail*, ANC local government expert Thozamile Botha warned against easy assumptions that joint structures or undertakings to work towards a joint tax base for cities and their satellite townships represented a real solution.

"It is not possible to have a non-apartheid city under apartheid," he stressed. "We need to guard against entering joint working groups where the danger is that our organisations might be co-opted, might be forced to involve themselves in delivering services — and in the end not be able to deliver the goods."

Assuming authority without having resources and real power was foolhardy, he insisted. "We are saying that civics should not formally commit themselves on matters where there are implications for national negotiations."

This did not mean that civic associations should refrain from negotiating around services.

Sharing the ANC view that civic negotiations do not all end in agreements advantageous to residents, Cast announced this week it would "develop broad parameters within which negotiations will take place . . . and ensure that weaker civic organisations are not pressured into unfavourable agreements."

Botha illustrated how civic associations could be "steam-rollered" into agreements which ran counter to the central thrust of constitutional negotiations for non-racial democratic government.

In Stutterheim, for instance, after the collapse of the town council, officials tried to persuade civic association representatives to take up advisory positions on the white municipality. This proposal had been shunned, he said.

Rent crisis focus shifts to role of township councils

By WALLY MBHELE ^{12/10/90} ^{12/10/90}

AS the rent crisis in more than 30 Transvaal townships lurches on, the major conflict has shifted from rent repayments to focusing on the status of local town councils in talks.

Civic associations which are negotiating with the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) on rent arrears are demanding that township councils and officials be excluded from the talks.

The TPA, however, is equally adamant that councillors participate in resolving the crisis.

It is estimated the rent-boycott-stricken town councils owe Eskom R70-million, which it is not prepared to write off.

An umbrella body, the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast), has stated that the "rent boycott will continue" until, among other things, councillors resign.

In its first major announcement since its formation last month, Cast said this week that it planned a mass campaign "to bring about the collapse of the system of local government".

"We strongly condemn the attitude of the TPA to push local civics to negotiate with councillors. We believe councillors should resign as they don't have any mandate to negotiate on behalf of the people," said Cast general secretary Sam Ntuli.

Civic associations have, since the beginning of the recent rent boycotts, refused to deal directly with local councils, preferring to negotiate with the TPA — a move which saw some councils, such as that of Thokoza, collapse. In other townships, such as Kattlehong, councillors resigned voluntarily. In Soweto successful negotiations were conducted and the rent boycott was resolved.

However, last week a meeting between the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents' Organisation (ASRO), the TPA, and the Atteridgeville council failed to reach a settlement over the council's proposed interim service charges.

ASRO claimed the TPA had "failed to first dissolve the local council, as recommended by the Kriel Commission".

The Pretoria city council had given Atteridgeville residents until yesterday to pay for services, failing which electricity would be cut.

Electricity and water to Vosloorus has been cut at intervals over the past week.

Squeeze on rented accommodation as flat building winds down

By ROBERT LAING

RENTED accommodation is hard to find. No new flats are being erected and tenants in old buildings are seeing their homes secularised and sold under them at prices they cannot afford.

Estate agent Eskel Jawitz says "It's a question of affordability. The market can't support the high rent needed to offset high-rise building costs."

"New flat buildings are not economical — especially with interest rates at 20-21 per cent."

Sable Holdings financial director Andy Bolleus says: "People think residential ren-

tals have gone through the roof, but they are still not high enough to attract developers. I don't know of a new flat building that has been built in Johannesburg within the past 10 years.

"The returns on residential property are way below those of office or industrial property."

Financial institutions see residential property as bad business. Fedlife's property portfolio is a typical example: offices, 55 per cent; industrial, 27 per cent; retail, 12 per cent; vacant land, 4 per cent; hotels and residential, 2 per cent.

Residential buildings are a management

12/10 - 18/10/90

headache with little profit, according to the institutions. "You have hundreds of tenants complaining about the plumbing and other stuff. Commercial property is a pleasure — you simply collect your cheque every month," Bolleus says.

Some estate agents blame the Rents Act for the lack of rented accommodation. Flats built before 1966 were rent controlled at prices landlords found unrealistically low.

Government hopes to rekindle developers' interest in rented accommodation by phasing out the rent control of white dwellings by the end of the year.

Rent control will remain for married ten-

ants with dependents whose gross income does not exceed R1 250 a month, single tenants with dependents whose gross income does not exceed R750 and tenants who are more than 69 years old.

Landlords will be prevented from increasing rents on decontrolled buildings by more than 10 per cent each year for the first two years after the abolition of rent control.

Axing rent control, however, is unlikely to harvest any new flat buildings.

"Economics dictates. Building costs and interest rates are too high to justify property developers investing in flat buildings," Jawitz says.

Township threatens consumer boycott

13/10/90 16/10/90 (127)

WILSON ZWANE

THE Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Asro) yesterday threatened a consumer boycott because of the Atteridgeville Town Council's decision to cut off electricity to non-paying residents.

The process of switching off electricity to defaulters began yesterday and, said Atteridgeville town clerk Dan Mouton, would continue until electricity accounts were paid.

"It is now in the hands of the residents. If they come forward and pay their accounts, we will not continue with the switch-offs," he said.

Asro official Abe Nkomo said the residents had decided to bring their grievances to the attention of the authorities by embarking on a consumer boycott.

Inconceivable

"Our repeated calls for the disbanding of the town council have been unheeded and that is why the people have decided to embark on a consumer boycott until the council has been disbanded and electricity restored," Nkomo said.

Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) assistant general secretary Cas Coovadia said his organisation found it "inconceivable that basic services are being cut off by illegitimate council structures and racist white municipalities at a time when negotiations are in progress between numerous civic associations and the TPA."

"The latest power cut in Atteridgeville further vindicates our decision to co-ordinate mass action against such actions by the authorities. Such mass action will take place in various areas of the southern Transvaal in the next fortnight," Coovadia said.

Sapa reports that Asro publicity secretary John Ramatsui said his organisation

would be meeting residents' organisations from Mamelodi and other townships surrounding Pretoria. A decision about a consumer boycott would be taken within two weeks.

Asro's intention to embark on an "extended" consumer boycott had been communicated to the Pretoria Chamber of Commerce, Ramatsui added.

Nkomo said he believed the council intended cutting off electricity to 1 000 houses a day.

Mouton said more than 90% of residents were boycotting rent payments.

The move to switch off electricity in Atteridgeville came two days after residents were assured by the Pretoria City Council that their electricity would not be cut pending a decision by the Pretoria Regional Services Council (RSC) to grant loans to the town councils of Mamelodi, Atteridgeville and Zithobeni.

The Pretoria RSC is expected to approve the loans at a meeting on Thursday.

RSC chairman Pieter Delpont has said the loan, which would take care of all outstanding debts for essential services up to and including October, would be "market-oriented" and had to be repaid within five years.

Outstanding debts were an estimated R13,8m for the three townships, Delpont said.

Vosloorus residents have rejected the local town council's proposal that they pay a R70 monthly flat rate. Instead, they have decided to continue their six-month-old boycott.

Facilitator Nigel Mandy said the parties negotiating to end the Vosloorus boycott were to meet today.

TPA, VCA meet on rent boycott

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~~215~~

Spokesman 16/10/90
THE Vosloorus Civic Association meets the Transvaal Provincial Administration today in an effort to end the six-month-old rent boycott

By MATSHUBE MFOLOE

The meeting follows the local residents' rejection of the council's proposed R70 flat rate.

Residents resolved on Sunday that they would resume payments only if the council conceded the R50 flat rate

VCA spokesman, Mr

Keith Montsitsi, said his organisation would "press for the R50 flat rate" when they meet the TPA. He also said the TPA would also be asked to write-off all arrears incurred since the non-payment of rent and service charges

Montsitsi attacked the Vosloorus Town Council for electricity cuts in the township.

Giving the home buyer a choice

HOUSING has always been a serious issue in South Africa.

The problem has snowballed and, as demands increase to crisis proportions, people are looking to the problem of supply.

Basil Read has been involved in housing schemes for several years — especially in the coloured community.

The Delmore Park project is an example of the company's work in this area. The project is now reaching fruition.

The housing project addresses the problems in the coloured community in the East Rand, where

until now choices were limited.

Basil Read housing division MD Pat Culligan says: "The project aims to re-establish the choice for the upper income bracket in that community."

Incorporates

Adjacent to the south of Boksburg, Basil Read is developing 331 higher income houses.

The project incorporates a school, places of worship and provision for a shopping complex.

The development project started on August 20 and, to date, 62 houses

have been sold.

"Demand is running high," he says.

"Basil Read is offering a variety of attractive designs,"

Overall aesthetics have been given consideration, with more than 50 different designs available.

"Building will commence on January 7 and I expect to have the entire project completed by December next year," he says.

A show house and on-site offices have been completed.

Housing packages begin at about R64 000 and upwards.

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Actstop urges action against CP councils

CIVIC Associations countrywide are being urged by Actstop to take action against Conservative Party councils which refuse to heed the scrapping of the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act.

Spokesman Mohammed Dangor said this week people should force recalcitrant councils to implement the law by way of organised protest, marches and court action.

Threatening that CP councillors and CP municipalities could be tied up in litigation for the next 20 years, Actstop further urged Lawyers for Human Rights, the National Association for Democratic Lawyers and the Black Lawyers' Association to assist any indi-

vidual or civic association which had to go to court.

"It is the start of the Martin Luther King era of the 1950's in South Africa when people who are blocked, will go in their thousands to the front doors of previously segregated amenities to demand entry

Sowetan 17/10/90

Weapons

"Their weapons will be exposure and embarrassment," he said.

Dangor said Actstop had urged the powerful umbrella body, Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) representing all civic associations in the area, to adopt this form of protest.

"To the CP councils

who defy the law, we say if you want to retain your apartheid signs, then you must also put up the white's only signs outside your businesses

Massive blackout looming in townships

Soweto 17/10/90
NEGOTIATIONS between provincial authorities and civic associations to end rent boycotts in the Transvaal are in danger of being derailed, with tens of thousands of township residents now facing electricity blackouts

The talks process was brought under threat today when it emerged a letter was sent to black councils instructing them to use funds collected from residents to pay council salaries before paying off electricity debts.

If councils did not follow these rules, the TPA could not become a party to agreements ending rent

and services boycotts
Civic associations have accused the TPA of blackmail and warned that residents would not pay to uphold apartheid structures

Daveyton and Wattville townships on the East Rand faced power cuts at yesterday after negotiations broke down on Monday

Rally

The Atteridgeville City council was yesterday continuing to cut power to houses and businesses of rent and service charge defaulters

In Vosloorus, meetings were held yesterday to try to prevent a breakdown of talks between the Vosloorus civic association and the TPA

A meeting between the

Benoni Town Council, the two civics in Daveyton and Wattville, the Daveyton and Wattville Town Councils, Eskom and the TPA, ended in deadlock after TPA officials insisted that a mandatory list of priorities be followed with payments.

The Benoni Town Council said the TPA thought monies collected should be used to pay salaries, then water, sewerage, refuse removal and electricity - in that order

"Certain of the parties present insisted that the flat rate of R70 for Daveyton and R50 for Wattville be utilised primarily for the payment of services, for example, electricity"

Council calls for curfew

127

Sowetan 17/10/90

THE Atteridgeville City Council on Monday proposed the implementation of a curfew and "Operation Iron Fist" after it cut off electricity supplies to houses and shops whose owners are in arrears with rent.

By MONK NKOMO

A private company was hired by the council

to cut off the electricity supply at a cost of R80 per house, according to a spokesman for the local civic association (Asro)

Mr Daan Mouton, acting town clerk of Atteridgeville confirmed the power cuts but said he did not know the amount being paid to the private company

The ANC, UDF and Asro yesterday condemned the council's decision "This is a highly provocative and suspicious move. We call upon our people to look at a form of mass action", the three organisations said in a statement

A spokesman for the local branch of Cosas said the power cuts were going to retard their progress as they were busy preparing for final examinations

The cuts were done four days after the Pretoria City Council an-

nounced that they were not going to cut electricity supplies in Atteridgeville and Mamelodi again after the Pretoria Regional Services Council granted both town councils loans to pay their electricity bills following a rent boycott

The decision by the Atteridgeville council to cut electricity supplies yesterday was taken at a special council meeting on October 5 "to convince the RSC and the Pretoria City Council that we are doing something", Sowetan established yesterday. The council also discussed the possibility of implementing Operation Iron Fist and curfew after the power cuts.

Rate

Mouton said the reconnection fee of electricity was R15 per house plus rent arrears from June 1 this year. The rent boycott started on April 1

A number of residents yesterday telephoned Sowetan appealing to Asro officials to hold serious talks with the council to determine a flat rate and to resolve the rent crisis



Firemen extinguish a burning minibus that swerved off the Potchefstroom road near Moroka police station on Monday night. No one was injured in the accident.

Townships face blackout after rent talks deadlock

B1 Day 17/10/90

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WILSON ZWANE

to the two East Rand townships since the beginning of the month in terms of an interim agreement, had indicated it intended pulling out of the agreement and would discontinue the electricity supply, the council said. It said Eskom was due to cut off electricity to Wattville and Daveyton at midnight last night.

Agreement

But Eskom communication manager Johan du Plessis said his company would not cut off the townships' power supplies as they came from the Benoni Town Council and not "directly from Eskom".

However, it would pull out of the negotiations on direct electricity supply to Wattville and Daveyton if an agreement was not reached by last night, Du Plessis said.

TPA officials met representatives of the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) yesterday in an attempt to resolve the crisis, Sapa

reports

Speaking after the meeting, Transvaal MEC for local government Olaus van Zyl said "In the provision of services to communities, local authorities must inevitably employ staff. It was stressed by the TPA and accepted by Cast that the payment of salaries is one of the first priorities in meeting the financial needs of local authorities."

Van Zyl said Cast had not been in favour of the plan that councillors' allowances be paid.

As the TPA/Cast talks were in progress, the Atteridgeville Town Council was cutting off power to rent-defaulting residents. The council began cutting off power on Monday and Town Clerk Dan Muton said this process would continue until electricity accounts were paid.

Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Asro) official Abe Nkomo said his organisation had sent a letter of demand to the town council to switch power back on.

Muton confirmed that a letter of demand had been received.

TWO East Rand townships were facing power cuts last night after negotiations to resolve the rent crisis collapsed this week.

The talks deadlocked on Monday night when the Transvaal Provincial Administration's mandatory list of payment priorities was rejected at a meeting between the TPA, Eskom, representatives from the town councils of Benoni, Daveyton and Wattville and delegates from civic associations in the two townships.

In a statement yesterday, the Benoni Town Council said the TPA's attitude was that payments collected from residents should be used for wages before water, sewerage, refuse removal and electricity debts were paid.

The council said "certain parties present" rejected the TPA's list of payment priorities, saying that flat rates of R70 and R50 in Daveyton and Wattville respectively should be "utilised primarily for the payment of services such as electricity".

As a result of the deadlock, Eskom, which has been supplying electricity

Court action plan over power cuts

Sowetan 18/10/90

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AN application challenging the Atteridgeville Town Council's decision to cut electricity supplies to rent defaulters will be lodged in the Pretoria Supreme Court today, lawyers representing the residents said yesterday.

A spokesman for the lawyers said the application could have been brought to court earlier as a matter of urgency but due to certain technical problems they had to delay to prepare for the case.

Technicians belonging to a private firm started cutting electricity since Monday.

By MONK NKOMO

Acting town clerk, Mr Daan Mouton, said he did not know how much the council was paying the company.

Appeal

By yesterday 3 000 houses were without electricity.

The local branch of the Congress of South African Students yesterday appealed to the Atteridgeville Council "to consider the fate of the students" who are due to start their final exams but

can now not study at night.

"We view the action taken by the council as very much disturbing especially at this time of the year," said Cosas.

The council has announced that the only way to restore electricity was to first pay a R15 reconnection fee and arrears from June 1.

Meanwhile, 13 women and two men arrested on Tuesday after staging a sit-in in the Atteridgeville mayor's office were due to appear in court yesterday on charges of trespassing.

Concern over unclaimed bodies

Sowetan 18/10/90
A SOUTH African Council of Churches delegation headed by the Rev Frank Chikane has expressed "deep concern" to the police over the number of unidentified bodies at mortuaries

Regional commissioner of police, Major-General Gerrit Maritz, said the SACC had offered its assistance in identifying the bodies, locating their next-of-

kin and rendering pastoral care to the families.

He said the SAP asked all employees, companies, relatives or friends who had someone reported missing during the recent unrest to furnish all available details to The Regional Commissioner, SAP, Private Bag 5, Johannesburg 2000, for attention Colonel F G Malherbe - Sapa

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BACKGROUND

The black housing bubble has burst

The euphoria which greeted huge housing projects in black townships has almost disappeared because of unrest and a refusal — usually as a result of intimidation — by house owners to repay their loans

NORMAN CHANDLER traces the history of the market.

A catch phrase is no more. And also gone appear to be the hopes of millions of South Africans who do not have a suitable roof over their heads.

The phrase is "black housing" — the huge industry which has come into its own since influx control was lifted six years ago and black people began to move from rural districts into key urban centres.

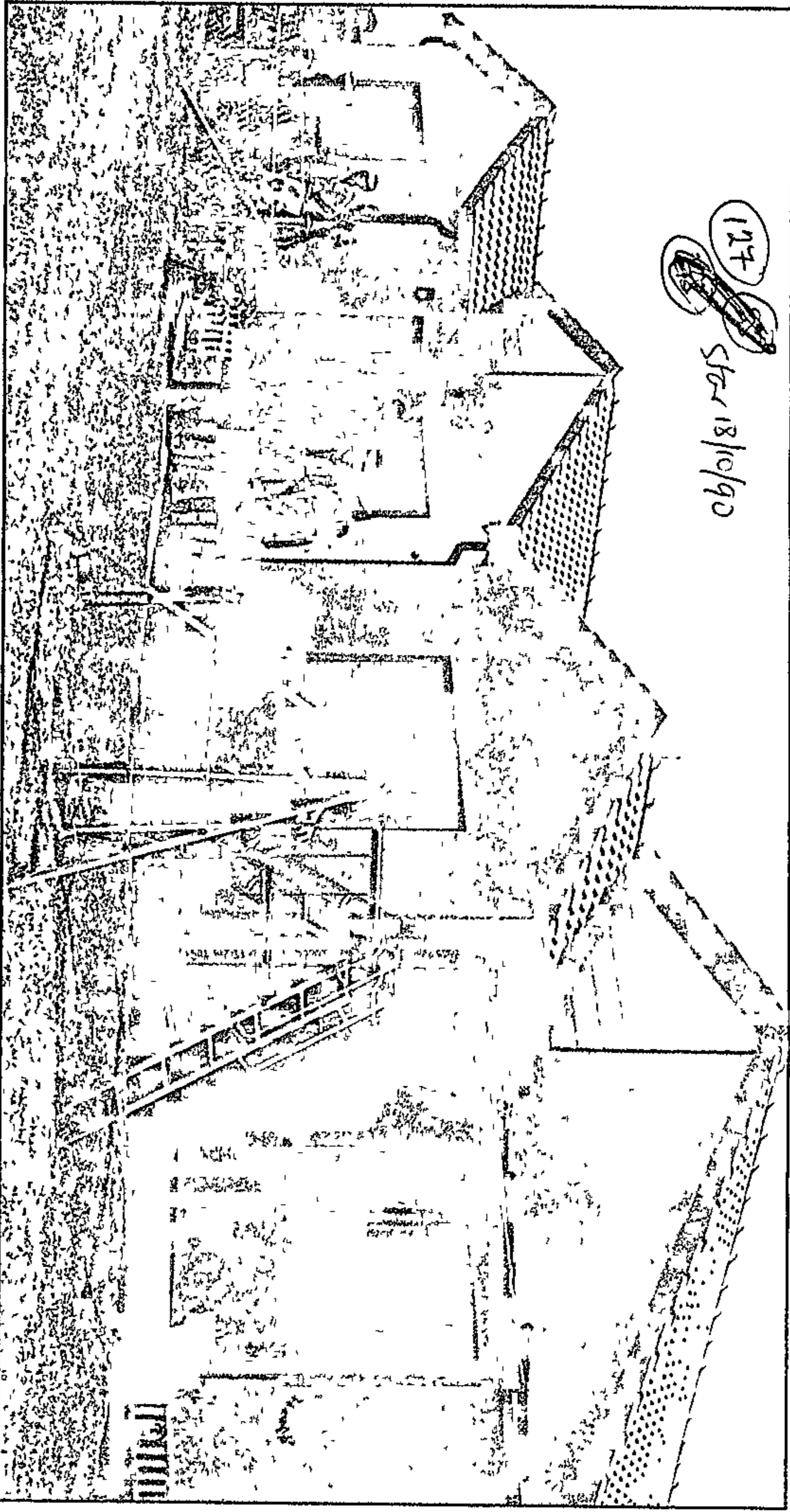
With their arrival, the majority without shelter of any sort, squatter towns began to dot the countryside.

The Government's method of dealing with this phenomenon was to declare the better ones "informal towns" which would at some time or other be upgraded to "formal towns".

It did not take long for entrepreneurs in the building industry to see the chance of a new potentially lucrative market.

They were soon followed by medium-sized companies, and then by the construction giants who fell over themselves to help blacks find a decent place in the South African sun.

All of these saw the housing market mushroom into the "miracle" the industry had been waiting for ever since the bottom fell out of the commercial market a few years ago. Huge townships — much like



Recent violence in the townships has resulted in new homes similar to the ones above being destroyed and people being urged, usually through intimidatory methods, not to repay loans obtained from banks and building societies. Consequently, the building industry began to re-examine their position and when staff were threatened and building materials pilaged in townships across the country, decided to adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

the New Towns which have become a feature in the United Kingdom — have been developed.

Thousands of people moved from their old houses to homes styled on "European lines" (their own preference, as house builders said), with their own gardens, services and other mod-cons.

The Government has gone on record as saying that at least 9 million people will have benefited by the end of the decade — and that translates into tens of thousands of houses being required.

But the bubble burst when the latest wave of unrest began. The violence has resulted in expensive new homes being destroyed and people being urged, usually through intimidatory methods, not to repay loans obtained from banks and building societies.

As the violence escalated, the building industry began to re-examine their position and when staff were threatened and building materials pilaged in townships across the country, decided to adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

The legal-notice sections of successive Government Gazettes have become thicker and thicker as finance houses applied successfully for court orders against bondholders who did not meet their commitments.

Thousands of people have lost their homes as a result of such orders.

There have been denials and counter-claims on this issue for months, but at some stage the nettle had to be grasped.

It was done this week by Herms Kriel, Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, when he called a press conference to discuss the country's housing situation and the development of a new policy.

What he said is proving de-

vastating for black people, for the industry and for investors.

Financial institutions had, he confirmed, placed a freeze on new home bonds for black clients, and top construction companies had decided to stop operations in the townships and were now merely completing existing contracts.

The reasons, Mr Kriel spelt out, were the violence, a refusal to repay loans and an understandable reluctance by finance houses to invest money in what has become a risk market.

First indications that there was something drastically wrong with the market came last month when the SA Perm and Natal Building Society, two of the biggest lenders, doubled their deposit requirements for black buyers.

Others said they were being "more selective" — in other words they were not giving out any further loans until they knew what the situation would be like.

At the same time, building contractors virtually downed tools.

It was a cruel irony that only a day or so before, the Urban Foundation — which has been in the forefront of trying to improve the lot of black South Africans — announced a November 1 launch date for the first of thousands of new home loans for low-income families.

This is part of a multibillion-rand loan guarantee fund, assisted by the British, German and Swiss governments, designed to protect bond lenders from the risk of default.

Even more ironic, in view of what has taken place this week, is that the guarantee fund is backed by some of the same financial institutions which are rethinking their position on the black housing market.

Tension climbs as power cuts spread

CAPE TOWN 12/10/90 (127)

JOHANNESBURG — Tension mounted in the Transvaal last night as black township residents reacted to continued cuts in power, water and other services by councils hit by rent boycotts

The Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) threatened mass action and blamed the cuts on the government's reluctance to act against the Transvaal Provincial Administration

The mass action — expected in the next few weeks — could involve consumer boycotts, mass demonstrations and work stayaways to pressure the government on the crisis created by its apartheid policies, Cast said

Affected areas included Atter-

idgeville in Pretoria, Toekomsrus near Randfontein, Wattville, Daveyton and Vosloorus on the East Rand, and several areas in the Eastern Transvaal

In Atteridgeville, where power has been cut to an estimated 3 000 homes, residents are planning legal action to stop further cuts to rent defaulters

Crisis point loomed as the water and power cuts spread to more townships last night

Residents of Maokeng in Kroonstad decided on a stayaway from today until services had been restored, while in the Eastern Transvaal township of Mhluzi, Middelburg, three councillors were attacked and a minibus was petrol-bombed

Years of boycott of rents and

service charges have plunged black town councils into near collapse. Residents regard the councils as "puppets" of the government.

The ANC yesterday issued a statement condemning the cuts, saying they affected hundreds of thousands of people and would fuel tensions

It held the government responsible "for any violence or chaos that results from such cut-offs"

"The boycotts began and have been sustained because our people totally reject apartheid institutions," an ANC statement said

"The various communities have agreed to resume paying rent in agreements painstakingly hammered out with the TPA" — Sapa

Dark weekend in Vaal townships

127
South 18/10 - 24/10/90

From MONO BADELA
JOHANNESBURG. — Tension is mounting in Transvaal townships as scores of thousands of black residents face a weekend without essential services.

At least seven major townships on the East and West Rand, including Atteridgeville in Pretoria, have had their power cut over the past few days.

Most of the areas affected fall under Conservative Party-controlled councils.

Residents have described the situation in the township as "chaotic" and claimed they had not been warned about the water suspension.

They have threatened to embark on consumer boycotts if the council contin-

ues to deprive them of essential services.

The United Democratic Front spokesman on local government, Mr Pat Lephunya, called upon the government to intervene.

At a conference in Johannesburg on Wednesday, Lephunya said the services crisis would result in the breakdown of the negotiation process.

Other speakers condemned the uncompromising attitude of the Transvaal Provincial Administration. They said negotiation at local level had become untenable.

Reprieve

In Pretoria, the Atteridgeville town council has cut electricity to at least 30-000 homes and on the East Rand urgent negotiations continued to end a power cut in Daveyton.

In the Benoni township of Wattsville, residents were granted a reprieve on Tuesday night from a midnight power cut after Eskom granted a 14-day extension.

Electricity has been cut in Middelburg's Mhluzi township and the Carolina township of Silobela.

Mass protest threat over services cuts

THE cutting of services to more than six Transvaal townships has been slammed by the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast), which is threatening mass action, and by the ANC which says the move will fuel tensions. (127)

Cast national co-ordinator Patrick Lephunya told a media conference yesterday that mass action — which was expected within the next few weeks — could involve consumer boycotts, mass demonstrations and work stayaways, Sapa reports.

Lephunya blamed power cuts on government, saying it was reluctant to use its machinery to stop the TPA from cutting electricity supplies to black townships where rent and service charge boycotts were in progress. B12M 18/10/90

In a statement yesterday, Cast said it did "not see its way clear in talking to people who cut electricity".

Electricity supplies to Toekomsrus near Randfontein were cut yesterday morning. Supplies to the East Rand township of Daveyton were cut on Tuesday night, after Monday's talks to resolve the rent crisis collapsed. Also on Tuesday, Bethal cut all services to Emzini and Ermelo suspended water and sewerage services to Wessington, while Carolina and Middelburg cut power supplies to Silobela and Mhluzi, WILSON ZWANE reports.

In Atteridgeville, near Pretoria, the

□ To Page 2

Services

B12M 18/10/90
town council yesterday cut electricity to non-paying residents

In a statement, the ANC said it noted with concern the growing tension in the townships following the town councils' decisions to cut essential services

"This will only fuel tensions and affect discussions in progress," it said

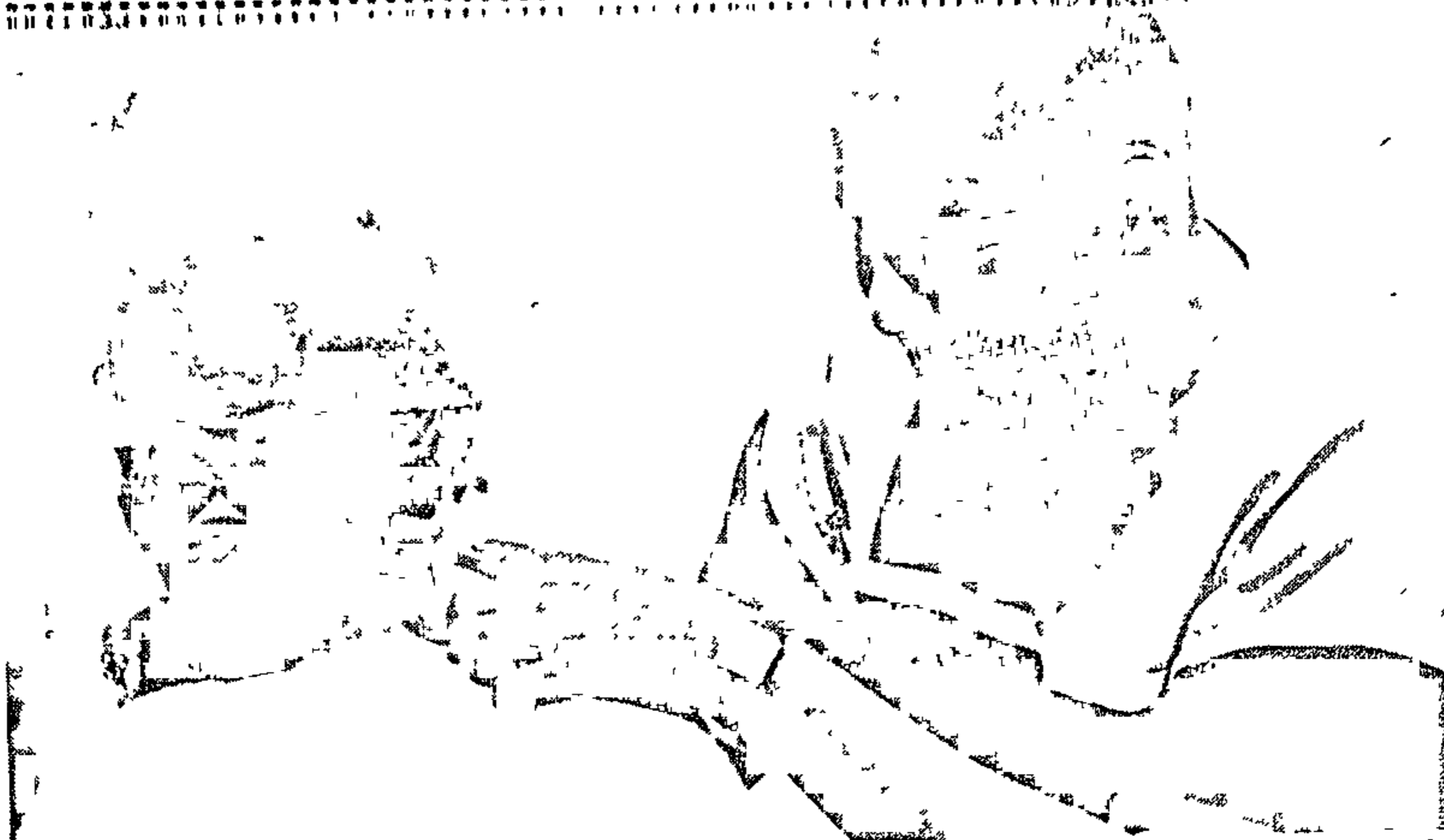
Meanwhile, Alexandra township's five-year rent boycott is to be tackled tomorrow, the Alexandra Civic Organisation said in a statement yesterday

(127) □ From Page 1

The TPA, the Rand Water Board, Regional Services Council, Eskom, the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the civic organisation would engage in "exploratory talks"

An Eskom spokesman said last night Eskom was considering summoning four black local authorities "who were R13m in arrears", THEO RAWANA reports

Communications manager Johan du Plessis said negotiations for a resumption of payments were being continued with the councils "wherever possible".



Mrs Primrose May, who was shot behind the ear and later lost consciousness after police allegedly fired teargas and birdshot in Toekomsrus township yesterday. Her son, Solomon, points to the injured area.

Talks over power cuts in six townships threatened

Somekn 18/10/90 127

NEGOTIATIONS between the TPA and the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal may break down following electricity cuts in six townships, Mr Pat Lephunya of Cast said yesterday

Lephunya said the UDF national office had

By DON SEOKANE

confirmed it would intensify mass action to pressurise the Government to attend to the crisis created by its policies

He said several actions were being considered, including a provincial

consumer boycott and stayaway, that would extend beyond the towns affected

Four eastern Transvaal townships, Mzinoni near Bethal and Wesselton near Ermelo, are without electricity, sewerage and water while Selobela near Carolina and Mhluzi near

Middelburg are dark

Daveyton would remain without electricity until an agreement was reached with the TPA and the Benoni Town Council, Daveyton town clerk, Mr DJ Erasmus said

Power was switched off at midnight on Tuesday after negotiations between the Daveyton, Benoni councils and the TPA deadlocked

Electricity to Toekomsrus was cut off yesterday.

A spokesman for the Toekomsrus Civic Association, Mr Thomas Luthers, said at least 15 army trucks and police vans accompanied municipal workers who were switching off electricity in the houses

The ANC yesterday issued a statement noting with great concern, the growing tensions in the townships, especially in the eastern Transvaal, resulting from decisions by Conservative Party-controlled councils

Rent boycott talks today (127)

ALEXANDRA township's five-year rent boycott is to be tackled today at a meeting of all parties concerned, according to a statement by the ALEXANDRA Civic Organisation. *Sowetan 19/10/90*

The TPA, the Rand Water Board, the Regional Services Council, Eskom, the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the Civic Organisation would engage in "exploratory talks" at the Alex City Council chambers

The meeting starts at 9am

"These are exploratory talks, we are not going to agree on anything and whatever proposals are made will be considered," the organisation said - *Sapa*

Blackouts in the townships 'make life more dangerous'

Blow 19/10/90

WILSON ZWANE and THEO RAWANA

TENSION was mounting yesterday as power was being cut to more Transvaal townships after the TPA, Eskom and representatives from the town councils and civic associations failed to solve the rent boycott crisis.

The switch-off began on Monday when the Atteridgeville town council started cutting power to rent-defaulting residents

On Tuesday, one East Rand township and three Eastern Transvaal townships were without electricity

The ANC has warned that it would "hold the government responsible for any violence or chaos that results from such cut-offs".

The TPA this week rejected a call by the Atteridgeville Residents' Organisation (Asro) to dismiss the local council "because of alleged irregularities"

"The allegation that there was corruption in the council could only be properly dealt with if full details were provided. In the absence of specific factual allegations, the matter could not be investigated," the TPA said

"Legally, the TPA could only dismiss councillors in terms of Section 29 of the Black Local Authorities Act, if the facts in the particular case support such action

"In the case of Atteridgeville, the Executive Committee of the TPA concluded that Section 29 steps would be inappropriate. The call for the dismissal of the Atteridgeville councillors must therefore be rejected," the TPA said in a statement

It added that Asro should assume full responsibility for the "unnecessary discomfort which their conduct causes to the people whose interests they purport to represent"

As power was being cut in Atteridgeville, the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) — a body representing 32 southern Transvaal civic associations — threatened to mobilise people to protest against the council's action.

Block

In a statement this week, Cast said it found it "inconceivable that basic services are being switched off by illegitimate council structures and racist white municipalities"

Yesterday Cast said it had made it clear to the MEC for local government, Olaus van Zyl, that the inclusion of black councillors in negotiations was a stumbling block to a fruitful negotiation process

"We proposed that the TPA cannot benefit from the inclusion of these people and should facilitate their removal," said Cast assistant secretary Cas Coovadia in a statement

He said Cast had committed itself to intensifying the mass struggle until apartheid was totally removed "and our real problems are resolved"

Residents and businessmen canvassed by Business Day condemned the services cuts, saying they were playing havoc with their daily activities

Asro spokesman Abe Nkomo said the switch-off would make the lives of township residents "miserable and would put countless lives in danger"

"Most people depend on electricity for the execution of their daily chores. People cannot use their electrical gadgets now because of the power cuts. Food will rot and people will be forced, against their will, not to buy in bulk because their electric fridges are useless"

He added that night activities such as vigils and night studies would have to be "put on hold"

Asked why the residents were not paying if they wanted to have electricity, Nkomo reiterated residents were willing to pay for services but not through "corrupt structures"

A factory worker said the black-out would endanger many late-shift workers "The tsotsis will now get their chance to mug the people coming from work late at night under the cloak of darkness," he said

A shopkeeper said the switch-off was seriously affecting business "There are lots and lots of perishable foods that I stock. How can I keep them frozen if my fridge has been rendered useless by the power cut?" he asked

A Mrs Mlangeni said as a housewife she had been dealt a blow by the switch-off

"I have an electric stove and I don't have either a gas or a paraffin stove. When electricity was switched off on Monday I did not know what to do until my neighbours suggested that we should make ourselves braziers. We are using braziers now," she said

She added that while cooking could be done on braziers the risk of using such devices inside a house was "not negligible"

By
Re

West Rand placed under new curfew

B/Dam 19/10/90

(127)

LINDEN BIRNS, TANIA LEVY
and TIM COHEN

GOVERNMENT last night placed a curfew on the West Rand township of Toekomsrus, where violence erupted on a large scale yesterday.

One person was shot dead and there were running battles between police and residents

Although the clashes were related mainly to electricity cuts, an ANC spokesman for the area said the trouble began when police allegedly teargassed a squatter settlement, which resulted in the suffocation of an elderly woman

On Wednesday night tempers flared in Toekomsrus, culminating in the burning down of the township's library

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok warned in a statement last night he would not hesitate to reimpose curfews on other Reef townships if there was a breakdown in law and order. He said he had ordered the curfew to protect law-abiding citizens

Failure

Meanwhile an 11th-hour decision by the Pretoria Regional Services Council (RSC) to lend three of the city's townships R17m to meet service arrears prevented the blanket suspension of electricity supplies to the townships

RSC chairman Peter Delpont announced the loans to Atteridgeville, Mamelodi and Zithobeni yesterday, shortly before electricity was due to be cut to the townships because of their failure to meet their electricity, sewerage and water arrears

The loan, which must be paid back over the next five years, will meet the council's arrears until the end of October

The loan is intended to pay for the council's bulk service commitments, and will not result in the restoration of electricity to about 2 000 Atteridgeville residents who have not paid their bills

Water and electricity supplies have been

cut at six townships which collectively owe at least R12m

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has provided water tankers to Emzini township, outside Bethal

Sapa reports that TPA spokesman Piet Wilken said yesterday water tankers would be provided as soon as possible to Wessleton township near Ermelo, the other Eastern Transvaal township affected by water cuts

Those affected by cuts in essential services are Silobela near Carolina, Mhluzi in Middelburg, Daveyton near Benoni, Atteridgeville, Zithobeni in Bronkhorstspuit and Maokeng in Kroonstad

The Kroonstad Town Council, which cut water and power supplies on Wednesday, decided yesterday to provide water to Maokeng township for two hours a day

The curfew which came into effect last night begins at 9pm and lasts until 4am every day and covers Toekomsrus and Toekomsrus Extension 1

Any residents stopped outdoors between those times will have to show documentary proof of their bona fides. Police will man roadblocks from 9pm and will search vehicles from that time

Sapa reports that police travelled through Toekomsrus last night announcing the curfew in English and Afrikaans, barely an hour after Vlok had introduced the measures

Barricades made from assorted debris barred streets. Police attempting to clear them were pelted with petrol bombs and other missiles

In a statement, the UDF said the countrywide termination of electricity supplies raised questions as to the TPA's sincerity in holding negotiations to end the rent and services boycott

See Page 6

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Home loans: Lenders wary of grey areas

FINANCIAL institutions are showing reluctance to grant loans in at least one grey area

The Weekly Mail has come across two incidents of people being refused bonds in different properties in Bertrams, Johannesburg. Banks and building societies polled by *The Weekly Mail* have denied they have national bans on granting bonds in certain areas — but most say decisions are left to regional managers

Estate agent Eileen Kovacz, who operates in Bertrams, remarks: "They say Bertrams is a high-risk area because it's 99 percent black."

She says if there is already a bond on the property the bank or building society may grant a "takeover bond" but is only prepared to give 65 percent to 70 percent of the bond amount being asked for.

It's virtually impossible to buy a house in Bertrams unless a company bond is available, reckons Kovacz

A journalist for a major newspaper, Glynis O'Hara, was flatly refused a bond by the United Building Society for a house in Judith's Paarl. However, the SA Perm was willing to grant a bond — at R10 000 less than was asked for.

Her experience suggests that even where bonds are granted, house prices are pushed down

De Huizemark chairman Piet Hamman goes further. He is adamant that financial institutions are refusing to grant loans in suburbs like Hillbrow, Joubert Park, Jeppe, Bez Valley, and Malvern

Applications for loans in these areas are either flatly refused or the terms offered make things very difficult for prospective buyers.

If Hamman is correct, the reluctance to grant bonds in those areas threatens to hasten a decline in those areas.

"If this is happening it would make the prophecy that grey areas will become slums self-fulfilling," agrees property economist Neville Berkowitz

The refusal to grant bonds restricts the sale of properties and condemns the areas to slumdom. Buyers' only alternative is to find cash; other owners will have to rent out their properties on a large-scale, accepting low rentals for them.

UBS MD Mike De Blanche says deci-

Lenders' reluctance to grant mortgage bonds on homes in grey areas could make the fear that these areas will become slums a self-fulfilling prophecy, reports

REG RUMNEY

sions are left to the local boards "There are a few areas where we do not grant loans, for instance where we feel the general area to be dilapidated. Most areas would qualify for loans. Any area would be reviewed on a regular basis."

"Each branch would have its own specific policy," says the SA Perm senior GM Peter Hibbit. But he says the stability of the area is important in assessing the risk of individual applications

Allied Building Society MD Don Hunter says there is no blanket policy on granting loans in certain suburbs "There are minimum standards. We have to have some cut-off point below which we don't lend" Hunter says the dwelling and the ability to pay the loan are assessed.

This is mirrored by First National Bank GM Jimmy Mckenzie, who says decision-making on bonds is decentralised. "The regional general managers probably know the areas they want to be in."

He adds: "Every case would be evaluated in terms of risk" Mckenzie says FNB has done business in grey areas, such as Hillbrow.

"We haven't a formal policy," says Standard Bank senior GM Dennis Matfield. "We look at each case on its merits. There must be value in any house or flat we decide to finance."

In the US, financial institutions have "red lined" certain areas into which blacks move, causing prices to fall. Estate agents have been accused of engineering red lining to snap up properties cheaply for later gentrification or for use as office space.

In South Africa, fears of "bond boycotts" by disgruntled residents similar to the widespread rent boycotts in the townships may be causing banks and building societies to think twice about granting bonds in grey areas.

RENTS BOYCOTT: Conservative councils hit back ... and spark a new wave of violence

The lights go out - and unrest blows up again

127 219
w/may 19/10 - 25/10/90

By JO-ANNE COLLINGE

CONSERVATIVE town councils cut off water and electricity to rent-boycotting townships this week — and sparked a new wave of unrest.

On Wednesday, even as United Democratic Front representative Pat Lephunya warned that "further cuts will lead to a cessation of local negotiations and can only result in an escalation of conflict", confrontation loomed in the normally quiet township of Toekomsrus on the far West Rand, the volatile area of Wessington near Ermelo, and at Mhluzi near Middelburg.

At the same time, residents in Maokeng were planning an "indefinite" work stay-away to force the Kroonstad Town Council to resume supplies of electricity and water to the township.

These explosive developments around service cuts could be only the beginning. The UDF and the Civic Association for the Southern Transvaal (Cast) have pledged to launch an intensive campaign of mass action within a fortnight.

At least 10 Transvaal townships, two in the Free State and one in the Eastern Cape were this week subject to electricity and/or water cuts.

With townships in darkness and talks breaking down, the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) faces the reality that it will not be easy to replicate the successful rent and housing settlement achieved in Soweto.

The political dimension of the rent boycott continues to raise its head. This centres largely on the role and future of black local authorities, which have little voter support and are rejected by the civic associations.

It also features white local authorities, who supply water to the townships and act as channels for the purchase of bulk electricity. Consequently, these white municipalities are owed large amounts of money by the black councils. And the interests of those that are Conservative Party-controlled in tackling the boycott might not be identical to those of the TPA.

The participation of township councillors in negotiations is also seen as a major obstacle to talks.

Said Cas Coovadia, of Cast: "We made it clear to the TPA that their insistence, and that of white local authorities — that black councillors be included in negotiations is a major stumbling block to a fruitful process of negotiations. We emphasised that opposition is vociferous in our constituencies to the continued legitimisation of black councillors."

The African National Congress issued

a statement pointing out that "negotiated agreements will be negated if the payment of rent is used to prop up discredited community councils and not to pay for essential services which are being cut off".

The organisation questioned why the cuts were occurring at the very time that local-level negotiations were taking place to resolve the rent problem.

"It is clear that the decision to cut services is political," the ANC concluded.

The TPA has issued a statement stressing "that it is not the TPA who is cutting off electricity and water" but the bulk supplier of services. In Wessington and Emzini near Bethal the province is providing water tanks to ease the action of the local councils.

For more on the local councils debate, see STEVEN FRIEDMAN on PAGE 6 and JO-ANNE COLLINGE on PAGE 7

Boycott indaba today

RESIDENTS of Transvaal townships hit by power cuts as a result of boycotts meet today to discuss the crisis

According to the Transvaal Provincial Administration, up to 50 townships are in arrears with their services charges and could face power cuts

A number of meetings were held yesterday between individual residents' associations and councils

It is hoped that, once residents have reached an agreement, settlements will be reached at meetings between

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Sunday Times Reporter

local civic associations and councils

Last night the only areas without water and sewerage were Wesselson, near Ermelo, and parts of Toekomsrus, near Randfontein

Said Transvaal MEC in charge of local government Olaus van Zyl "Several councils have phoned me to say that negotiations between themselves and local residents' representatives have started

"We can only hope that

they come to a solution and arrangements for payments can be made"

In Middelburg, the area's largest employer, Middelburg Steel and Alloys, has agreed to pay the R370 000 arrears to restore power to the township

An ANC spokesman said the power cuts were aimed at intimidating people "to pave the way for bitter clashes between non-armed residents and the police"

● Tensions are running high in Cape Town's squatter settlements with police and army units maintaining a heavy presence amid fears of further outbreaks of violence

The township of Khayelitsha has been seething since assassins shot dead Nomsa Mapongwana, the wife of Khayelitsha community leader and ANC member Michael Mapongwana

At Crossroads, meanwhile, security forces moved in to separate warring factions. More than 1 000 people supporting Johnson Ngxobongwa fled the area after being attacked earlier in the week by supporters of ANC-aligned Jeffrey Nongwe

Eviction law is breaking down in black areas

By EZRA MANTINI and DIRK TIEMANN

SOwETO businessman Peter Maringa has been trying for five years to take occupation of a house inherited from his grandmother. When he tried to evict the tenants, they told youngsters in the neighbourhood they were being ejected for not paying rent — and Mr Maringa's life was threatened. Warnings, visits by the deputy sheriff and police orders have not helped: the tenants won't budge. In another part of Soweto, a man who defaulted on his bond has refused to vacate his home. After an unsuccessful attempt to auction his house last year, Mr Thabo Mboweni (not his real name) has chased away all prospective buyers.

"I have lived here for 10 years and will not lose the house now to a building society. I hope to recover next year and pay my arrears," he said. Mr Maringa and Mr Mboweni represent two faces of the same problem: the breakdown of law in some black townships. The recession and township violence have led to a dramatic slowdown in black homebuilding. Major housing developers are pulling out of the black market and some financial institutions are cutting down on loans to black clients because it is impossible to evict defaulters.

Lefa Estates managing director Samuel Dikotla said this week: "Building societies are facing big problems in recovering their money from bond defaulters. It must be appreciated that home ownership is a relatively new concept among black people. The situation is different in white areas. When a house is repossessed in a white area, the old owners simply move out without too much fuss. But in the case of black townships the situation is different. Instead of a defaulter moving out, he digs in his heels and refuses to go. In most instances, the client

claims he has not been notified about the sale of his house." Mr Dikotla said township homeowners usually met their obligations once they understood what was expected of them. But not all institutions are experiencing serious bond defaults. The Perini's Bob Tucker confirmed that specific and localised threats of repayment boycotts had been experienced — but had now been resolved. Uncertainty over the first homeowners' subsidy, which was recently terminated, and the "to-ing and fro-ing" to have it reinstated, had put developers in a quandary. "To lay the blame solely on bond boycotts is misleading and inaccurate," he said.

But United Building Society general manager Piet Kruger supported a statement by Housing Minister Hernus Kriel this week that there has been a drastic slowdown in lending. "One gets a situation where the normal laws do not work," Mr Kruger said. "A court order is obtained and the property is sold in execution, but the messenger of court cannot evict the owner. If he does succeed, the owners move back in after he has left, or the new owners are intimidated should they dare to move in." On the question of building and development, Gough Cooper Homes managing director Frank Berkeley said: "Many developers

have over-extended themselves and the major players are holding hundreds of millions of rands tied up in land they cannot develop. The building societies have not stopped lending, but the requirements are now more stringent." Chairman of the National Association of Homebuilders Llewellyn Lewis said more than 145 000 people were employed in the home building industry. But he warned that there was an exodus from township housing into the high-cost housing market. He said: "Developers don't know where to buy because the abolition of the Group Areas Act implies that townships will in future be developed according to economic criteria."

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By SOPHIE TEMA

A new rent crisis was looming in Transvaal townships, civic associations warned this week.

The associations said the official strategy of power and water cuts was a recipe for disaster that would affect the progress of a number of official and township negotiations in progress on rent boycotts.

But the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) pointed out this week that electricity and water in townships were being cut by the bulk suppliers of those services - Eskom and the Rand Water Board - and not by the TPA.

Meanwhile, civic associations - the UDF National Crisis office and the Civic Association of Southern Transvaal

Power cuts 'recipe for disaster'

(CAST) - said the water and power cuts to Sibobela, Mhluzi, Wessleton and eMzintoni, would lead to intensified residents' action.

Water and electricity were cut to these areas between October 15 and 16.

A statement by the UDF National Crisis Office said, "We are deeply disturbed by the developments in various townships in the Transvaal."

"The switching off of the electricity supply to numerous townships, together with the uncompromising attitude of the TPA, local authorities and other par-

tial institutions, have led to a situation where negotiations at local level have become untenable."

Cast said, "The switching-off of lights only lead to anger among the people."

Matters came to a head on Friday at Pretoria City Council when the council was ordered to temporarily restore electricity to Atteridgeville residents.

The court ruled that the power cuts to the 1 500 houses be stopped until October 24 this year.

During this period residents were required to pay their accounts for September only.

Failure to comply with the temporary relief would lead to electricity cuts after 1pm on October 24.

This means that more than 8 000 residents must pay their service charges for September only, plus a R15,50 recon-

nection fee. Final judgement on the application would be delivered on October 26. In the meantime residents were requested to pay their accounts for September.

Several organisations including the East Rand's Daveyton Town Council were this week negotiating with the white town councils to restore the supply of power to townships that have been affected by the power cuts.

In Germiston electricity supply and the switch-offs were discussed at length at a meeting held between the Daveyton Town Council, the TPA, the Daveyton Residents' Association and the Daveyton Ministers' Fraternal Association. Following discussions with Eskom, an agreement was reached between the council and the supplier to reconnect electricity to Daveyton. The accord would be valid until October 31. It was agreed Daveyton residents would start paying a flat rate of R70

Power restored as residents litigate

B109 22/10/90

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AN URGENT application brought by four representatives of Daveyton residents to have electricity restored to the township was postponed on Friday after the court had been told power was being switched on.

Counsel for the Daveyton City Council, N Segal, informed Mr Justice Marais that electricity was being restored to the township following an interim agreement between Eskom and the Chief Director of Local Government.

Segal said the interim agreement followed negotiations between Eskom and the Chief Director on Friday.

"An interim agreement has been reached that electricity is to be supplied until October 31," he said.

"I understand that it is being done at the moment and is to be supplied at the risk of Eskom."

Daveyton's power was cut off on October 16.

One of the four community members who brought the urgent application was a firm of undertakers which said its business had been affected by the shut off.

The court heard that Daveyton Undertakers had had to move five corpses to another mortuary in Wattville as a result.

Daveyton interim committee chairman James Ngubo and three other township

SUSAN RUSSELL

representatives brought their application on Friday against the Daveyton city council, Benoni Town Council, the East Rand Regional Services Council, the Administrator of the TVL and Eskom.

When the application began before Mr Justice Marais, counsel for the Benoni Town Council, D Osborne SC, applied for a postponement in order to prepare his argument properly. It was at this stage that Segal informed Mr Justice Marais of the interim agreement to restore power to the township.

At the request of the parties Mr Justice Marais recommended that the matter be heard first as a matter of urgency on October 31.

Ngubo said afterwards that the interim agreement was yet another act of bad faith on the part of the authorities.

He said it had been reached with certain discredited individuals on the Daveyton City Council who were not recognised as representative of residents although the names of these people were not reflected in the agreement itself.

Interim Committee member Mahlomola Skhosana said Friday's interim agreement was part of a political game aimed at dividing Daveyton residents.

Sta 23/10/90

RSC says no to financial help for Wesselton

Staff Reporter

The Conservative Party-controlled Oosvaal Regional Services Council has refused cash aid for Ermelo's waterless Wesselton township, even though the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) had given it permission for this

Wesselton today entered its eighth day without water or waterborne sewerage after Ermelo's CP council suspended services for non-payment of services and rent

Fears have been expressed by local leaders about the deteriorating sanitary conditions and the possible outbreak of disease.

Oosvaal RSC chairman Gert Gouws said the Wesselton Town Council had applied for general financial assistance on October 11 and had been turned down last Wednesday, the day after water was cut

The African National Congress was due to meet the TPA today in an attempt to have Wesselton's water reconnected.

children until exams are over. ... to go to the
Pic LEN KUMALO

Pretoria hit as many heed call

THOUSANDS of people stayed away from work in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, yesterday in protest against the local council's decision to cut electricity supplies to the homes of rent defaulters.

All local schools were deserted as pupils heeded the call by the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents Organisation to embark on a stayaway in

Sowetan 23/10/90
By MONK NKOMO

protest against the council's decision

Asro's publicity secretary, Mr John Ramatsui, said yesterday civic organisations would meet on Thursday to finalise plans for a consumer boycott which will span the Greater Pretoria area.

The campaign would also stretch from Pretoria

to KwaNdebele and on the west to Brits and Bronkhorstspruit on the east.

Ramatsui said residents in townships would buy supplies from black businessmen, but boycott all white businesses.

This course of action had been decided on because all attempts to resolve with the Government regarding the

"corrupt" black local authorities had come to nothing

Meanwhile, homes belonging to two local councillors were attacked with petrol bombs and stones in Atteridgeville at the weekend.

A Pretoria police spokesman confirmed that councillor Mr E Ntuba's house was slightly

TO PAGE 2

Page 2

Many in Pretoria protest

Sowetan 23/10/90
From Page 1

damaged after being stoned by people. Nobody was injured.

The police spokesman said a petrol bomb was thrown into the house of another councillor, a Mr Makwe, early on Sunday morning but did not explode. Both houses were under police guard. No arrests have been made.

Police

Councillors' homes have been under heavy police guard since last Monday when the council started to cut the electricity supply to houses of residents who owe rent. So far 8 500 houses are without electricity.

A large number of people who ignored the stayaway call were stranded because taxis were not operating. Many used trams and buses to work.

Police patrolled the streets in vans. No incidents were reported at the time of going to press.

Residents said they were willing to pay rent but only after councillors had resigned.

Warned

The Pretoria Supreme Court on Friday ordered the council to suspend the council until tomorrow pending the response of the residents, who have been warned to pay only the September account plus a R15 reconnection fee to help the electricity power restored.

The application against the council and the Administrator of the Transvaal was brought by Asro. The hearing continues on Friday

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Probe into claims over police actions at Ermelo

A TOP-LEVEL inquiry is taking place into claims that Ermelo policemen last week slashed plastic containers and chased people away from taps from which they were trying to obtain water.

Sowetan 23/10/90
In a statement, a police spokesman described the incidents - if true - as being "untoward behaviour" which would not be tolerated but denied allegations that witnesses to the slashings had been asked by police officers to change their original statements.

The incidents occurred last Thursday at Ermelo's Wesselton township, which houses 50 000 people. The area is today without water for the eighth successive day after Ermelo Town Council suspended supplies, as well as the

sewerage system, because of non-payment for services

Mr Brian Currin, the national director of Lawyers for Human Rights, said in Pretoria yesterday a witness, garage owner Mr Boetie Tilly, had been asked on three occasions last Friday and Saturday "to commit perjury" after he had earlier given a statement to the police regarding the incidents.

Currin said a protest "to voice our objection in the strongest possible terms to the fact that Tilly is being pressurised to perjure himself" would be lodged with Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Vlok and Commissioner of Police General Johan van der Merwe after an affidavit and a report had been received from Tilly - *Sowetan Correspondent*

Pretoria faces boycott over township cut-offs

13/10/90
THE greater Pretoria area is faced with a consumer boycott if talks between Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hennis Kriel and black civic organisations fail to resolve the electricity and water crisis.

Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Association (Asro) publicity secretary John Ramatsui said yesterday the decision to embark on a boycott of white business came after the Pretoria City Council refused to reconnect electricity and TPA refused to dismiss the local authority.

Ramatsui said Asro had been informed by Planning Department officials that Kriel was willing to hold talks with them. The meeting is still to be arranged.

He said Asro and civic organisations from Brits, Hammanskraal, KwaNdebele and Bronkhorstspuit

THEO RAWANA

were due to meet on Thursday to decide when the boycott would begin.

A court ordered the Pretoria and Atteridgeville councils on Friday to stop cutting power to residents, and residents were in turn urged to pay their September accounts. The order expires tomorrow. (127)

Demand

Ramatsui said: "A commission of inquiry had found that Atteridgeville councillors were corrupt, so we demand that the TPA should dissolve the council and appoint an administrator, who could even be an official from the Pretoria council."

Meanwhile, the TPA has given the following details about electricity and water supply cut-offs:

□ Daveyton in Benoni had its electricity supply restored last Friday, while 10 700 Atteridgeville (Pretoria) households were without lights unless they paid September bills by tomorrow. Only 400 houses had electricity.

□ In the eastern Transvaal Eskom was supplying electricity to Wessington township, but the Ermelo town council had cut water supply. The TPA had provided water tankers to relieve the situation.

□ Bethal Town Council cut off water supply to Emzini township on Friday and the TPA had provided three water tankers

□ The western Transvaal town of Wolmaranstad cut off electricity supply to Tswelelang township on Thursday and water on Friday.

MORE residents of Wesselton, Ermelo - without water, electricity or sewerage for nine days - have described how policemen slashed water containers and chased people from taps

At a rally in Wesselton yesterday people gave accounts of how police had spilled water, broken their buckets and driven over water containers when they went to collect water at the nearby Indian

Wesselton residents tell of police brutality

SOWETAN Correspondent

township of Cassim Park. Services to the township of 50 000 were cut off by the Ermelo Town Council because of non-payments.

Mr Brian Curran, national director of Lawyers for Human Rights, said

yesterday a witness to the slashings, garage owner Mr Boeth Tilly, had been asked on Friday and Saturday "to commit perjury" after he had earlier given a statement to the police.

Tilly said he had seen policemen slash buckets filled with water after he had given "100 to 150" people permission to take

water from taps on the forecourt of his petrol station at Cassim Park

Police yesterday denied they had tried to force Tilly to change his statement.

Mrs Khabo Ngcobo said she had seen police pour a "substance" into a stream near the township on Wednesday. Other residents said they had

also seen this. Ms Sibongile Manana said as she walked home after fetching water at Cassim Park police stopped her, crushed her container and sjambokked her.

Mr PT Kedikanetsoe said some of the residents who were getting water from the nearby mine were stopped by the po-

life from doing so. An elderly woman said that on Thursday she had sent her daughter to buy mealie meal in Ermelo when a black policeman stopped her daughter and started kicking the bucket she was carrying.

"He did this despite my daughter having told him that she was carrying

maize meal and not water", she said.

Police yesterday said the claims were viewed in a very serious light.

Brigadier Vic Haynes, of the SAP directorate of public relations, added "It is definitely not police policy to act outside the law and where such behaviour by any member can be proved, the police will act against the individual."

DP leader hits at electricity cuts

ELECTRICITY and services cuts to townships by town councils could lead to desperation that would aggravate unrest and conflict, Democratic Party leader Dr Zach de Beer said in Durban yesterday.

Addressing University of Natal students, De Beer said boycotts of rent and service charges and the refusal to pay mortgage bonds were endangering stability and the very social contract on which society was based

He blamed the town councils' lack of legitimacy for the problems and urged the Government to treat the situation seriously.

De Beer said there were certain sinister and frightening aspects of South African life that were threatening the



ZACH DE BEER

political settlement process.

The recent taxi and train murders on the Reef were executed with ruthless efficiency and the perpetrators had no inkling as to the politics of their victims

The DP leader suspected extremist elements either from the right of the Government or the left of the African National Congress.

He said the left lacked the military and organisational skill to execute the operations and it was also

127
not clear what black nationalist extremists had to gain from exacerbated violence and killing

"It is also too clear that murderous behaviour among black people strengthens the hand of right wing extremists.

"The Renamo flavour of the whole thing is strong," he said.

De Beer said unless the Government took effective action to root out people in the security forces who planted a monkey's foetus on the door of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, there would be reason to suspect a third force was operating in the security forces without the knowledge of the Cabinet - Sapa

24/10/90
Sowetan

By Day 24/10/90

Repeal of Group Areas Act causing price uncertainty

UNCERTAINTY about what will happen after the Group Areas Act is repealed is playing havoc with the property market, Multiple Listing Services (MLS) East Rand regional chairman Jan Grové says.

He believes the Act's repeal will affect various areas differently and that two possible scenarios may result.

Demand for accommodation may soar when the Act is repealed and this will force property prices up, especially for rented accommodation.

Upgraded

"With 68% of black, coloured and Indian families living on less than R600 a month, suburbs with houses or flats for rent will be highly sought after."

These groups will probably move to suburbs in Johannesburg such as Hillbrow, Yeoville, Berea, parts of the CBD area and certain parts of the East Rand, he says

"If a higher-income group of another race replaces a poor white group in a particular area, that area will automatically be

upgraded and property prices will rise"

The other scenario is that the effect will be similar to desegregation in the US.

When one race group moves into a particular area, there is an exodus of the predominant race group. They then sell at lower prices.

Then, unrest, crime and urban blight may increase — which has already happened in Hillbrow, Grové says

"However, partial relaxation of the Act is no solution. Neither is the Free Settlements Act.

"Both will destabilise natural market forces, resulting in additional social pressures and a sudden acceleration of urban decay in certain suburbs.

"A satisfactory and enduring resolution of this sensitive issue will largely depend on the attitude of all race groups involved. I believe that mutual trust and respect should be the guiding criteria."

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Rent meeting ^{Sowetan 25/10/90} in stalemate ¹²⁷

A RENT crisis meeting between the Vosloorus Civic Association and the Transvaal Provincial Association deadlocked on Tuesday over a R30 difference in service rates proposed by the VCA for residents of the East Rand township

VCA publicity secretary Mr Keith Montsitsi said Eskom - also present at the meeting - lowered its initial electricity payment demand from R50 to R40, but TPA representative Mr Nigel Mandy insisted on a monthly payment of R70

The TPA, VCA, Eskom and the Regional Services Council will meet again on Monday, the ninth meeting in as many weeks

In the meantime, the TPA has undertaken to

reconsider the association's interim offer of R50 and the town council will consider a 24-hour electricity switch-on

The rent and service boycott began in July to highlight residents' grievances about allegedly high charges and faulty meters. - Sapa

Bakane resigns

THE chairman of the ruling Venda Council for National Unity, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana, announced the replacement of Mr Gilbert Bakane from the Taylor Commission into corruption because of ill-health

He will be replaced by Mr Isaac Raphala - Sapa

Township's water is back

(127)
Soweto
25/10/90

THE water supply to Wesselton near Ermelo, cut off last Tuesday because of arrears in water account payments, was resumed yesterday.

Ermelo Mines, a colliery near Ermelo managed by Trans-Natal Coal Corporation, agreed at a meeting in Ermelo on Tuesday night to pay these arrears, amounting to R130 000, to the Ermelo Town Council, the company announced in a statement yesterday.

After lengthy discussions between the Administrator of Wesselton, representatives of Ermelo Mines, representative bodies of the Wesselton

community which included the Civics Association, church leaders, the ANC and Inkatha, Ermelo Mines offered to pay the amount in arrears in order to have the water supply to Wesselton resumed.

A fund-raising campaign was also launched by various concerned parties to provide financial assistance to Wesselton residents, the statement said.

The representatives of the community undertook to formulate a plan of action in conjunction with other interested parties to ensure that future monthly payments would be made on time. - Sapa.

to pay Mhluzi's R370 000 electricity debt to had decided that the council should resign by

Township residents paying bills

THEO RAWANA

RESIDENTS were honouring their Greater Soweto Accord commitment and payments for rent and service charges were picking up, Soweto Town Clerk Piet Geers said yesterday

He was reacting to a R154m financial assistance package from the Central Witwatersrand RSC to Greater Soweto and Alexandra. This was as additional financial assistance to meet essential operating costs until March 31 1991

The three Greater Soweto councils of Dobsonville, Diepmeadow and Soweto were bound by the accord — signed with the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Soweto People's Delegation — to negotiate with the RSC for interim finance. The accord effectively ended the rent boycott and wrote off Soweto's R516m debt.

The RSC grant, announced at the council's meeting on Tuesday, was made on the understanding that Soweto residents would keep up payments, which would average about R56,80 a month

Geers said yesterday payments were "picking up", but figures would be available only next week

The RSC decided a new agreement would be necessary after March 31.

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MDM not behind bond boycott

so wefen 25/10/90
THE Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) has dismissed the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs statement that the Mass Democratic Movement was behind the boycott of bond repayments by homeowners

Cast spokesman, Mr Cas Coovadia said: "We must emphasise that we have not called for any bond boycott. If people decide to go on a bond boycott because of defective houses built by private developers - then they have good reason to do so"

"We thus find it ludicrous when Mr Hernus Kriel places responsibility for the housing crisis and some bond boycotts on political leaders and our so-called "irresponsible" behaviour

Coovadia was featured on TV2/3 news on Monday where he explained the MDM's position on the bond boycott

Also featured was Mr Bob Tucker of the SA Perm and Mr Martin van Zyl of Comiat Developers

Tucker called for the government, developers, home owners and relevant organisations to "join hands in solving the problem."

Rent meeting in stalemate

Sowetan 25/10/90

127

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In the meantime, the TPA has undertaken to

reconsider the association's interim offer of R50 and the town council will consider a 24-hour electricity switch-on.

The rent and service boycott began in July to highlight residents' grievances about allegedly high charges and faulty meters. - Sapa

R154-m grant for electricity in Soweto

127

Soweto
25/10/90

By DON SEOKANE

THE Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council has approved a grant of R154 million to ensure the continued supply of essential services such as electricity to the Greater Soweto and Alexandra townships

CWRSC chairman Mr John Griffiths said yesterday R27,4 million would be used to finance the supply of electricity until March next year on condition consumers paid the minimum rates stipulated in "the Soweto Accord".

Griffiths said Eskom had agreed to continue supplying electricity to these areas and would de-

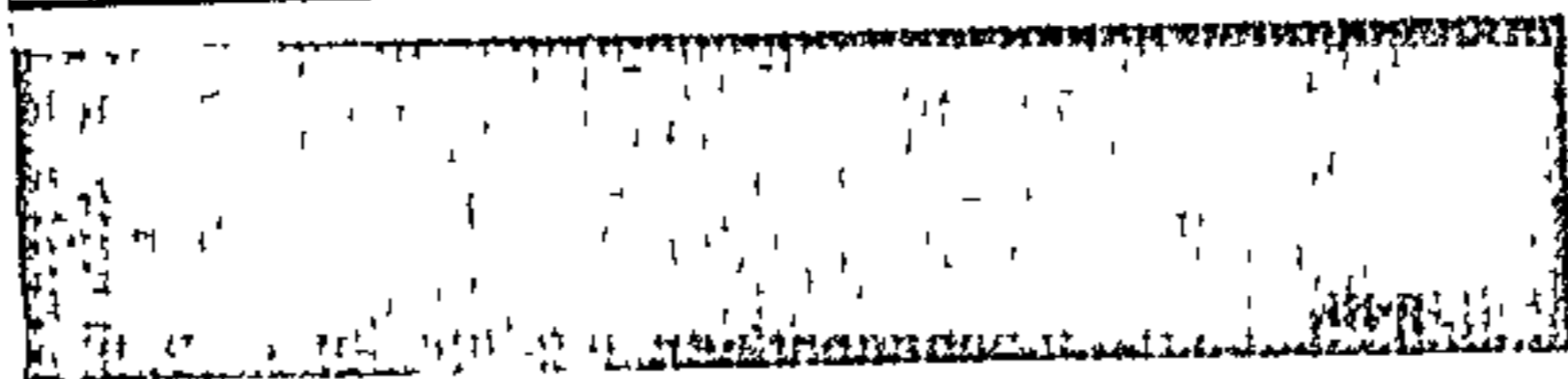
cide when the supply would be stopped if residents and other electricity users did not pay their bills

According to the financing agreement, the four councils should

- * Effectively provide services, increase income, reduce expenditure and co-operate with neighbouring white local authorities;

- * Develop an economic tariff structure to replace the interim service charges of R23 a month and the metered electricity charge of 12c a unit,

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Jo'burg water is most expensive

B Day 26/10/90

127

ACHMED KARIEM

JOHANNESBURG has the most expensive water in SA, followed by Durban and Pretoria, a world survey of water prices has found.

The findings were released this week by National Utility Services (NUS), which provides a fuel and energy cost control analysis programme to 750 000 business establishments worldwide and services 2 500 clients in SA.

Water prices in SA's major centres increased by an average of 14,7% in the year to end-June.

NUS SA marketing director Peter Cornelius said there was a correlation between rises in SA water prices and inflation, unlike power costs which had remained below the inflation rate in recent years

"If this rate of increase is maintained, South Africans can expect to see costs of water double within four to five years"

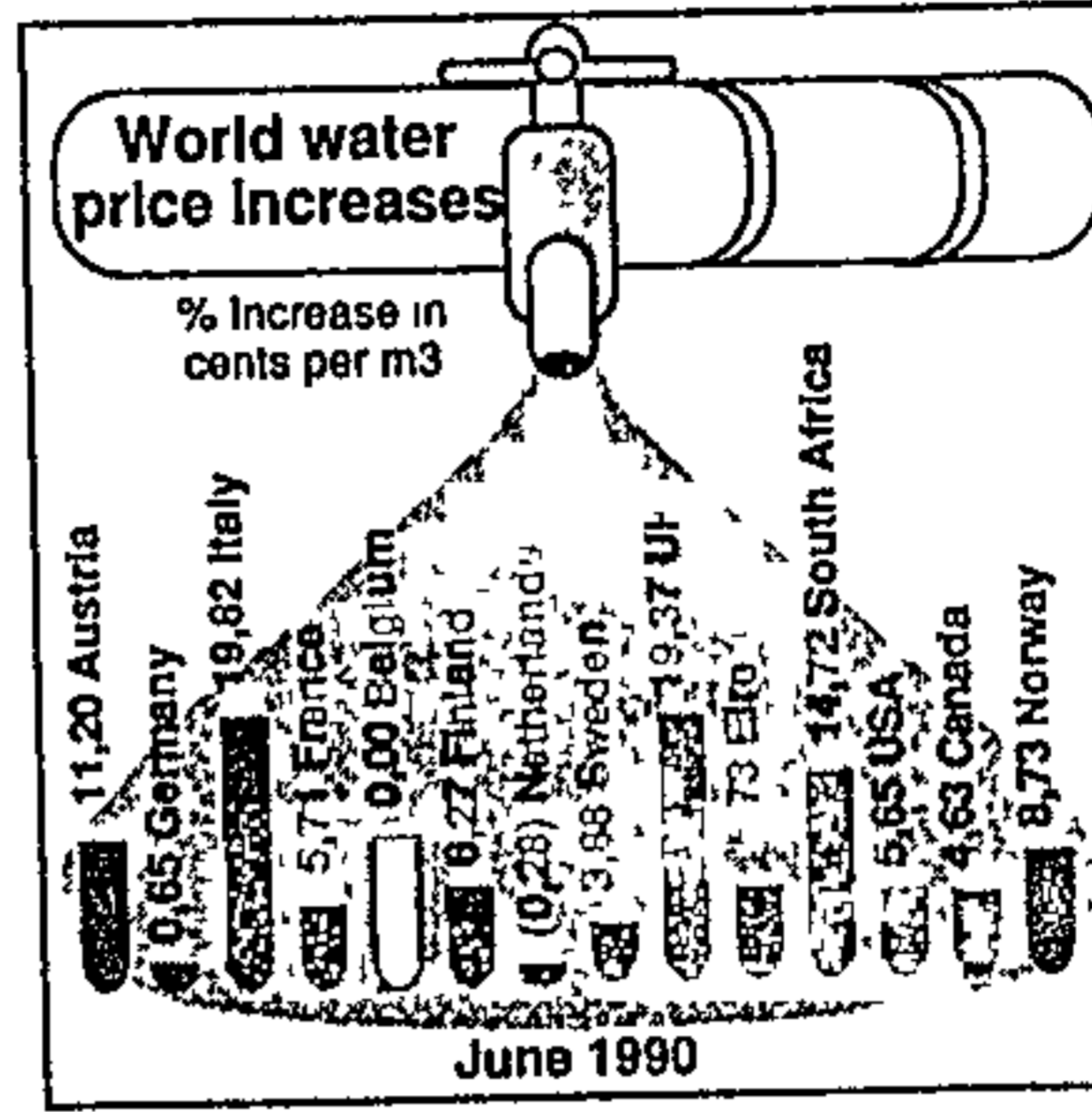
The survey showed the price of Johannesburg's water was 189c/m³, followed by Durban's at 107c, Pretoria's 100c, Cape Town's 91c, Port Elizabeth's 82,2c and East London's 75,8c

The average price for these cities was 107,5c/m³

Prices in Johannesburg and Pretoria are linked to the Rand Water Board's increases.

In Cape Town, water prices increased by 30% in the year to end-June

Cornelius said this rise was due to the city council's planned new R550m treatment plant at Faure.



Graphic: LEE EMERTON Source: NUS

He said the prognosis for Cape Town was dismal, with another 30% increase anticipated in the current year, because the city could have exhausted its present facilities by the year 2020

The outlook for water costs in SA generally was bleak, he added.

"It is generally accepted that with the current rate of population growth, we will start running short of water supplies within 30 years unless major new conservation schemes are tackled

"This implies major increases in water costs for reasons of inflation, the capital costs of conservation schemes and the growing expense of reticulation," he said

The survey showed UK water prices had nearly doubled after privatisation, while Australia had the world's most expensive water.

Talks on rates for Vosloorus

Monday 26/10/90
THE ANC's Vosloorus branch will meet the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) today in an attempt to resolve the deadlock over electricity rates in the East Rand township. (127)

Vosloorus ANC information officer Elliot Sogoni said residents were prepared to pay a flat monthly rate of R50 for electricity, but the TPA and town council wanted R70.

He said residents had been deprived of their right to electricity at a time when tensions were running high after recent township violence.

Pupils' exam preparations had been disrupted and small and informal businesses were suffering. The Vosloorus Civic Association, town council, Eskom and the TPA were due to meet again on Monday.

Residents would meet to determine action to force the council to meet their demands for electricity, Sogoni said. — Sapa.

Power for Vosloorus residents

Sowetan 26/10/90

127

By DON SEOKANE

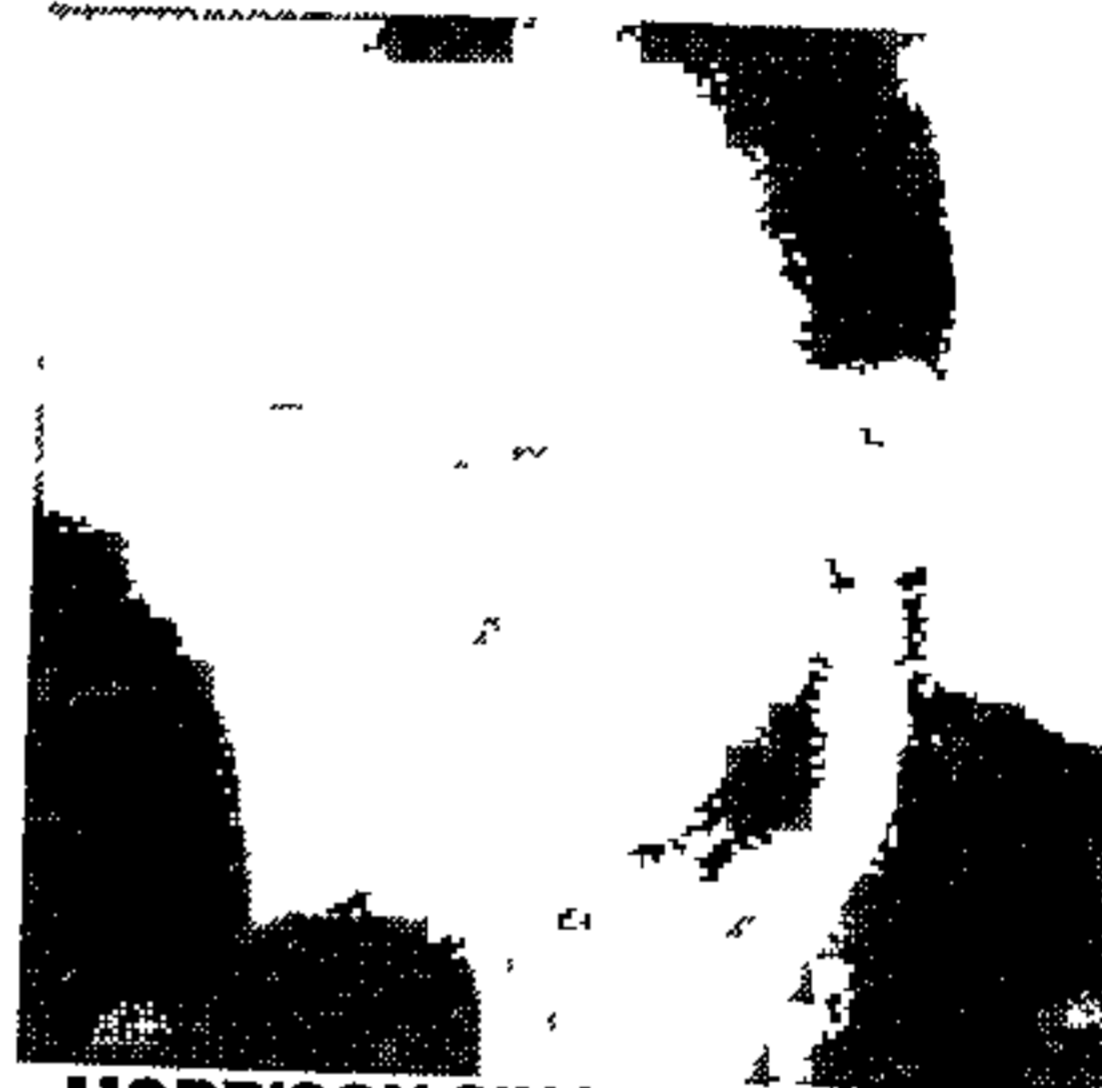
THE Vosloorus Town Council yesterday resumed power supply to the township after a residents' delegation told the council about their plight.

The delegates, led by Mr Gideon Mgoduka and Mr Anthony Mzazi, said power cuts were disastrous, particularly because pupils were preparing for their examinations. They said they were also concerned with the increasing crime rate during power cuts.

Vosloorus mayor Mr Morrison Sinokela said the council had agreed with the delegates that an interim flat rate of R60 be paid while negotiations with civic bodies and Eskom continue.

Sinokela said the council owed R4 million to Eskom in electricity arrears, R1,32 million to the Rand Water Board for water supply and R657 000 to the Boksburg Town Council and sewerage.

He said interest on all the arrears amounted to at least R35 000 a month and bridging finance from the Transvaal



MORRISON SINOKELA ... mayor

Provincial Administration cannot cover the arrears.

"Negotiations between the council and the Vosloorus Civic Association would be continued and we hope to reach an agreement on the arrears of services and electricity," Sinokela said.

A meeting has been organised for Sunday at the Vosloorus Civic Centre and discussions with the residents, relating to the interim rates would be held, Mgoduka said.



In 'Helen Joseph' hostel in Alexandra township, resources are limited and there is an absence of communal recreational facilities but the women make do Pictures AVIGAIL UZI

Behind the sisterhood, a sadness and anger

W/EM Oct 26/10 - 1/11/90

ALARGE woman strides down a gloomy concrete corridor in the fortress-like women's hostel in Alexandra. Emerging into the daylight, she looks at the small grass quad in the centre of the five-storey blocks, encircled with barbed wire to prevent the destruction of the only patch of green.

"We know why the fighting happened in the hostels," says the formidable "Queen Phakan".

"It is because men are living singly. There are no women and children to calm the situation, and they forget — when they fight — that they will lose them all."

Back inside the concrete maze she pauses a moment from her analysis of the recent Reef violence to bellow cheerful greetings to other residents down the unlit corridor "Hey girl — how are you?"

"I am fine. And how are you my baby?"

This is a far cry from the war-ravaged men's hostels, where tired and despondent men sit in drafty rooms thinking of home.

The women's hostel is abuzz with the activity of over 2 800 women going about their daily chores. There is a feeling of "sisterhood". Women stop to chat, or to complain, pausing from their daily chores of washing, cooking and cleaning. They're strangely at home in the huge, impersonal building none of whose cheerfully decorated tiny rooms open on to open space.

But here too, there is loneliness, depression and dissatisfaction.

The women pay R24,50 a month for their meagre space. There is no maintenance to speak of and squabbles break out over basic facilities like water and lights. The women are without their husbands, lovers or children. They have only each other and, whether they like it or not, their interaction is just about as intimate as marriage. Four women share a bedroom of no more than about 5m sq.

"I've always lived in the same room with another woman," says Elizabeth Mabiletsa, a 51-year-old company driver who has been at the hostel for 15 years. "The two of us are friends but sometimes we don't talk. Sometimes she doesn't want to say good morning. When she's cross I just listen to my radio loud." Mabiletsa is divorced. She has chil-

Single men's hostels, housing mainly migrants, were major flashpoints in the Reef violence. But little is known about women's hostels. **PHILLIPA GARSON** reports on 'Helen Joseph' in Alexandra township, home to 2 800 women

dren in Rustenburg. Every week she goes home, taking money and food to them. "I am not happy here but I have no other place to go. My children cannot visit me here. I am tired now. I want to go home."

She sits with other women around a steel table outside. A man from one of the two men's hostels in Alexandra is fixing their sewing machines.

"We have the same problems in the men's hostel," says Simon Phala, listening to the women arguing about the rent, about whether the "block ladies" do anything to help them, and whether they do put pressure on the council to lower the rent or start maintaining the dilapidated building.

Popular opinion has it that the "block ladies", who are supposedly elected from each block of 144 women, have become redundant. Some see them as

kitchens which resemble makeshift science labs. There are rows of gas burners, the tiny lockers are crammed with food and kitchenware lines the walls. Hunched over cups of tea or busy preparing food for themselves, they speak of their dissatisfaction.

Says factory worker Ma Ambe, who has lived at the hostel for 10 years and is now a dedicated Alexandra Civic Organisation member: "People pay rent from the first to the seventh of every month. If you pay a day later, they charge you double."

But there is mounting support for the four-month-long rent boycott initiated by ACO. More than half the residents have stopped paying rent in an attempt to force the local authorities to maintain the building or, alternatively, to convert the blocks into family units.

However, since the boycott, the situation has deteriorated. Says Ma Ambe: "Before we used to have water — even if it was cold water — now we have nothing."

The women complain of having to take their buckets to the township for water supplies when cuts occur.

Bribery and corruption are other sore points. Some women get rooms quickly because they know the councillors. And the "favourite" men are allowed in to visit the "police ladies" (security guards employed by the council).



'They are inhuman to treat us like this'

"WE wonder if these people are human – how can they cut off water to everyone – even small babies and children must suffer when they cut off our water."

Echoing the feelings of Meloding's 45 000 inhabitants, local ANC women's league chairperson Elisa Lande said the whole community was shocked at the Water Board's decision to cut off water this month.

"These people are heartless – they are inhuman to treat us like this. We didn't even have time to prepare for the cut-off because they did it without warning," said another member of the Meloding Civic Association (MCA), Elias Chalale.

"They arrested us and beat us up when we tried to get drinking water from the station for our children," said grandmother and MCA member Betsy Yola.

She said: "I look after my five-month-old grandchild – I couldn't wash nappies or make bottles. When we tried to fill our containers at the station, the police beat us up and chased us away."

"We tried to get water from nearby farms – eventually one farmer allowed us to buy water at 50c for 10 litres. It was the only way we could get water for cooking and drinking," she said.

Residents said they couldn't wash for the five days during which water was cut off. "One of the worst things was that the toilets throughout the township were blocked and the smell was terrible," said Lande.

Chalale said: "The Water Board knew there was a dispute between the community and the town council about the water account, but they didn't negotiate – they cut the water off first."

"Now that the water is back on, we have agreed with the board that the community will come up with proposals on how to pay for the water," he said.

Pay up now, or we'll cut off your water!

By COLLETTE CAINE

THE Goldfields Water Board (GWB) is threatening to cut off water supplies to Free State townships which cannot pay their bills.

The Free State Provincial Administration says it does not have the funds to help local councils pay the arrears.

Two weeks ago the GWB - the second-largest water board in the country after the Rand Water Board - cut off water to Virginia's Meloding township without notice. The entire township of more than 45 000 people was without water for five days.

The supply was restored after the Meloding Council sold three of its vehicles to raise money to pay part of the bill.

An initial R40 000 was paid and the council undertook to make weekly payments of R10 000 to pay off the balance of R64 000. Despite payment of the first R10 000 instalment, the GWB threatened to cut off the township's water supply by noon last Friday unless the balance was paid in full.

Meloding residents stopped paying for water in protest against the local town council - including allegations of maladministration, defective water meters and failure to send out regular water accounts.

A last-minute meeting between GWB chairman Marais Vermaak, the Meloding Civic Association and attorneys from the Johannesburg Legal Resources Centre averted a repeat cut of water supplies.

The entire town council resigned and the GWB was forced to negotiate with the civic association.

The association agreed to hold community meetings to come up with a proposal for paying the water account. A proposal that each household pays a flat rate of R8 a month for water will be discussed at community meetings this week.

Vermaak told *City Press* if water accounts were not paid by local authorities, water to the entire township would be cut off.

He said: "It's a very simple matter - if accounts are not paid and no arrangement are made with the board, obviously we will cut the water off."

He said Meloding had until Wednesday to make arrangements with the board for the payment of its water account or ... no water.

A spokesman for the Thabong Civic Association (TCA) said it had a meeting with the GWB last week to discuss rumours that the giant Welkom township's water supply was also about to be cut off. He said the TCA reached an agreement with Vermaak that residents would pay a flat rate of R10 a household for water from the end of this month.

■ The Free State Provincial Administration says it is not in the same position as the Transvaal Provincial Administration, which supplied R24-million bridging finance to township authorities. It said it had no money to give bridging finance to local authorities.



Shape of things to come . . . When the authorities are about to cut water supplies, it's a mad scramble for the taps.

Four towns are targetted for boycotts

TWO Conservative Party-controlled Transvaal town face consumer boycotts of white-owned businesses today and more are likely to be affected by similar action early next month.

The two towns are Klerksdorp and Boksburg. Other places which have been targeted for boycotts are Brits, Bronkhorstspuit and Kwandebele.

The protest action is against "high electricity tariffs which lead to the suspension of power supply to a number of black residential areas"

Jouberton residents, however, said they would

boycott stores in nearby Klerksdorp until policemen - allegedly involved in violence in the township - are arrested or suspended.

The boycott follows claims by local Mass Democratic Movement's of alleged police brutality.

At least three people have died in five weeks of unrest.

On the East Rand, the Vosloorus Civic Association has called for a three-week boycott of Boksburg businesses and local enterprises owned by township councillors from today.

The call was made at a community meeting yesterday following a dead-

lock between the Vosloorus Town Council, TPA and the Vosloorus Civic Association (VCA) over the payment of electricity and service charges in the township.

The meeting, addressed by spokesman from Cosatu and the Vosloorus Civic Association, resolved continue the non-payment of rent and service charges until the council and the TPA and the council conceded to the R50 flat rate demanded by residents

The Vosloorus Town Council is standing firm on a flat rate of R70 for electrified households.

Cosatu's spokesman, Mr. Sydney Ndaweni, warned that civic organizations and Cosatu had planned for a mass stay-away on November 19 if the TPA and the council fail to meet township residents' demands.

Ndaweni lashed out at certain councillors whom, he claimed, were sowing confusion in the township.

He said several councillors calling themselves "concerned residents" asked residents to pay R60.

Sowetan
29/10/90
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FW to visit Vaal townships this week

Soweto 29/10/90

STATE President FW de Klerk is to visit the black townships of the Vaal Triangle on Friday, according to leader of the Vaal Residents Representative Party Mr Sam Kolisang.

De Klerk's visit to the Vaal townships - scenes of bloody clashes which claimed hundreds of lives in recent weeks - will coincide with his bestowment as a free man of Vereeniging, the town he served as MP for several years.

By SY MAKARINGE

De Klerk, who is currently abroad on a three-nation tour, will be the second South African Head of State to visit the townships, which have been one of the focal points of worldwide attention since the 1961 Sharpeville massacre.

A few years ago, former State President, Mr P W Botha, visited the townships at the invitation of

former mayor of Lekoa, Mr Esau Mahlatsi.

Kolisang said De Klerk had accepted an invitation by his party, an affiliate of the moderate National Forum, to visit the townships as a resident of the Vaal Triangle.

He refused to elaborate on De Klerk's schedule for the day, except to say he expected residents to receive him with open arms.

De Klerk's office could not

deny or confirm the invitation. A spokesman said he was not in a position to disclose De Klerk's itinerary unless instructed to do so.

De Klerk received a tumultuous welcome a few weeks ago when he paid a surprise visit to Soweto. There were shouts of "Viva Comrade De Klerk" from curious onlookers as he moved around the townships to gain first hand experience of township life.

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17 townships face court action and power cuts

B/p am 29/10/90

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ELECTRICITY to 17 Transvaal townships, which collectively owe R23m to Eskom, could be cut should the utility's legal action not prompt the black local authorities into settling their arrear bills.

The legal action against the 17 out of 27 black local authorities was not aimed at end-users, although electricity supplies could be cut if the courts ordered it, or if the legal process "didn't yield the desired result", Eskom spokesman Johan du Plessis said at the weekend.

The action was part of Eskom's credit control procedures and this route was preferred above the punitive cutting of the power supply to the townships, he said.

"In fact, Eskom has no reason to assume the legal process will not be satisfactory, although the legal process itself could lead us to cutting the supply," Du Plessis said.

"We realise that many township residents have started making regular payments again, but for some reason these monies are not always reaching us."

There are 27 local authorities in arrears, four of which have already been summonsed while another 13 will be summonsed this week.

LINDEN BIRNS

Du Plessis indicated that apart from the Benoni municipality, which was summonsed in September, no other action against white authorities was being considered.

He said he was not in a position to disclose what the local authorities had been summonsed, suggesting that as they were accountable to their ratepayers, they should identify themselves.

Restore

Meanwhile, a delegation of representatives from Ermelo's Wesselton township are to hold an urgent meeting with Eskom officials this week to allay rumours that electricity could be cut off again.

On Thursday last week, the Vosloorus Town Council agreed to restore the electricity supply to the East Rand township, despite agreements on monthly payments not being finalised.

Service cut-offs have spread to the Transkei where the Ezibeleni township, outside Queenstown, was left with about a week's water supply in its reservoirs after the Queenstown municipality cut the water supply for

the second time this month.

After the reservoir ran dry the supply was restored and residents were given two weeks to settle accounts originally totalling R718 554, but which had been reduced to a total of R50 000.

Late on Friday afternoon, municipal staff at the troubled Khayelitsha township in Cape Town were trying to restore electricity, sewage and water supplies after clashes between police and residents claimed at least eight lives on Thursday.

Sapa reports that on Friday a skeleton staff was trying to restore the essential services and to improve security around badly damaged municipal offices, the target of a limpet mine blast on Wednesday night.

Sapa also reported that more than 30 black local authorities out of the 70 in the Free State were no longer functioning.

The Free State provincial administration said that in 34 local authorities, councillors have either resigned or do not form a quorum and can therefore not perform their functions as determined by law.

The administrator-in-executive-committee has appointed 19 people to carry out these councils' functions.

Atteridgeville boycotters get power illegally

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Advocate Sam Maritz, SC, who appeared for the council, argued that his clients had the lawful right to disconnect the electricity supplies to the homes of rent defaulters. He submitted that the rent boycott was an aim by ASRO to destroy the council and leave it bankrupt.

Some of the makeshift ladders were confiscated by the troops. The township mayor, Mr Velaphi Mathebula was yesterday asked what action the council contemplated taking after the illegal switch-on.

By MONK NKOMO

THE suspension of electricity supply to the homes of rent defaulters in Atteridgeville ended at the weekend when groups of youth illegally reconnected power supply to thousands of houses in the township.

Scores of youth using makeshift stepladders climbed electric poles in the streets and embarked on an illegal switch-on campaign from Friday until yesterday.

The council cut off the electricity supply to those people in arrears since October 15. About 10 000 houses were affected.

The illegal switch-on started on Friday night a few hours after the Pretoria Supreme Court

29/10/90

Sowetan

reserved judgment in the urgent application that was brought against the local city council by the civic organisations, Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation, challenging the council's action.

Residents greeted the "switch-on" with relief. Many cheered as youths carrying step ladders walked down the streets and switched on power from poles using pieces of wire. Almost all the township's electricity supply was restored on Saturday night.

Members of the SADF were seen on Saturday afternoon chasing some of the youths, who wore

“We are not going to do anything,” was the abrupt reply. Advocate Ronme Selvan, SC, representing ASRO, submitted before Mr Justice Daniels on Friday that the Atteridgeville town council decision to cut electricity supplies was done in bad faith because the council could have recovered the amount owed by residents through other legal means.

Maritz also lashed out at ASRO and accused the civic association of “blatantly lying” to residents that they had been granted an interdict against the council restraining it from making further cuts.

Maritz submitted that the untruthful statement by ASRO was “the most startling evidence of mala fide”.

Councillors assaulted

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By MONK NKOMO



THE Atteridgeville Council is expected to hold an urgent meeting this week to discuss the illegal restoration of the electricity supply to the township and the attack on three councillors by residents last Friday.

Acting town clerk Mr Daan Mouton said yesterday the council was concerned about the unlawful action. *Sowetan 30/10/90*

He said they would probably discuss the matter with senior officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration this week to determine what kind of action to take.

The council is also expected to discuss the attack on councillors Petros Mnguni, Piet Makwe and MP Nangambe, who were assaulted by residents.

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Maseko is new mayor of Soweto

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

SOWETO has a new mayor.

He is Mr Oscar Maseko (46), a Sofasonke Party member who has been a councillor for Moletsane for two years.

Maseko and his deputy, Mr Alfred Nyathi, were elected yesterday.

The election took place amid allegations of corruption and fraudulent land sales.

Councillors jeered and made sarcastic remarks as town clerk Mr Piet Geers conducted the election.



OSCAR MASEKO

In his inaugural speech, Maseko pledged an open-door policy and constant communication with civic and political organisations.

"We recognise that the ANC, PAC and the Azanian People's

Organisation are the main political organisations of the people," he said "Our relationship with them will always remain cordial."

Maseko also promised to resolve the hostel issue, get more land to house the homeless and speed up the upgrading of Soweto's roads and sewerage system.

Maseko, who thanked God that he was at last the mayor of Soweto, is a father of two

He has a Standard 10 certificate and works as a controller for a retail store.

CAG18/F11

Seven held over power switch-on

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Sowetan 31/10/90

AT LEAST seven people have been arrested in connection with the illegal switching on of the electricity supply in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, a police spokesman confirmed yesterday.

The arrests followed the reconnection of the supply by youths at the weekend. It was cut off by the Atteridgeville Council about two weeks ago following a rent boycott which began on April 1

A spokesman for the police said a patrol unit of the riot squad used tearsmoke to disperse a group of youths who were in the process of reconnecting the power supply in Maunide Street on Monday night.

He said police had taken action when the youths stoned them and seven were arrested.

Mr Simon Tshidi, acting general secretary of the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents Organisation, said yesterday they had received reports that 13 people were arrested over the weekend but most of them had since been released

He confirmed that four others appeared in the local magistrate's court yesterday but were not asked to plead and were released on bail of R200 each

The power supply was still on late yesterday afternoon.

The Atteridgeville Council is expected to discuss the illegal switch-on campaign at its monthly meeting tonight

An emergency meeting which was scheduled to be held on Monday night apparently failed to take place because councillors could not form a quorum.

Acting town clerk Mr Daan Mouton yesterday declined to comment

The boycott resulted from a call by residents that councillors should resign This followed the findings of a commission of inquiry which established that the council could not properly control public funds.

It had also not submitted audited financial statements during the past four years.

Wietpro plans to stay in black housing market

Wietpro Housing plans to continue its operations in the black housing market because it believes the solution to the housing shortage lies with the private sector, not government.

MD Johan Jacobs said in an interview the withdrawal of a number of large housing contractors from black townships as a result of the violence, high crime rate and threats of bond boycotts was to be regretted.

Wietpro, a company in the Malcolm Moodie group, also develops housing in white areas and industrial sites.

Jacobs said Wietpro was developing three large housing schemes in Tembisa, Dobsonville and Diepkloof. It did not intend leaving the market.

In Dobsonville, Wietpro is also planning a nursery school — funded by local residents — and a shopping centre.

Wietpro sells houses priced up to R50 000. It is investigating low-cost housing options.

According to Malungani Sanitary & Hardware Supplies owner Peter Malungani, suppliers to Wietpro, the housing company has undertaken to allocate some work to local builders.

Explaining details

"The big building companies tend to use their own — I might say white — suppliers," Malungani says.

"Since most black builders lack the financial infrastructure to develop land, they cannot obtain it. Wietpro has made 56 stands available in Dobsonville at cost price which are allocated to seven or eight local people who develop on those stands."

Jacobs employs black sales staff to explain the details of home buying to clients in their own language and to ensure that buyers can afford their bond repayments.

"It is a gross injustice not only to the purchaser but also to the building society to sell a house to someone who cannot afford the monthly repayments.

"It leads not only to heartache but also to even greater financial hardship and a negative attitude on the part of building societies towards funding in black areas."

Schachat Home Building director Hilton Katz said his company had no intention of withdrawing from the black housing market.

"You have to assess the financial and physical risk and then decide whether it is viable to continue in certain areas," he said.

Witbank township hit by power cuts

Sowetan 1/11/90

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KWAGUQA, the eastern Transvaal's biggest township, was plunged into darkness on Tuesday night when the Witbank Town Council cut the electricity supply for non-payment of arrears.

The township owes the Witbank local authority more than R500 000 for the bulk supply of water and electricity.

However, Witbank town secretary Mr Pieter Rorich said the water supply would not be suspended.

"We don't believe in that. Apart from water being a necessity, stopping the supply could create a health risk to the whole community."

KwaGuqa also owes Eskom R290 000 for elec-

tricity supplied over two months to houses in new extensions.

The electricity corporation is expected to summons the township within the next few days.

KwaGuqa town clerk Mr Adam Engelbrecht said about 60 000 of the township's 115 000 residents were now without electricity. - Sapa



Judith Maphalala is one of the Miss Rustenburg '90 contestants. The pageant takes place at the Thlabane Town Hall on Saturday at 7pm and the winner of the contest will take part in the Miss Black South Africa '90.

Residents take councils to court over power cuts

Sowetan 1/11/90

FOUR Daveyton residents launched an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday against the Benoni City Council and the Daveyton Council to have their electricity supply uninterrupted until December 31.

The application, which is being opposed by the two municipalities, is being heard by Mr Justice K van Dijkhorst.

Mr Denis Kuny, SC, for the residents, said Eskom's electric current was supplied to Daveyton via Benoni's network.

Benoni cut off elec-

tricity to Daveyton on October 16 and although the supply was reconnected it may be cut again.

Residents and the Daveyton Council have an agreement that provided residents pay R70 a month for services and electricity, no-one would have their electricity cut off while negotiations continued.

Kuny said Daveyton had the power to cut off supply to individuals

He said the council had agreed to payment of R70 a month and it was responsible for accepting that agreement.

127

Actstop, council try to patch up

Sowetan 1/11/90

127

~~84~~
~~288~~

BLACK members of Actstop were allowed to address Johannesburg councillors on Tuesday night about exploitation and discrimination in the city.

About 200 members of the anti-Group Areas Act organisation staged a sit-in in the council chambers.

General secretary Passage Nkosi said black inner city residents were upset at the council's response to a memorandum listing grievances which included high rentals and exploitation by landlords.

Nkosi said there were

no schools for the people, who were constantly harassed by police.

Johannesburg was prospering because of blacks' buying power but they were turned away from recreation centres and cemeteries in the city.

Problems

Councillor Ian Davidson said he recognised the problems they experienced and said the council would continue to look into them.

He assured Actstop that all amenities and cemeteries were open to all races.

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Court bid to reconnect Daveyton's power fails

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B/DPM 1/11/90 R3,4m.

SUSAN RUSSELL

FOUR representatives of Daveyton's residents and business community lost an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday to have the township's electricity supply reconnected.

The application was brought against the local authority and the Benoni Town Council.

Mr Justice van Dijkhorst dismissed the application with costs after finding the four applicants had not proved there was an agreement between the Daveyton council and the residents for the payment of a flat rate of R70

He also rejected the submission that Benoni Town Council had unlawfully deprived residents of electricity by cutting off supplies which it receives from Eskom and in turn supplies the Daveyton council for distribution

The four applied for an order compelling the Daveyton and Benoni councils to restore their electricity supply, alternatively that they continue to supply electricity until December 31 at the flat rates of R70 or R150.

Daveyton's power was cut off on October 16 by the Benoni council

because of non-payments by township residents.

The four launched their urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court three days later

The application was postponed until this week after counsel for the Daveyton council told the court an interim agreement to restore electricity to the township had been reached between Eskom and the chief director of local government

In terms of the interim agreement the supply was due to be cut off at midnight last night.

Sued

A lawyer acting for the four said a meeting had been arranged for last night between representatives of Daveyton residents, the councils and Eskom in anticipation of the case being lost.

Mr Justice van Dijkhorst said the outstanding amount owed to Benoni by the Daveyton council was R3m as at September 3

This led to Benoni being in arrears in paying accounts to Eskom which sued the Benoni council for

Benoni cut off its supply to Daveyton on October 16.

This followed notification to Daveyton that the contract to supply electricity had been cancelled because of the arrears.

Rejecting the argument that Benoni Town Council had committed a spoliation by cutting off the supply on October 16, the judge said the electricity supplied before the cancellation of the contract had been used up.

Residents, he said, had not proved a wrongful or unlawful deprivation because they were never in possession of electricity bought by Benoni to date.

Residents were seeking to have power restored to them which would be supplied in future and did not exist at present.

The judge also said the four were seeking an order compelling Benoni to resume electricity sales to the Daveyton council.

"I cannot see that there is any legal basis on which a third party can force a supplier to provide a commodity to a recipient when it is common cause that the recipient can not pay for that commodity," Mr Justice van Dijkhorst said.

order in 11 townships

R150m 1/11/90

Liebenberg takes the reins of SABS

Receiver



Black builders issue appeal on housing crisis

Blom 1/11/90

THEO RAWANA

SOWETO developers yesterday blamed spiralling interest rates for residents' failure to meet their bond obligations, and called on building societies to extend the repayment period from 20 years to 35.

The Soweto Developers and Builders Forum (SDBF) also deplord white developers pulling out of black areas, and criticised building societies' decision to stop granting loans in some areas.

Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hernus Kriel said last month eight major construction companies had withdrawn from the black housing market because of political unrest and repayment boycotts.

A number of banks and building societies were later reported to have effectively blacklisted townships where unrest and threats of bond repayment boycotts had occurred.

SDBF chairman Aubrey Mokoena yesterday rejected the allegation that political agitation stopped blacks from meeting their bond obligations.

Mokoena told a Press conference in Johannesburg:

"We believe that the so-called bond boycott is related to the rent boycott in that it has overtones of inaffordability.

"We believe houses must be paid for, but that all misunderstandings must be taken out of all issues regarding black housing bonds and finance"

His organisation would request a meeting with the office of the Minister of Finance and the Reserve Bank, "with a view to discussing the effect of the interest rates on the building industry".

Building societies would be petitioned for a meeting to discuss ideas to ease the pressure on bond repayments by stretching the repayment period.

Inviting white developers to return and form joint ventures with blacks, Mokoena said: "We view the pull-out by major developers and the reluctance of building societies to grant loans as a very strange coincidence. This may be to the further detriment of the small contractor."

Time Holdings financial director Neil Carter said the problem with operating in the townships was that building societies were not lending in some areas, but something had to be done. Interest rates might come down at the end of next year, but the situation had to be assisted by a stable political situation.

Stretching the repayment period would not change the situation much because it would reduce the rates by three percentage points, Carter said.

Allied home loans manager Geoff Bowker said his bank would lend to all areas if it was prudent to do so. "We have to move cautiously where there is an element of risk"

Flats ~~damaged~~ ¹²⁷ damaged in blast ^{somehow} 11/11/90

COMMERCIAL explosives were used in the explosion which rocked central Johannesburg on Tuesday night.

The blast damaged the Mosby Court flats and shattered shop windows in the vicinity of the Jeppe and Troye streets intersection. No one was injured.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Colonel Frans Malherbe said yesterday no motive for the blast had been established.

"We don't know yet why anyone would want to bomb a block of flats."

He refused to be drawn to the suggestion that the bomb was the work of white-right wing extremists. "All possibilities will be investigated," Malherbe said.

White radicals are known to have stolen commercial explosives while working at mines and construction companies - Sapa

Protest over service rates

Soweto 2/11/90
ABOUT 500 residents from Kiptown, Eldorado Park and Klipspruit West outside Soweto marched to the Eldorado Park Civic Centre today to present a memorandum protesting against high service charges. (127)

The memorandum was directed to the Director of Housing in the Johannesburg City Council, Mr HWK Cunningham-Scott, and Mr Ian Davidson, chairman of the city council's management committee.

FIM 2/11/90

come forward to exonerate the police of any misconduct or vandalism, after allegations that uniformed policemen damaged the buckets belonging to black residents of the Wesselton township two weeks ago.

Meanwhile, the SAP's forensic laboratory in Pretoria is conducting intensive experiments on a water bucket which one resident claimed was damaged by police during the alleged incident. The bucket is so far the only evidence which has been presented to a top-level police investigation into the allegations.

Regional police commissioner General Robert Robinson, who has personally taken charge of the investigation, tells the *FM* that some of the sworn statements which witnesses made to an Ermelo attorney were later found to have been hearsay.

"However, two independent witnesses have made sworn statements — available to anyone to read — that no such incidents took place. (127) (scribble)"

"Both said they saw the police on the scene, but that was all," says Robinson. He says the witnesses have asked that their identities be withheld for fear of reprisals.

Robinson has also instructed two colonels from Middelburg to interview other witnesses, but no one has been able to identify any policemen or provide the registration numbers of the Casspir which allegedly was on the scene.

However, Ermelo garage owner Boetie Tilly has sworn that he saw uniformed policemen damaging the water-cans which about 30 black residents had been using to cart water from his garage to their houses in Wesselton.

The Town Council of Ermelo is one of those controlled by the Conservative Party in the Transvaal which cut off water and electricity because black residents were behind with monthly payments.

Law & Order Minister Adriaan Vlok's personal spokesman, Leon Mellet, tells the *FM* that the police are trying everything to find witnesses. "We have even circulated pamphlets calling on potential witnesses to come to us."

Tilly claims he saw four policemen damaging the water-cans. At that stage, about 100 black residents had gathered at the garage. The policemen who had arrived in a Casspir and a four-wheel-drive vehicle had been laughing at the blacks, who had become very noisy during the incident, Tilly alleges.

Robinson says a reporter of *The Star* supplied the police with various names of potential witnesses, but no addresses. The allegations are viewed by the police in a very serious light, says Mellet, and, if proved to be true, drastic steps will be taken against the policemen concerned. "We will do everything to find them," he says.

The alleged incident comes at a time when Vlok has pledged that strict guidelines are imposed to keep policemen out of the political arena. (See *Current Affairs* October 12) In an interview with the *FM*, Vlok promised that policemen who overstepped the mark would be dealt with severely. ■

FIM 2/11/90
LAW AND ORDER

UNDER THE BRIDGE (scribble)

The mystery about Ermelo's damaged water buckets has taken a new turn. Two independent witnesses have now

(127) (scribble)

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Judge says: pay for electricity and it cannot be switched off

B/Days 2/11/90 (127)

THE Atteridgeville Residents' Organisation (Asro) yesterday lost its Supreme Court attempt to stop the local town council and the Pretoria City Council from switching off electricity to the township.

And Asro has now announced that an indefinite consumer boycott taking in the whole of greater Pretoria would start with a one-day stayaway on November 12.

In the past week Atteridgeville residents have illegally reconnected electricity after it was cut off.

Sapa reports that Mr Justice H Daniels, giving judgment, said the council's decision to discontinue electricity supplies to those in arrears was the most effective means of extracting

THEO RAWANA

or ensuring payment.

As long as payment was made, supply could not be refused. Conversely, if payment was withheld, the obligation to supply ceased.

Shortly after judgment was delivered, said Sapa, the SAP was reported to be escorting workers from private contractors hired by the council to disconnect electricity.

An Asro spokesman said yesterday the end of the consumer boycott would depend on the reaction of government and the TPA.

"We want the TPA and the councils to talk to us, but instead they bring in contractors to disconnect electricity.

"This is a serious, dan-

gerous situation, because people might get electrocuted if they continue reconnecting power."

GERALD REILLY reports from Pretoria that Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok warned the ANC Youth League yesterday that efforts to reconnect power to townships was illegal and dangerous.

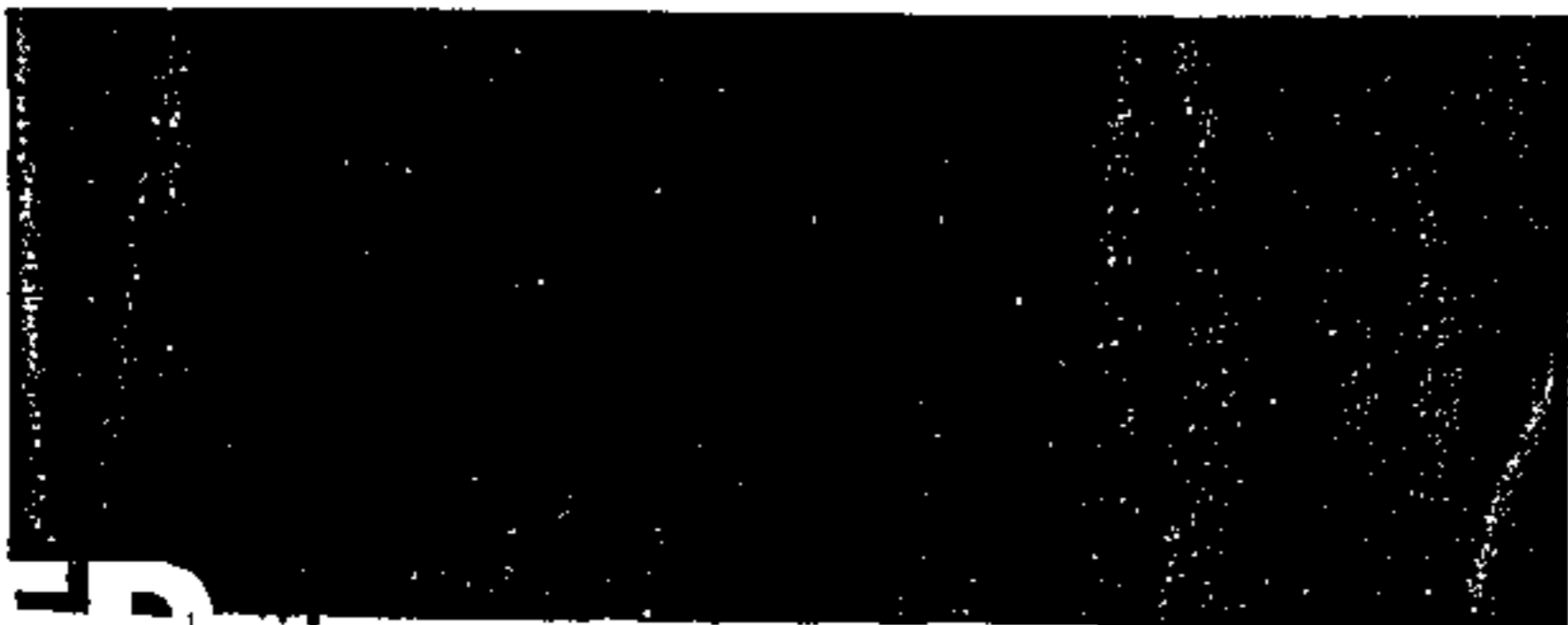
He was responding to a statement by ANC Youth League spokesman Parks Mankahlana that the Youth League would be encouraged to intensify its reconnection campaign.

Vlok appealed to ANC leader Walter Sisulu to stop the youths from illegally reconnecting electricity.

ANC spokesman Jill Marcus said yesterday it was the disconnection of electricity by councils that was illegal, not the reconnection. Blame lay with government and the councils

Political comment in this issue by Jim Jones. Newsbills by Michael Moon. Headlines and subediting by Cecile Reynierse. All of Times Media Ltd, 11 Diagonal St, Johannesburg

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Residents lose in electricity battle

By MONK NKOMO

Sowetan
AN application by the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation (Asro), challenging the local city council's decision to cut of electricity supplies to houses of rent defaulters, has been dismissed with costs in the Pretoria Supreme Court.

Mr Justice H Daniels ruled that the council's action in disconnecting the power supply was sanctioned by its by-laws. "Only upon payment of the amounts involved (in respect of electricity charges in the present instance) and the continued payment thereof would entitle all residents involved to claim the reconnection of the electricity supply", the judge said.

The application was brought against the council, the administrator of the Transvaal and the City Council of Pretoria, by

Asro and Mr John Legong, a resident.

A similar application by four representatives of Daveyton's residents and business community, was also dismissed with costs by Mr Justice Van Dijkhorst in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Angry

The Atteridgeville Council yesterday started to switch off electricity again to the houses of people who owe rent amid angry reaction from the residents.

Mr David Bam, attorney representing Asro and Legong, yesterday said they were going to appeal against the judge's ruling. An application for leave to appeal will be filed within 14 days, he said.

Home built in less than four hours

Nov. 1990

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FROM drawing board to completed house in four hours is the record set by a local construction company with the launch this week of a new concept in affordable housing.

The R20 000 asbestos-walled wood-frame dwelling unit measuring about 49 sq m was introduced as "a dream come true", the answer to the quick-fix grannie flat or a full free standing family house.

At the "test" site in Northwold, Randburg, where a team of 25 smart workers waited for the starting gun to get into the *Guinness Book of Records* for erecting a house in record time, only the foundations and slab had been completed.

All materials were delivered in kit form, from the 45-degree roof trusses weighing some 3 tons to the asbestos wall panels and interior divisions.

The first four trusses were in place and clamped firm within less than 30 minutes. Guests sipped champagne and the A-team's theme tune

played as the A-frame house took shape.

Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs Hernus Kriel quipped that if Japan donated R6,3m to housing instead of the ANC, 3 150 "dream" homes each accommodating a family of six could be built.

"That means 18 900 people can be housed and if overseas help could continue at the same rate, there would be shelter for every South African family before the year 2000," he suggested.

Earlier, on a more serious note, the Minister stressed private sector involvement in affordable housing.

By the time the hot water geyser was being positioned in the roof, CV Construction chief Carlo Vos was at the microphone: "This house which comes complete with fully equipped bathroom and kitchen can be built with brick walls which pushes the cost up to R24 000.

"The 85sqm version which is ideal for holiday

homes or for the aged, costs R41 000 and for R71 000 the 148sqm unit is ideal."

The secret in the latest example of affordable housing is the design with all components manufactured to standard lengths and sizes.

Costs are estimated at 20 percent less than a comparative conventional house.

Vos said the concept had been approved in principle by Randburg and Kagiso municipalities and several building societies.

Diepmeadow councillor Marabe Matalé said there were plenty of people in his town who could afford these homes, but the problem was available land.

"We have 500 000 people housed in Diepmeadow. Three times that number now living in tin shacks still need houses."

"Up to seven families now live in one house, the possibilities of this place are limitless," he said.

Sowetan Correspondent

FOCUS ON INNER CITY BLIGHT

The 10 toughest landlords and their running battles with tenants

127

STONWALLS

W/Mail 23/11 - 29/11/90

After a two-month investigation of nearly fifty ramshackle buildings, the Weekly Mail names ten landlords we consider the toughest in 'grey area' Jo'burg.

23/11/90

WEEKLY MAIL INVESTIGATION
BY PAUL EVANS



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THE effective dismantling of the Group Areas Act in central Johannesburg has brought the return of an old phenomenon: the slumlord.

The small landlords are the ones who destroyed the Act by gradually allowing black tenants into their city centre buildings. In the process, however, they found tenants who were vulnerable, had little protection and no rights in the area.

The result is that 90 percent of tenants in the city centre are black, and in many cases are paying high rents for overcrowded buildings that are decaying and never renovated. They are at the mercy of tough, no-nonsense, gun-toting slumlords, some of whom impose curfews, charge R5 to allow visitors or evict tenants who complain.

Weekly Mail investigated and identified the 10 toughest slumlords

1 ERIC JOOSTE

IF half of what Eric Jooste's Malvern tenants have to say is true then we're dealing with one tough cookie.

I spoke separately to six black tenants at Belair Flats — one of several buildings he owns in this area — and they told me that at around 10.30pm on an October night Jooste had arrived with a gun on each hip and banged on their doors in an angry search for visitors breaking the building's 10pm curfew.

"He kicked at my door like a mad person — in fact at every door in the block — as though he was looking for a fight," said one tenant who asked not to be named.

"When he found that Daniel Baloi had two visitors, he threw them out. Daniel was fined R150 and then evicted when he refused to pay.

"Even if your girlfriend stays over with his permission, you have to pay an extra R25 a month. They say it's because she uses hot water. And no children are allowed."

This man pays R325 for his small bachelor flat. He says there is never enough hot water, which means they

Two residents of a flat in Allendene Court ... a young boy and a dead rat

W | Mail 23/11 - 29/11/90

can only wash clothes on Sundays — "There are 20 flats and a tiny geyser, so the water's always cold."

He has a small basin in his room, no kitchen and has to use a communal bathroom.

Another tenant told me she paid R275 for a tiny room with no electrical plug, no bathroom, no hot water, a tin roof with no ceiling, and only one naked light bulb.

"If you break any of the rules you get thrown out. Say if you have visitors, you get no notice and you don't get your deposit back," she said.

Baloi said he had been allowed back into his flat five days after being thrown out, because the tenants' organisation Actistop threatened legal action.

Baloi's flat is a single room of three metres by four metres, with an unpainted ceiling, for which he pays R275 per month.

"I don't know why we pay so much. There are three whites in the building who pay between R100 and R150 per month," he said.

At nearby William Court, also owned by Jooste Property Management, one tenant said he paid R450 for a bachelor flat.

Several attempts to interview Jooste proved fruitless.

It took two visits to the office of Jooste Property Management before manager Joy Lubbe was reached. She confirmed that Eric Jooste owned the buildings in question and explained why they had adopted the curfew.

"The reason is to keep the lights and water bill down. It costs us R2 500 a month. If you don't have it, they'll have their brothers and sisters in with

days.

"The flat has a boiler which works by coal, so for those who come home late there's no hot water because the others take it all. That's why we have the rules about visitors."

She insisted that there was "no conflict between landlord and tenants in our flats".

2 GAUDIO CERASOLI

THIS man is the owner of one of the most disgusting buildings in Johannesburg.

Allendene, in Soper Road, Berea, is an old building that one would expect to be consistent with the tone of the neighbourhood. A peep inside shows otherwise.

The building stinks from damp, dead rats and rot. There are holes in the floor, and the ceiling is caving in. Toilets are blocked and broken, there is no electricity and the glass from broken windows is strewn all over.

According to city councillor Cliff Garrun, Cerasoli has been summoned several times "for things such as raw sewage running out of the building".

The building, (and an accompanying house at 49 Soper Road, both of which are property of the company 51 Soper Rd cc), has long been the object of litigation and council action, but appears to be in as bad a state as ever.

A few years ago Cerasoli sold the building to Tony Pharboo (see below) who, according to the tenants' lawyers, stocked the building with tenants and then failed to pay the bond, electricity, rates and taxes. Cerasoli obtained

Picture: JUSTIN SHOLK

judgment against Pharboo and then found himself up against health inspectors and Actistop.

For a while the flak catcher for the building was the head lessee, Rudi van Wezel (see below), but he parted ways with Cerasoli earlier this year.

"I did Allendene for Cerasoli and he wasn't prepared to repair or put in any money. He just wanted to evict the tenants," said Van Wezel, who accuses Cerasoli of not paying him four months' salary.

Early last year the building's 80 families all found themselves out on the pavement after deciding to reduce their own rents.

Cerasoli is currently involved in a court case in which he claims to want to evict the tenants in order to repair the building. The tenants are arguing that he has waived this right by failing to fulfil similar promises in the past. The dispute is likely to be decided next year.

Tenants are paying R80 rent for their single rooms, while the owners want between R180 and R280.

"If he fixes the building and restores services, we will be prepared to pay market-related rentals," said John, one of the tenant representatives.

He said Cerasoli was "very rude" to the tenants, that he "sometimes carried a gun" and "tries to make people scared".

John said the tenants only recently discovered that Cerasoli was the landlord because Van Wezel had previously told them he owned the building.

In an initial telephone interview, Cerasoli said the following. "I had sold the building to Mr Pharboo, who is

THE TEN TOUGHEST LANDLORDS

● From PAGE 5 127

terrible man, and I repossessed it. "After that I got problems and I tried to negotiate because the building was in a bad state. But Actistop are going about this thing the wrong way

"We did everything we could but these people have no electricity and not a good standard of living because it's overcrowded, so I am ashamed for them."

Cerasoli agreed to a *Weekly Mail* interview at his panel beating business in Lorentzville.

A small Italian man, he welcomed us and said he was keen to put his case. He exploded, however, when the photographer took a picture.

He demanded the film, threatened to call the police, thought better of it, and blocked the door. He then attempted to grab the camera, swore at me and threatened to use force.

His continued swearing and screaming attracted his partner, who attempted to pacify Cerasoli. They called the police who insisted we be allowed to leave.

Councillor Garrun, who says he was recently also threatened by Cerasoli, describes Allendene as a "festering sore" and says the building should be condemned, "but this would mean displacing 80 families when there is little accommodation available".

TONY PHARBOO

TONY Pharboo is either a maligned saint, or Johannesburg's worst landlord — depending on who you believe. Tony Pharboo or everyone else

Actistop, city councillors, several fellow landlords and his former tenants charge that Pharboo is (or was — he says he is out of the business) the classic fly-by-night landlord-cum-middleman.

"The way people like him work is that they take out a head lease with you, say



Piet van Loggerenberg ... takes no nonsense

to the council. The building was filthy and so dark that inside at midday you could not see your hand in front of your face.

Last year one man was charged R100 per month to live in a small third floor bathroom. The building has three communal toilets for 44 flats.

At another former Pharboo building, Midhill Gardens, tenants were charged exorbitant amounts for electricity and water without receiving a record of electricity units used, according to Hillbrow/Joubert Park city councillor Desiree Simpson.

Interviewed at his furniture shop in Bree Street, Pharboo said he had been "finished" with the landlord business for eight months now. The city coun-



David Malan... could be in deep legal waters

bers," he says, adding that he himself has joined Inkatha.

According to Actistop's Pressage Nkosi, in Stressa Court and other buildings Van Wezel has been involved with there have been "a variety of serious problems: lack of maintenance, illegal evictions, police raids in the middle of the night, letting of flats to illegal immigrants and then, as soon as the tenants decide not to accept the situation, the illegals are thrown out."

He also accuses Van Wezel of laying "false charges" against Actistop members and adds that "his evictions are often very rough and without notice, which is illegal".

Actistop says he is trying to set the rent above rent control levels.

they don't pay

"They don't see that for the little money they pay they can't get everything. All the problems started when the black people moved in. They have no pride in themselves

"In Stressa Court, for example, there are 26 flats and each one-bedroom flat is supposed to be for two adults and one small child, but they average about eight people per flat."

Moosa, however, says the building does not belong to Van Wezel

"He makes a habit of claiming to own buildings he is leasing. He did it with Allendene as well. Chris Poulosos is the owner of Stressa Court and Van Wezel is the head lessee."

Grim future if the blight is not halted

THEY call it urban blight: gangs, drug lords, rising crime rates, violent streets, decaying buildings, overcrowding, capital flight, human tragedy.

It could be the future of inner-city Johannesburg unless drastic steps are taken to turn an increasingly dangerous situation around.

Johannesburg City Councillor Cliff Garrun believes it is early days, but the danger signs are there.

Underlying the problem is an increasingly bitter conflict between some city landlords and their tenants. The tenants, many of them members of the civic organisation Actistop, say they are living under inhuman conditions created by slumlord negligence and greed — high rents, no electricity, no maintenance, health hazards, no security or alternatively thuggish security guards.

The landlords, some of them members of a new group called the Organisation for the Protection of Property Owners of South Africa (Opposac), counter that Actistop is politically motivated, is out to destroy landlords, and that they are being driven to bankruptcy by an out of date Rent Control Act and tenants who boycott rents and service payments and leave buildings in mess, forcing them to cut electricity.

According to Garrun, 66 buildings in central Johannesburg and surrounding areas are in arrears for electricity, gas and water — for an amount of over R3-million. This potentially affects 3 612 flats and about 12 000 tenants. Some of these buildings have had their electricity cut off.

"Two major slumlords owning 10 buildings are in arrears for R800 000,"

paying," says fellow landlord Alfonso di Donato.

"He collects what he can from the blacks and then just walks off. He gives a bad reputation to the landlords."

With his former partner Ismael Patel, and through his company Summergold Investment, Pharboo has owned or controlled scores of buildings in and around the city centre. In almost all of them he has had battles with tenants, other landlords and creditors.

Actistop's Cas Coovadia summarised the allegations: "Pharboo's buildings were all in poor condition. Maintenance was poor: broken windows, poor plumbing, no security, and so on. He always charged high rentals — they used to be R300-plus for a single room. In one building in Belgravia he subdivided the rooms into four and rented them for R150 each.

"Actistop had numerous meetings with Pharboo and Patel. Their consistent position was that they needed high rentals to run their building, but the state of the buildings continued to deteriorate, so the tenants reduced rents themselves.

"In Mithred Court in town, for example, he reneged on electricity payments to the city council, although the money had been collected from the tenants. So the council switched off the lights, and later warned him to have the building renovated."

We visited several buildings owned or controlled until recently by Pharboo, and found them all in an appalling condition.

Two years ago Hawarden Court in Koch Street was an elegant and well-cared-for building. Today it has broken windows, peeling paint, torn flooring and no electricity.

"Pharboo did no maintenance and didn't pay the electricity. People won't pay rent until the electricity is on again, but the connections have been damaged. We pay R60 a month into a central trust now."

We also visited Milton Court, another building controlled, until recently, by Pharboo (as head lessee). According to tenants the electricity was cut off when Pharboo failed to pay R20 000 owing

R500 000 owed to them, according to Garrun.

An unusual looking man with blue eyes and a brown hairpiece, the 46-year-old Pharboo believes he was a "victim and a scapegoat".

"A lot of people warned me not to go into this business but I thought I would in order to help black people. As a result of all this I lost R1.5 million, went bankrupt, had severe family problems and am losing my eyesight."

He said one of the main problems was the Rent Control Act and the Rent Board which failed to update rentals each year. He said the other problem was the decision by his tenants to boycott his "reasonable rentals".

"At Mithred Court, for example, there were 44 rooms and I could just about come out on the level if tenants paid R150 each, but they were paying R48,34 for a room."

"In one building they paid me just R16,53 a room. Nobody wanted to pay. They would just give what the Rent Board stated through their lawyers. If you pay R400 000 for a building and then they pay you, say, R60 a month, how can you survive on that?"

But Pharboo said he had no grudges. "I hate no man and I believe in negotiating with Actistop because everybody must get their fair chance."

4 RUDI VAN WEZEL

PERHAPS more than any of his colleagues in the Organisation for the Protection of Property Owners of SA (Opposa), Rudi van Wezel has failed to prosper as a landlord.

He lives in a small, subsidised flat in Johannesburg's southern suburbs and struggles to make a living from the two buildings he still owns.

He is currently involved in a dispute with Actistop tenants at one of the two buildings he controls, Stressa Court in Koch Street, Joubert Park.

He declines to name his other building.

"I don't want to say where it is because I have filled it with Inkatha mem-

ing to pay for electricity and says some aren't paying rent.

Actistop lawyer Moshien Moosa says he has threatened to cut off the electricity, restrict visitors and place guards at the doors. Van Wezel confirmed that he had done this, adding that he won't reconnect the electricity until he is paid.

ALANDLORD SPEAKS

The reason we have a curfew is to keep the lights and water bill down. It costs us R2 500 a month. If you don't have it, they'll have their brothers and sisters in with them and you can't allow 10 people in a room with only space for one or two.

— Landlord Eric Jooste

He says he charges R285 plus electricity for a bachelor flat and R344 plus electricity for a one bedroom flat.

"Ten tenants are still owing me for last month, and there's a total of R7 000 still owed me on the building. I'm losing money and I can't sell to anyone. I can't afford to pay my own rent and phone bill and my kids live on pap."

Moosa however says there is not a single cent owing to Van Wezel. "Everything has been paid at the amount set by the Rent Board. If tenants paid more, they themselves would be breaking the law."

Van Wezel also says he was directly intimidated by tenants, three of whom have been charged and are out on bail of R1 000 each and have been remanded until November 30. The tenants deny the charges and accuse Van Wezel of malicious prosecution.

Van Wezel is strongly opposed to Actistop and to Nkosi in particular.

"He's a swine. I nearly assaulted him once and I can tell you somebody will kill him one day, but not me. One of these days the whole situation will explode."

When an Actistop member moves into a building, Van Wezel says, "he then selects other committee members and then they say this and that is wrong and

PIETER LOGGERENBERG

PIETER van Loggerenberg is a big man who likes to dress in khaki and makes it clear that he takes no nonsense.

"You get anything I say out of context and there's war," he warned me.

In addition to owning Trust Security Services, Van Loggerenberg owns Park Mews building in Catherine Street, Hillbrow. This building has a sign outside which says, among other things, "No lease, Friendly Atmosphere, Security Conscious (sic)."

The passages were dirty and the tenants afraid to speak to the press.

Robert Sillman and his common law wife Mavis Skosana said they were evicted from the block with seven hours notice after he and his wife had an argument during which she threw two flowers pots out of the window.

Sillman's rent slip includes a statement, which he had to sign, forfeiting his right to get his deposit back, and his right to notice.

"He has turned the building into a prison. Three weeks ago I had nine bottles of beer and wine in my flat for the weekend and two of his security bully boys came in and hit me and took the liquor. They said I was running a shebeen which was a lie. I laid a charge at Hillbrow Police Station but nothing has happened.

"A lot of the tenants have been assaulted. One visitor got a blue eye and several bruises because he didn't have an entry permit.

"Three months ago Van Loggerenberg and his security guards assaulted 12 people with sjamboks and they laid charges, but I'm not sure what happened. They were Actistop members and they've been evicted.

"One day he chased a guy out of the office with his gun."

He said the conditions in the building were "terrible. The lift often isn't working, they leave rubbish in the passages for weeks and there is no hot water."

Unlike several other landlords, Van Loggerenberg was willing to be interviewed and photographed.

plaintiff in actions against landlords in 10 ongoing cases, 200 statutory notices have been sent out to landlords and there are two prosecutions pending under health regulations.

Garrun has helped to form a council committee to look into solving the problems of urbanisation.

One immediate solution it is implementing is a "bobbies-on-the-beat" training programme to help combat the rising crime rate in and around the city centre.

"What we really need is for the entire environmental situation to improve — for the area to be put in a decent state of repair, for overcrowding to be reduced and for investment to return to the city centre."

He warns that if this does not happen the next stage in the urban blight process could be the formation of gangs.

"In five years' time the children growing up in the city centre will be teenagers, and unless a major effort is made to create the right kind of environment we could find gangs springing up at an alarming rate."

What do you see this Sillman One day he says this woman is his wife, the next day his girlfriend. Then he says he wants to move out. Every day it's a different story. (84) (123)

"We've got over 80 flats and if people don't know how to behave they must leave. The receipt they sign each month says management reserves the right to evict for any bad behaviour and that no liquor is allowed on the premises."

"We caught him with liquor two weeks ago. He was selling the stuff. I don't know anything of him being assaulted, but we took his liquor away."

"We had a lot of trouble with Sillman. They threw the flower pots onto the cars below. It would be better to have animals here."

Asked about the charges of assault against him and his security guards, Van Loggerenberg explained: "Actistop came here two months ago and they refused to pay rent, so I evicted all their tenants. They came back the next day and paid up in full. They were wanting to live six or more in a flat."

"You can't have that because then you

C/Pers
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Home, sweet home!

Alex families band together to build each other houses

HOMELESS families in Alexandra township have joined forces to build houses for each other - helped by funds from an American Christian organisation

Nine of the houses, built by unskilled residents with a little help from skilled blacks and whites who gave their labour and services free, were opened last weekend in 17th Avenue, Alexandra

This brought to 14 the number of low-cost three-bedroom houses built since Helen Friedman arrived in South Africa 18 months ago

She is the sole representative here of Habitat for Humanity International, an ecumenical Christian non-profit organisation based in Georgia

More than 100 people are daily building the houses of neighbours before they start on their own, and it is hoped more will join in as soon as land is available

Alexandra Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International

The organisation is operating in 300 American cities and in 70 countries in the Third World

"It is not a charitable



organisation, and helps build pride and dignity in the home-owner because he has obtained his property by his own endeavour and payments," says Helen

Prospective home-owners have to put in 500 hours of labour on other homes before they can have their own built

They are taught basic

skills, including how to use the machine that makes concrete building blocks

The houses are sold at cost to families who earn less than R1 000 a month. The family pays 25 per cent of gross monthly income for the house

The houses cost about R15 000, compared with at least R38 000 for a similar conventionally-built house

Because no interest is charged, average monthly payments of R150 will pay off the R15 000 in eight years

The owners' monthly

repayments are used to buy land and materials. Fresh capital is obtained by donations and interest-free loans

Several smaller South African companies have also contributed and some hardware and building material companies have donated materials

Among the happy new home owners is Regina Mabizela, 50, who has five children and whose family lived in a yard in Alexandra for 15 years

Because her husband only earns R216 a week, she never dreamed she would ever have her own

home. Her friend Maria Mkabane, 47, who earns R138 a week as a packer in a chicken factory, has been helping her build since February this year

She has not yet completed her 500 hours to get her home, but is working towards it

She lives in a back yard with her three children - she has no husband - and shares a shack with her sister who has five children

"I cannot wait for us to have our own home," she said



Helen Friedman and community worker Joyce Dube at the opening of the nine houses in Alexandra which were built by poor families with help from America.



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Boycott of CP

By SOPHIE TEMA

CONSUMER boycotts are likely to hit several Conservative Party-controlled towns in the Free State from tomorrow.

The boycotts have been called to protest against the withdrawal of services from several townships in the province.

In Maokeng near Kroonstad, residents will embark on a consumer boycott tomorrow to highlight their dissatisfaction over water and electricity cuts.

At a meeting held in the township this week, a decision was reached that blacks will boycott all white shops in the area, including Kroonstad.

Maokeng residents say they are being supplied with water for only six hours a day - from 12 noon to 6pm - while other areas in the township are not supplied at all.

This week electricity was switched off and the entire township was plunged into darkness, which resulted in residents making a resolution not to pay service charges until their demands have been addressed.

Petsana township near Reitz has had water cut off and night-soil buckets have not been removed for five days.

Town clerk Japie Pienaar agreed at a meeting held with the Petsana Civic Association to have water supplied to the area daily between 6am and 4pm.

A meeting will be held by Petsana residents at 2pm today to decide on a plan of action.

An indefinite consumer boycott in Parys started at the end of September and targeted white and Indian businesses.

In Johannesburg, a plea has been made to the government to encourage town councils to negotiate with residents and address their grievances instead of cutting basic services.

Once the grievances of the people have been addressed, payment of services will be normalised.

This conclusion was reached at a meeting held between leaders of member churches of the South African Council of Churches recently.

Crisis deepens as electricity and water cuts cause chaos

The church leaders said. "For a considerable period of time, residents in a number of Reef townships have been expressing their grievances to councils about corruption in the administration of the councils and the poor quality of the service they provide.

"We are concerned about this inhumane action of depriving people of water and electricity, as this creates severe practical difficulties and is an obvious health risk, especially where people are living in cramped conditions.

"It is an affront by the South African Government that people be treated in such a disrespectful manner."

The leaders have warned that if government cannot encourage the councils to negotiate with residents, certain elements may exploit the unrest in the townships to help disrupt the negotiations process.

This week the Daveyton Town Council and Eskom reached an interim arrangement on the supply of electricity, which calls for a weekly review of service payments by residents.

The new arrangement has been motivated by a marked improvement in payments by Daveyton residents in recent weeks, said a council spokesman.

The spokesman said "A number of interested parties, including civic associations, were engaged in a series of meetings aimed at finding long-term solutions to problems concerning the structure of local authorities plus residents' and councils' ability to afford payment of services."

Other areas where there are water and electricity cuts are Toekomsrus, Atteridgeville, Jouberton and Eldorado Park.

Strongholds

Move to end rent boycott

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Sowetan
5/11/90

THE Klerksdorp Town Council has made proposals to the Jouberton Civic Association in an effort to end the rent and service charge boycott.

Should the civic association fail to accept the proposals electricity and water supply to the township will be cut off on Monday.

The proposals have two alternatives - the payment of a R35 flat rate plus payment of water and electricity consumption and a redemption of arrears between December 1989 and July 1990.

If the proposal is accepted arrears up to the end of November 1989 will be written off.

The alternative is a flat rate charge of R65, plus arrears instalment, the consumption of water and electricity, with arrears up to the end of July 1990.

being written off.

The civic association has proposed a flat-rate payment of R65 a month with no payment of water and electricity consumption. - Sapa

'Repeal will not jar prices'

THERE is unlikely to be a general rise in property prices if the Group Areas Act is repealed, town planner Grant Staff writes in the first edition of a new journal, Urban Forum

In an article on free settlement areas in Johannesburg, Staff writes that some localised price increases or decreases might occur, depending on a combination of increased demand and the socio-economic status of those moving into these areas

Dynamics (127)

He says the socio-economic status of the people moving into an area has in any event been shown to be a far more important determinant of possible price rises than race

He writes that the same dynamics are applicable to free settlement areas

Hence, some of these areas could experience a rise in property values and prices, but only if a sufficient number of people of

TIM COHEN

a sufficiently high socio-economic status want to move in

Free settlement areas such as Mayfair might experience some pressure on prices, but it is debatable whether this will be more pronounced than in similar non-free settlement areas such as Brixton, Westdene and Melville, where prices are already rising

If both factors — increased demand and the socio-economic level of those moving in — are high, prices will rise. If both are low, then prices will drop, Staff says

If the first is high and the second low, then prices also will drop, he writes

However, Staff warns that much research into the specific dynamics of individual areas needs to be done before it can be predicted with certainty what outcome residential desegregation will have on particular areas

5/11/90
BIP/par

Jouberton power supply is cut off

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ELECTRICITY to Jouberton township was switched off yesterday after negotiations between the Klerksdorp Town Council and the Jouberton Civic Association failed.

Klerksdorp council's town clerk, Mr. J.L. Muller, said the meeting failed to reach an agreement on electricity and other service charges.

Muller said the water supply was reduced to a minimum but not completely cut.

At Tsakane near Brakpan, the dispute concerning payment of electricity and other ser-

By DON SEOKANE

ices has been resolved, a joint statement by the Tsakane Council, Tsakane Civic Association, Transvaal Provincial Administration and Eskom said.

Residents will pay a monthly flat rate of R60 for electricity and R25 for other services while households without electricity will pay a flat rate of R30 for services.

Businesses will be billed according to usage.

The parties agreed that the interim flat rate charge will be phased out and payment for actual usage will be resumed after problems relating to meter reading have been solved.

Eskom has agreed to check and repair electricity meters identified by the Tsakane Civic Association as faulty and would also consider the introduction of budget meters to increase the number of electricity users in Tsakane.

On Sunday, Vosloorus residents resolved to pay a flat rate of R50 a month instead of the

R60 demanded by the Vosloorus Council.

Mayor Mr. Morrison-Sinokela said yesterday he could not comment until after the meeting between the council, VCA and TPA which was scheduled for late yesterday.

The council restored power to the township two weeks ago while negotiations were continuing.

The Daveyton Council is scheduled to meet with the Benoni Town Council, TPA and the civic association today in a bid to reach agreement on the payment of services.

Tokoza faces another electricity cut

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Sowetan 6/11/90

THE administrator of Tokoza, Gert Muller, yesterday said power supply to the township may be cut off again, because the majority of residents were not paying the flat rate rental agreed upon by the council and civic association.

Muller said according to the agreement the residents with electricity were to pay R60 a month while others without were to pay only R10 a month. "Until now only about 39 per cent of the residents are paying

while the majority are not. "We have now even suggested to the civic association that people with electricity must pay R60 for electricity only plus R40 for other services," Muller said.

Funds

He added that this would help the council to raise enough funds to enable it to pay the R1,7 million debt owed to the Alberton municipality.

Muller said a crucial meeting would be held with the civic association in an attempt to make them aware of the non-payment by residents of the flat rate rental.

In Katlehong residents of the southern part of the township have been without electricity for the past two weeks. The town clerk of Katlehong, Fannie Mare, said the sub-stations serving these areas had been damaged due to lack of maintenance.

He said the council had no funds because of the rent boycott.

He said the flat rate of R45 a month paid by people with electricity and R10 amount paid by those without electricity was insufficient.

Mare said he had held talks with TPA officials on Friday on the repair of the sub-stations and he added that the council electricians would restore power in the affected areas within the next few days. - Sowetan Correspondent

ANC slams decision on protection units

THE ANC yesterday criticised the TPA's

decision to empower black local authorities to form "civil protection units", saying the decision was an attempt to create vigilante groups to bolster discredited town councillors.

The ANC said in a statement the latest Transvaal Provincial Gazette, which empowered black local authorities to form "civil protection units" in terms of the Civil Protection Act, was aimed at propping up the discredited local government system and the town councillors whose "callous actions" had resulted in essential services such as water and electricity being cut off

Hazards

Consequently hundreds of thousands of people were daily experiencing the hardship and health hazards which accompanied life without water, sewerage and electricity

The protection units, according to the Provincial Gazette, will be made up of volunteer residents

Swifem 6/11/90

and would be activated when either an influx of refugees or a disruption of essential services occurred

"It is significant that such 'protection' units are being created at the same time as the Government expresses opposition to self-defence units created by and accountable to the people," the ANC said

The organisation said "the confrontational approach" of Conservative Party-led local authorities and "the indifference" expressed by bodies such as Eskom had already heightened tensions in the townships.

The introduction of "a legalised vigilante force into this already explosive situation" was an outrage, and the ANC would hold both the Government and the local authorities responsible for further escalation of violence, death and destruction which were "bound to follow this foolhardy action"

The ANC statement said the organisation would soon be approaching civic associations to discuss the matter further.

- *Sowetan Correspondent*

Vosloorus rent talks deadlocked

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Sowetan 3/11/90

Talks on Monday between the Vosloorus Town Council, Transvaal Provincial Administration, Eskom and Vosloorus Civic Association aimed at resolving the ongoing boycott of rent and other service charges, has deadlocked, civic spokesman Keith Montsisi has said.

Twice during the meeting, in Germiston, delegates walked out, he said.

Earlier, the council had suggested the meeting be closed in protest

against a R50 flat rate suggested by the civic. But they later decided to stay on, Mr Montsisi said.

The civic had requested the TPA and the council to accept the R50 proposal on condition that it would be reviewed in a month or two.

Instead of responding to the proposal, the council in turn demanded that residents pay a flat rate of R10 for water, R10 for a

masterplan, R5,70 minimum charge for electricity, R7,10 for refuse removal, and R8 for sewerage, and that meter services, namely water and electricity be suspended.

These amounted to a total of R40,80 and would exceed an amount of R50 proposed by the civic, when water and electricity charges were included, Mr Montsisi said.

Delegates, he added, later walked out of the meeting for the second time. - Sapa

Jo'burg industrial rentals are in levelling off phase

INDUSTRIAL rentals and land values around Johannesburg are levelling off, according to the latest Russell Marriott & Boyd Trust (RMBT) property guide

"In Johannesburg, values for most areas remain unchanged since June and notable declines have been detected in older, less attractive areas," the guide says.

"In those areas land and rental values are now correcting to market levels after being artificially swept up in the last two years by the wave of demand in better quality areas"

However, in areas such as Kramerville and City West, where the supply is still limited and demand steady, values have increased

Where industrial land has been released in areas of short supply — around the M2 strip and Eastgate for example — prices have risen by up to 11% to about R170/m² in the last quarter.

Investment yields for industrial property have risen to 11%-13%.

High interest rates have made it more attractive for developers to sell and lease back their properties

In Cape Town there is a short supply of good quality warehouses and factories, especially in the 500m² to 1 500m² range, but RMBT says the demand for rented space has dropped because of the coming Christmas break, political uncertainty and the economic downturn.

Land prices in Cape Town have stabilised but RMBT expects these will rise rapidly once the economy and confidence improves, because there is a shortage of good land

In Durban, there is a shortage of centrally-situated A-grade premises although there are more B-grade premises available and their rentals are negotiable. Because land is in short supply, land prices are not affected

The investment market there has eased slightly Capitalisation interest rates are up 5% on average.

Cape homes 'are cheaper than hotels'

A FAMILY can save money by renting a home for a holiday instead of staying in a hotel, says Holiday Booking Service: Cape MD André Jankowitz.

He says his service is not in direct competition with the hotel industry, whose market is more the businessman, single traveller or elderly tourist.

"Renting a house is purely aimed at the family — mom, dad and the kids and perhaps the grandparents and a cousin — who want privacy and the feeling of being at home."

If the holiday home rental service has a competitor it is the timeshare industry. Holiday Booking Service is aimed at families who do not want to be tied into a timeshare purchase.

Jankowitz — previously a systems analyst — started his organisation a year ago and says the supply of and demand for rented family accommodation in Cape Town has been very good.

His company has about 200 flats, houses and cottages on its books ranging from R55 a day to R1 500 a day. The rates depend on size, area and grading.

For example, a flat in Camps Bay with sea views which sleeps two and is graded one costs R55 a day whereas a four-bedroomed house in Bantry Bay with sea view, jacuzzi, trampoline and sauna graded five costs R1 500 a day.

Jankowitz says each grade is similar to the star hotel grading system. The company inspects all accommodation and then grades it.

As far as possible the service has kept its rates at the same level as in 1989.

UBS details average house's cost

THE United Building Society's quarterly housing review reports that the average price of a medium-sized house is about R106 000, which may surprise Johannesburg residents.

Property advertisements show that prices of three-bedroomed houses with few trimmings in the PWV area start at R140 000 to R150 000

Most of the advertised houses go for R300 000 to R400 000 and there is a bracket of R1m to R2m.

But UBS chief economist Hans Falkena points out that the data used in the survey is "smoothed" to allow for seasonal changes in the market and variations between respondents

He says on the raw data the average price for a medium-sized house of 140m² to 220m² in Johannesburg is about R138 000, but only 13% of the medium-sized houses in the survey are in the Johannesburg area and 8% are in Pretoria

Institute of Estate Agents president Dave Miller says the figures are representative of the market for houses in SA as a whole.

"You can get houses for less than R100 000 on the East and West Rand. In Maritzburg a medium-sized house costs R50 000 to R80 000.

"Johannesburg is the most expensive area in the country"

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Chamber to help in Jouberton talks

BIDAY 7/11/90

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THE Westvaal Chamber of Business had agreed to help resolve the electricity crisis in the Klerksdorp township of Jouberton, local civic association spokesman Tshidiso Ntaopane said yesterday.

He said his organisation had called on the chamber after the Klerksdorp Town Council cut off the electricity supply on Monday. Negotiations deadlocked on Sunday.

A town council spokesman said Jouberton owed more than R1m, and the council and the civic association had failed to agree on a flat rate. The council cut off electricity and reduced the water supply.

Ntaopane said his organisation, in an attempt to reopen talks, tried unsuccessfully to engage the Water Board and TPA in negotiations.

"We finally had talks with the Westvaal Chamber of Business, and they have agreed to hold a meeting tonight with the council," he said yesterday.

The chamber could not be reached for comment last night.

On the East Rand, Vosloorus was in danger of a blackout after talks with the local council and TPA deadlocked on Monday.

Vosloorus administrator Gert Muller said yesterday only 49% of the 6 000 elec-

THEO RAWANA

tricity users were paying the R60 interim monthly rate agreed to in talks.

"When we met on Monday night the local civic association told us they were prepared to pay only R40. That is when talks broke down. There is great danger of electricity supply being cut off yet again," Muller said.

Power supply was restored to the township about a fortnight ago after residents told the local council the cut-off would adversely affect pupils who were preparing for end-of-year examinations.

Negotiations facilitator Nigel Mandy said yesterday the parties would now decide individually what course of action they would pursue.

Eskom has summonsed at least 17 local authorities in an attempt to recover arrears, its public relations spokesman Johan du Plessis told Sapa yesterday.

Sapa reports the Maritzburg Department of Development Aid has rejected an offer by the residents of Imbali Unit N to pay a R50 flat rate to reduce their debts on rent, electricity and other service charges after a three-month boycott.

A department spokesman said electricity would not be cut off indiscriminately

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Mixed reaction to call for stayaway

Power

demon

Sowetan 8/11/90

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chaos

THE Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation and the United Democratic Front have called for a one-day stayaway and an indefinite consumer boycott of white-owned businesses from Monday.

The move is to protest against electricity power cuts and the refusal by the Bophuthatswana government to be reincorporated into South Africa

By MONK NKOMO

The protest action, which was announced yesterday, was met with mixed reaction by residents and political organisations who said the organisers had not received a mandate from the people.

Confusion also surrounded the involvement of the KwaNdebele homeland residents to demand the reincorporation of Bophuthatswana into South Africa.

Other affected areas are Mamelodi, Soshanguve, Bophuthatswana and Brits, according to Asro acting general secretary Mr Simon Tshidi

He said they were also

demanding the formation of a single municipality for all residents in the Pretoria area and the immediate switching on of the electricity supply in Atteridgeville and Zithobeni.

The areas have been without power for about a month because of the rent boycott

Boycott

Tshidi admitted that several organisations, including Azapo, Nactu and the PAC were not consulted about the protest action

The regional secretary of Azapo, Mr Dibetso Taukobong, yesterday condemned the cutting of electricity supplies to black townships but said

Azapo was not party to the stayaway and consumer boycott call

"As far as Azapo is concerned, there has never been a Bophuthatswana We can therefore never call for its reincorporation into South Africa It is a non-issue," he said

Taukobong, however, supported the protest action to force the homeland to allow both Cosatu and Nactu to organise freely there

Tshidi, who denied allegations by residents that Asro was aligned to the African National Congress, appealed to residents to heed the call but promised that no person would be intimidated or

OTOP: 2

P. T. O

Schools, townships will get new names

ALL 63 secondary and high schools and several townships in Soweto will be renamed after African heroes and leaders by the Soweto City Council.

The vice-president of the Sofasonke Party, Mr Mandela Mazibuko, yesterday said his party will announce the new names to Soweto residents at the party's public meeting at the Jabulani Amphitheatre on November 18.

The late president of the Pan Africanist Congress, Mr Zeph Mothopeng, who was buried last weekend, is among those honoured.

Honoured

Anchor High School in Mzimhlophe will be renamed Mothopeng High School. Phefemi Secondary School will be called Mandela High School; Emadwalem will be called Walter Sisulu High School and the newly-built Orlando East High will be called James Sofasonke Mpanza High School.

Some of the townships to be renamed are: Orlando East which will be called Mpanzaville; Orlando West will be known as Mandelaville and Mofolo will be known as Tshabalala Village after

Sowetan 9/11/90

By Sowetan Reporter

Sofasonke president Mshengu Tshabalala.

Some townships named after African stalwarts such as Dube village and Moroka township will retain their names.

Chiawelo township will be divided into two areas which will be renamed after Venda and Shangaan leaders who have greatly contributed to the livelihood of their communities.

The renaming programme has drawn mixed reaction from Soweto residents. While some welcomed the renaming as long overdue, others felt all existing names, such as Mofolo, should be retained.

Political fanatics among school pupils and civic groups are expected to clamour for the names of their political heroes, with Mandela being an overall favourite.

Other topics on the agenda at the Sofasonke Party meeting will be the transfer of all old houses to owners and the writing-off of rent arrears between June 1986 and April 1989.

Mass action over councils

127
9/11/90

CIVIC Associations of Southern Transvaal yesterday announced plans of mass activity intended to persuade councillors to resign and for the Government to dismantle the system of Black Local Authorities.

The president of Cast, Mr Moses Mayekiso, said all councillors should resign by the end of November and that the Government should dismantle the BLAs and Coloured and Indian

Management Committee system by the end of December.

Mass activity will include marches, which will be held in various cities of the Southern and Western Transvaal, starting on November 17. Memoranda will be handed to the regional offices of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Mayekiso said further action will be determined by the response of the

authorities after the marches and that failure by the councillors to heed the call will result in their isolation in the communities, including boycotting their businesses.

He said the switching-off of electricity in numerous townships and lack of appreciable movement towards the establishment of "one-city, one tax-base" compelled Cast to embark on a programme of mass action.

Two more townships face cuts

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TWO more black townships in the East Rand are facing cuts in electricity supplies and services this week if residents fail to pay rent and other services charges.

Soweto 12/11/90
Last Friday the Ratanda Town Committee, which controls Ratanda township near Heidelberg, threatened to cut off electricity supplies to the area by Friday this week if residents did not pay the flat rate of R65.

In Daveyton, residents who fail to pay monies for services due to the council will have them discontinued from tomorrow.

Eskom 'will not wipe the slate clean on arrears'

B 12/11/40

LINDEN BIRNS

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THE R70m in electricity supply arrears from 30 black townships would not be written off, an Eskom spokesman said at the weekend.

Six townships have already been summonsed by Eskom after it resorted to legal action in an attempt to recoup unpaid accounts.

Eskom spokesman Johan du Plessis said at the weekend although legal action had been initiated, this did not mean Eskom was closing the door on negotiating a solution to the non-payment with all relevant parties.

"We are always ready to talk to the civic organisations, the local authorities and the TPA," he said.

Summonses were expected to be served on another 15 black councils soon. They were considering what type of action to take against the remaining nine townships, Du Plessis said.

"We won't be cutting electricity to any of the 30 black councils as it would be unfair to those individuals who do pay their accounts. Cutting off the supply to the whole area will not be a solution."

A temporary agreement on tariffs should be fixed while the issues which had led to the "non-payment situation" were addressed.

Most of the 30 black councils which owed Eskom arrears were located in the Transvaal with two or three in the Free State, Du Plessis said.

Negotiations, which in some cases included input from Eskom, were scheduled to begin on Friday between the TPA and 10 Transvaal black local authorities. Meetings were also planned with the Evaton, Alexandra, Munsiesville, Jouberton and Kanana civic associations.

By Friday, 10 Transvaal townships which bought their electricity in bulk from neighbouring white local councils had had their electricity supplies cut.

These areas were: Situbeni near Bronkhorstspuit; Engwenya near Waterval Boven; KwaGuga and Boitumelong near Bloemhof; Silobela near Carolina; Tsweilang near Wolmaranstad; Kgakala near Leeudoringstad, and Maokeng and Jouberton near Klerksdorp.

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LINDEN BIRNS

THERE is no danger of a health crisis in the PWV, despite reports of raw sewage polluting several Witwatersrand streams, particularly in black areas, the Health Department said at the weekend.

"At the moment there is no crisis and the department has no plans to launch a campaign against cholera until all tests have been carried out," spokes-

man Karin Knobel said. She said tests were performed "on a regular basis" but could not say if specific new tests had been performed since reports and warnings that raw sewage was being dumped into fresh water streams and rivulets on the Witwatersrand.

Water Affairs spokesman Marisa

Haasbroek said tests were done in conjunction with local authorities.

Water Affairs scientific services managing engineer Hendrik Best confirmed that his department performed pollution tests on township streams "about once a month depending on the size of the stream. Only people using unpurified water are at risk."

No danger of health crisis in PWV, says govt department

(127)

Sapa reports Health Minister Rina Venter said at the weekend warnings of a serious health threat in the Witwatersrand would be investigated.

Meanwhile, leading SA Institute for Medical Research virologist Prof Margarettha Isaacson has added her voice to the warnings. She said cholera, typhoid, polio, hepatitis, dysentery and

gastro-entiritis could all be caused by the use of untreated polluted water.

TPA spokesman Piet Wilken blamed the health hazard on rent and rates boycotts. He called on residents to pay their accounts to allow the restoration of water and sewage supplies.

The Rand Water Board's Chris Viljoen said there was no reason for public concern about the quality of Johannesburg's reticulated water.

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Eskom 'will not waine the date



LINDEN BIRNS

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Raw sewage presents major health hazard in the Highveld

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THE TPA says it holds the organisers of the boycott of rental and service fees in black residential areas responsible for the serious health hazard caused by the dumping of raw sewage in the river systems of the Highveld.

Mr Piet Wilkens of the TPA said there were strong indications that residents wanted to pay their service fees, but that they were being intimidated not to do so

Soweto
He made an urgent appeal to black local authorities and consumers to pay their rentals and service fees

The Highveld river systems, and the tributaries of the Vaal River, in particular, are faced with a serious health hazard, because of raw sewage which is being dumped into the rivers from scores of black residential areas

12/11/90
A spokesman for the Highveld region of the Department of Water Affairs, Mrs Maria Oliveira, said officials had been instructed to take legal action against local authorities responsible for polluting streams.

Overflow

Oliviera said that the problem had resulted from the discontinuation of services to black towns

where sewage was not being pumped, treated or removed

She said sewage pits were overflowing into streets and sewage buckets were being emptied directly into streams

Streams that have been affected are the Blesbokspruit at Daveyton, Wonderfonteinspruit, Natalspruit and Klip River in Soweto. - Sapa

Curfew threatens rent talks

By MONK NKOMO

131 11 90
TODAY'S talks between the Atteridgeville/Saulville Resident Organisation and officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration over the rent boycott hung in the balance yesterday because of the curfew.

Mr. Simon Tshidi, ASRO's acting secretary said they did not know if they would attend the crucial meeting (at 4pm) because of the curfew.

"The curfew is unnecessary and only causes more violence in the township" said Tshidi.

Protest stayaway leaves Pretoria streets empty

b/day 13/11/90

127

PRETORIA'S streets, offices and shops were virtually emptied of blacks yesterday as the majority of residents from surrounding townships stayed away in protest against electricity cuts in Atteridgeville and Saulsville townships and in support of the reincorporation of Bophuthatswana into SA.

EDYTH BULBRING

Taxis

Shops operated on skeleton white staff, while some restaurants were reduced to serving only liquid refreshments in the absence of kitchen staff and supplies.

A Sabta spokesman said no taxis were on the streets yesterday.

Sabta members, he said, were part of the community and heeded the call by the various progressive organisations.

Secondly, it would have been uneconomic for taxis to be out on the streets when there were no custom-

ers coming to work, he said.

A Putco spokesman said its buses were prevented from entering Mamelodi and Soshanguve by "commandos" who had sealed off the townships, and the other two services from Denilton and KwaNdebele were not running at full capacity.

There were no buses from Atteridgeville and Saulsville, he said.

A Spoornet spokesman said the train service was running at only 10% of capacity.

The one-day stayaway and the first day of a consumer boycott of Pretoria's shops were in response to a call by the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation, Cosatu, the UDF and the Anti-Bophuthatswana Co-ordinating Committee.

The action was also in protest against the cutting off of electricity supplies to Atteridgeville last month, and in favour of free union and political activity in Bophuthatswana.

Councils may be sued over sewage

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~~scribble~~

Sowetan
13/11/90

THE Department of Water Affairs is considering taking legal action against black municipalities which are allowing raw sewage to overflow into tributaries of the Vaal River.

This follows the build-up of sewage which is overflowing into the rivers after pumps at certain townships were shut down following non-payment of electricity bills.

Health Department spokesman Karen Knobel said her office would only

come into the picture if the situation was considered "dangerous", but the people on the affected streams were not dependent on river water for their daily supply.

Polluted

But South Africa Institute for Medical Research virologist Margareta Isaacson warned that cholera, typhoid, polio, hepatitis, dysentery and gastroenteritis could be caused by untreated polluted water.

Meanwhile the Rand Water Board has stated

emphatically that pollution which may be caused by the raw sewage flowing into the river system poses no health hazard in the PWV area.

"There is absolutely no indication of pollution in the water supplied by the RWB to the PWV area," said RWB pollution control officer Ray Haynes.

RWB chief scientist Chris Viljoen warned people who used the Barrage for boating and skiing that there was always risk involved in using dams and rivers for recreational purposes.

Rent boycott talks called off

A MEETING between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Atteridgeville ANC branch on the rent boycott in the Pretoria township was called off yesterday, said TPA assistant liaison director Jan Loubser.

It was not known when the next meeting would take place.

Atteridgeville ANC chairman Abe Nkomo said he did not know about this decision and was awaiting the ANC delegation's report.

Atteridgeville Residents' Organisation publicity secretary John Ramatsui said the organisation had pulled out of the talks because of police action in the township.

The TPA had said the agenda would include recommendations of the Kriel Commission of Inquiry into irregularities in the town council. The commission earlier found there had been a number of irregularities.

Violence flared on Saturday, killing two youths and injuring more than 20 people in a confrontation between protesters and police over an

electricity switchoff. Subsequent to the violence, a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed in Atteridgeville on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, the Klerksdorp and Jouberton councils will hold a crucial meeting tomorrow to determine further action in the rent and service charges boycott in the township.

The Klerksdorp council reconnected electricity to the township on Friday last week, and said tomorrow was the deadline for residents to make satisfactory payments.

In Witbank, the town council cut power supplies to the township of Kwaguqa on Monday.

Town clerk Adam Engelbrecht announced last week that the R60 flat rate paid by residents was not enough and if the amount was not increased there would be no alternative but to effect the cuts.

A spokesman for the residents' organisation said they were surprised by the action.

Engelbrecht could not be reached for comment yesterday — Sapa.

Women urged to help build new SA

WILSON ZWANE

DEPUTY Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer yesterday urged women to become involved in the peace process and to share the responsibility of creating a new dispensation in a growth-orientated SA.

Addressing women in Soweto, Meyer said as women made up more than half the country's total population, it was clear they had to take an active part not only in the political sphere, but also in the wider social structure.

"In working to bring about the new SA the government is not aiming only for a new political system. SA needs a whole new social structure where the ideals and aspirations of everyone can be realised," Meyer said, adding that without the involvement of women it would not be possible to negotiate a new, acceptable and workable constitution.

8/10 day 14/11/90

(127)



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Women urged to help build new SA

WILSON ZWANE

DEPUTY Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer yesterday urged women to become involved in the peace process and to share the responsibility of creating a new dispensation in a growth-orientated SA.

Addressing women in Soweto, Meyer said as women made up more than half the country's total population, it was clear they had to take an active part not only in the political sphere, but also in the wider social structure.

"In working to bring about the new SA the government is not aiming only for a new political system. SA needs a whole new social structure where the ideals and aspirations of everyone can be realised," Meyer said, adding that without the involvement of women it would not be possible to negotiate a new, acceptable and workable constitution.

6/10 am 14/11/90

Klerksdorp meets on rent boycott today 127

THE Klerksdorp and Jouberton councils will hold a crucial meeting today to determine further action in the rent and service charges boycott in the township

The Klerksdorp Town Council reconnected electricity to the township on Friday last week, and said today was the deadline for residents to make satisfactory payments towards the bulk supply. *Sowetan 15/11/90*

A spokesman for the Klerksdorp town council said on Tuesday if the payments were not satisfactory, they may decide to switch off electricity again. However, he had no statistics on how residents were responding to the call to pay. - *Sapa*

Civic groups to march on Reef and Vaal

THE Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal is to hold protest marches on Saturday to demand the resignation of councillors, Cast announced yesterday.

Cast president Mr Moses Mayekiso said marches would take place in Johannesburg, Germiston, Toekomsrus and the Vaal at 10am

Memoranda would be presented to the regional offices of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Permission had been granted for Johannesburg and Germiston. The organisation expected authorities that had not yet granted permission for the marches not to create "a climate of confrontation".

He said: "We must reiterate our contention that these marches are part of a programme of

By DON SEOKANE

peaceful mass action to rid our people of the ravages of apartheid and improve the quality of people's lives

"The curfew imposed in Atteridgeville and the policy of switching-off of power in various townships make it virtually impossible for negotiations to take place in a conducive climate"

Demands

The demands to be presented to the TPA included.

* The dismantling of black local authorities, coloured and Indian management authorities by the end of December;

* The immediate end to power cuts in townships; and

* The establishment of one city and one tax base.

Minister told people to aid cops - witness

IT WAS a well-known fact in Clermont that KwaZulu Deputy Cabinet Minister Mr Bekizizwe Jamile encouraged people to co-operate with police and other authorities, the Maritzburg Supreme Court heard yesterday.

This was heard during the cross-examination of Captain Eric Nkabinde, a witness in the trial of Jamile and his co-accused, Mr Msizi Hlophe.

Jamile (50) and Hlophe (19) have pleaded not guilty to five charges of murder, seven counts of attempted murder and three charges of incitement to murder.

Nkabinde has been branch commander of the Kwa Dabeka Police Station, which serves the Clermont area, since October 1987.

Under cross-examination by Jamile's defence counsel, Mr Gideon Scheltema, he agreed that Jamile was criticised severely in United Democratic Front circles for his appeal to people to co-operate with police

(Proceeding). - Sowetan Correspondent

Middle-range homes hard hit

CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

PROPERTIES in greater Johannesburg, Randburg and Sandton in the R185 000 to R450 000 range have been the hardest hit by high interest rates, the economic downturn and political instability.

According to research done by Aida Holdings' national franchising arm, property values in this range declined by 7% over the last six months.

"The trend for middle-income professionals is to buy down, which is underpinning the market below R185 000," Aida chairman Aida Geffen says

"Rising living costs, expensive petrol and uncertainty as to what form the new SA will take have adversely affected the middle market

"This hesitancy is not reflected in the R65 000 to R185 000 range, where prices are continuing to firm, at an average of 10% to 20% a year." B10ay 15/11/90

She says house prices in the R450 000 to R1m range are still buoyant because these buyers have more disposable income and are not affected by the cost of living to the same extent as the mid-range buyers.

But there is still resistance at the top end of the market, especially for houses of R2m and upwards Aida recently sold a 12 000m² property in Sandton for nearly R3m, but it had been on the market for a year

Shopkeepers try to end boycott in Kroonstad

Sowetan 16/11/90
KROONSTAD shopkeepers are taking the lead in attempting to resolve a consumer boycott. He said 50 traders had signed a petition calling for the dispute to be settled.

Papapanous said he had met the boycott organisers, the Moakeng Democratic Crisis Committee, on Wednesday and they agreed to try and find ways of ending the boycott.

A meeting between shopkeepers and the

Kroonstad Town council

was due last night and Papapanous said he hoped

to make progress towards a compromise. - Sapa

keepers hard.

6776

RS

Shopkeepers try to end boycott in Kroonstad

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Papapanous said he had met the boycott organisers, the Moakeng Democratic Crisis Committee, on Wednesday and they agreed to try and find ways of ending the boycott.

A meeting between shopkeepers and the Kroonstad Town council was due last night and Papapanous said he hoped the boycott has not made progress towards a compromise. - Sapa

4,69
 30,80
 9,99
 32,50

Govt 'preparing for violation of civil rights'

THERE were signs that President F W de Klerk and his government were attempting to prepare public opinion for the violation of civil rights, ANC deputy leader Nelson Mandela said last night

Mandela, addressing the Foreign Correspondents' Association in Johannesburg, said it was universally accepted that various means of political expression, including public meetings, rallies and non-violent resistance, were aspects of freedom of speech.

While the media's freedom of speech was recognised, the same could not be said of the people's right to assemble, hold

16/11/90

TM COHEN

meetings and processions, and stage mass demonstrations

He said a regime accustomed to authoritarian behaviour needed time to grow accustomed to democratic practice.

He said it had been accepted that the interface of extra-parliamentary and parliamentary activities was essential for the unfolding of democratic politics.

Mandela said it would be foolhardy for anyone to align themselves with government's attempts to curtail these rights.

Shopkeepers attempt to end boycott

KROONSTAD shopkeepers are taking the lead in attempting to resolve a consumer boycott

Residents of Maokeng township started the boycott after the Kroonstad Town Council cut electricity and water supplies.

Maokeng residents have been boycotting service charge payments.

Kroonstad store owner Greg Papapanous said yesterday that the week-and-a-half old boycott had hit shopkeepers hard.

He said 50 traders had signed a petition calling for the dispute to be settled.

Papapanous said he had met the boycott organisers, the Maokeng Democratic Crisis Committee, on Wednesday and they had agreed to try and find ways of ending the boycott.

A meeting between shopkeepers and the Kroonstad Town Council was due to be held last night.

Papapanous said he hoped that progress towards a compromise would be made. — Sapa.

HAMILTON RUSSELL VINEYARDS



CROOKES BROTHERS LIMITED (CBL)

Co No 02/00290/06
Directors I F G Gillatt (Chairman) D J Crookes (Managing), P L Campbell, A C Crookes, D V Crookes, J F C Palmer

INTERIM REPORT 1990/91

As sugar cane, citrus and grain are seasonal crops and dividends from investments are not received at regular intervals the figures shown are half those estimated for the current year and the comparative figures are half the actuals of last year

	APRIL/ SEPT 1990	APRIL/ SEPT 1989	% CHANGE
Turnover	R100s 18 603	R000s 17 553	+ 6
Net operating income before interest (Note 1)	2 607	2 317	+12
Income from investments (Note 2)	920	1 711	-48
Net interest paid	(372)	(97)	

WORM'S EYE

Steven Friedman



Township strife a threat to talks

BEFORE the government and African National Congress negotiate anything else, they may have to agree on ways to run townships for the next few years. If they don't, they may be unable to negotiate anything else.

Township conflict between ANC-aligned civic groups and the authorities has become the major threat to national negotiations.

The ANC and many civics call for "mass action" to overthrow racial local government — and township councils in particular. The government insists that councils stay until a new local government system is negotiated.

Continuing rent and service charge boycotts threaten to collapse township administrations — and prompt electricity, water and sewerage cuts which dislocate township life. These conflicts have triggered violence which may escalate, making a national settlement difficult, or impossible.

The government now demands that the ANC stop "mass action" if prisoners are to be released and exiles are to return. A stalemate could develop which will delay or halt negotiations.

This is a far cry from three months ago when it seemed that negotiation between civics and the authorities might end boycotts, avert service cuts, and end in agreements to manage townships until a new city government system is negotiated. Talks on ending boycotts had begun in scores of townships. In several, there were settlements. In some, there was agreement on interim arrangements allowing township administration to continue provided civics gained a say in how it operated.

In September, an agreement ended the Soweto boycott and established a forum to handle conflicts until a new system is in place. Some believed it would be followed by agreements in other townships and the conflict would end.

The opposite happened. Most agreements in other townships have collapsed and civics greeted the Soweto accord with demands for stepped-up mass action.

Many in the ANC and the civics saw the Soweto agreement as a compromise because it allowed existing local governments to remain: they want them scrapped and replaced with interim bodies elected in a non-racial poll.

But they knew that other civics were not strong enough to negotiate similar agreements and make them stick.

Soweto's civic is one of the few in the Transvaal which represents an organised constituency: if it has to compromise, it has a chance of taking township residents with it.

Perhaps because it represents a constituency, the Soweto civic had negotiated with the authorities and was ready to do so. It had framed demands and decided which it could compromise on.

The other civics aren't ready. They are used to denouncing apartheid, not to framing concrete policies and strategies. This explains why some agreements have collapsed.

Civics who negotiated them weren't strong enough to ensure that residents would honour them. Some also made them without consulting residents — or realising the implications. When these became clear, the deals collapsed. Many civics have reverted to rhetoric and protest not because they are too strong to negotiate, but because they are too weak.

If negotiating a transition is left to individual civics, the conflict won't be settled. Decades of powerlessness have left most too weak to negotiate now and this won't change quickly. This is why the government is unlikely to achieve a change in local activists' strategies by demanding it.

It assumes that civics could change from mass action to negotiation if they want to. But they may be choosing mass action because they are too weak to choose anything else.

They may choose something else only if structures are created which offer them gains if they take part in local decisions — and the prospect of major losses if they don't.

Structures are needed which formalise local negotiation and give civics a share in decisions. We know now that, in most areas, they can't be created by local negotiation.

The government, the ANC and the civics have an interest in a stable journey from the old local government system to the new. But they insist the journey can begin on their terms only.

The government wants existing structures to remain because this shows it is in control. It wants councillors to stay because it sees them as allies who share an interest in limiting local majority rule. The ANC wants the structures and councils to go because it wants to show it is in control and that stability is only possible if the government concedes local majority rule now.

But neither side is strong enough to prevail.

The government has found that, in many townships, it cannot ensure that councillors remain in office. Where they have resigned — or been removed by force — it has not replaced them. Its present stance weakens it because it sends a signal to local activists that, if they want councils to go, they will have to force them out.

The ANC and civics cannot remove some township councils — still less can they remove white councils. Their current strategy is doing little to strengthen them.

So both sides have an interest in compromising and in agreeing on ways to manage the local transition.

If the process begun by those two earlier minutes is to continue, it may need a third minute, which includes the civics, and agrees on how townships will be run until a new system is in place. It may have to be negotiated nationally. But it will have to give grassroots groups a key role in the arrangements which are agreed — or the weakness which caused the stalemate will continue.

A third minute might also send a message to the local level that conflict is a dead end which may kill prospects for a non-racial democracy, nationally and locally.

■ NEXT WEEK: Ameen Akhalwya

Asro under attack

SIR - The Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation (Asro) claims to represent everybody, but it does not.

Members were not democratically elected

In view of their alliance with the ANC and UDF, they obviously represent only their membership and are trying to make all residents automatic members and sup-

porters of their organisations.

They claim not to be doing this, but they cannot fool all the people

There are many people in our township who have different ideologies and are members of different political organisations. A civic organisation should

be absolutely apolitical

Therefore any decision Asro takes must be in consultation with all residents and political organisations

For instance, the present consumer boycott has been imposed on the masses. The people took no part in the decision

Asro had no mandate from residents and should not try to involve us all.

Asro should disband so that an apolitical civic organisation can be formed to represent everybody.

WORRIED

DENTS

Atteridgeville

RESI-

127

19/11/19

Low cost housing

Siveton
THE R2-billion allocated by the Government for socio-economic development should be used where the need was greatest.

It should not be used to subsidise houses costing more than R10 000 to R12 000, said Aida Holdings chairman Ms Aida Geffen.

In a statement, she said the funds should be used for the majority of urban blacks who earned between R500 and R800 a month.

"I believe the acute

19/11/90
housing shortage in this country and the squatter problem is a time-bomb on the verge of exploding." (127)

Ms Geffen said it made no sense to subsidise black housing in the R20 000 to R30 000 bracket at the expense of the majority who could not even afford repayments on bonds of R10 000.

She said the belief that basic dwellings could not be built for less than R15 000 had been disproved at Orange Farm

earlier this year where 3 500 houses were built at a cost of R8 500 each.

The houses consisted of an outer brick wall with tiled or steel roof, no plastering or ceilings and a single dividing wall.

One water tap was shared by 10 houses and pit sewerage would be used until water-borne sewerage was installed.

Eskom had undertaken to bypass the various municipal authorities and enter into direct supply contracts with house-owners at Orange Farm, Ms Geffen said.

Rent arrears demand sparks

GREATER Soweto traders and community-based organisations are to hold an important meeting at the Jabulani Standard Bank Hall tomorrow at noon, to discuss rent arrears

Many business people are claiming they have been asked to pay arrears by City Councils over the past few weeks.

The president of the Greater Soweto Chamber

Soweto row

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

of Commerce and Industries, Mr Philemon Makhetha, yesterday said the meeting will formulate a letter of demand from the council authorities regarding the payment of rent arrears.

He claimed that busi-

ness owners have received letters to pay arrears, despite the fact that the Transvaal Provincial Administration had agreed to scrap rent arrears in the townships.

"We are surprised by this move and need an explanation from the authorities."

"We have called community organisations to help formulate strategies with us because they were involved in talks with TPA

Speakers at the meeting will include Mr Ishamael Mkhabela (community leader), Mr Pat Lephunya (general secretary of Soweto Civic Association and Makhetha.

Meeting

Meanwhile the South African Long Distance Transport Association (Saldta) is to hold a meeting at the Rand International Hotel, Johannesburg at 10am, to discuss the escalating number of road accidents involving minibus taxis in the past months.

All spaza shops and hawkers are invited to a meeting at the Easy-By-Nite Club in Katlehong tomorrow at 10am.

tools also to demand pro- by the government to remove Nkosi.

Lift curfew first, Vlok is urged

By MONK NKOMO *Sowetan 20/11/90*

THE Atteridgeville/Saulville Residents Organisation yesterday called on Minister of Law and Order Mr Adriaan Vlok to lift the dawn-to-dusk curfew before they could negotiate with the Transvaal Provincial Administration to resolve the rent boycott

Asro acting general secretary Mr Simon Tshidi said the resignation of councillors in Atteridgeville last week had paved the way for an interim solution to the boycott that started on April 1.

He said plans were underway to form a committee comprising officials from Atteridgeville, Mamelodi, Laudium and Eersterus to negotiate with the Pretoria City Council for a single municipality in Pretoria.

"But the Minister of Law and Order must lift the curfew he imposed on November 11 before negotiations can start," Tshidi said.

Military truck hits, kills man

A 27-YEAR-OLD man died at Kalafong Hospital after being knocked down by a military truck in Atteridgeville last Sunday.

Mr Godfrey Mabena, of Saulsville, died hours after the funeral of two youths - Lucky Patlane (19) and Prince Makhoba (9) - who were both shot by police.

Mr Johannes Maphoka (54) was seriously injured after being shot by four policemen on Saturday.

Mrs Rose Mabena told *Sowetan* yesterday that

By MONK NKOMO

her nephew was knocked down at the corner of Ramokgopa and Mhlanga streets about 3.15pm

He was rushed to the hospital but died a few hours later

Family

A spokesman for lawyers representing the Mabena family said they may take legal action

An SADF spokesman in Pretoria yesterday confirmed the incident and said a military board of inquiry would investigate the matter

The Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation yesterday condemned the activities of security forces which have allegedly claimed three lives in the township in a week

"It is clear the security forces are not interested in the maintenance of law and order but are actually promoting conflict," Mr John Ramatsui, Asro's publicity secretary, said

Mrs Mabena said her nephew would probably be buried on Saturday

He is survived by his wife Glory, and a five month-old son, Siphwe

Flat rate for Reef township

By DON SEOKANE

THE Vosloorus Council has announced that residents would be charged a flat rate for services over November and December

Mayor of Vosloorus Mr MM Smokela said wired houses would be charged R40 for electricity and R20 for other municipal services

He said negotiations between the council and the Vosloorus Civic Association ended in deadlock so the council decided to introduce interim flat rates

Meanwhile, Katlehong residents have been without water since Sunday after a water pipe burst

Katlehong mayor Mr MacDonald Mhlana said the pipe was being repaired and the water supply would resume today.

3 000 died violently this year

MORE than 3 000 people have died this year in the country's worst ever political violence, the South African Institute of Race Relations has announced

Commenting on its latest report on political fatalities released yesterday, the institute said the 1990 death toll was "the grimmest ever"

In the first 10 months of the year 3 038 people died in political violence, an average of 10 a day.

This dwarfs the daily average of 3,25 deaths over the same period last year

The report noted that between September 1984 - when the present cycle of violence first erupted - and

the end of last month, 8 577 had died

More than a third of those killed died this year

Whereas most fatalities had resulted from security force action in the early stages of the conflict, clashes within the black community now accounted for most casualties

Renewed fighting at the weekend claimed 40 lives - including 19 men killed at Zonk'izwe on the East Rand and two policemen shot in Port Elizabeth

The bodies of Sergeant Johan Gerber (21) and Constable Cornelius de Wet (22) and an unidentified man were found in Zwide on Monday - *Sapa*

Anglo helps pay township's water bill

WATER supplies were restored to Welkom's Thabong township yesterday after Anglo American helped to bale out the cash-strapped township.

The township was without water for 24 hours as authorities put pressure on the 190 000 strong community to step up payments for water bills. At least R800 000 is owed to the Goldfields Water Board.

Local civic organisations, councils and the corporation reached an agreement on the issue at a meeting yesterday afternoon.

Anglo American gold and uranium division GM Adrian du Plessis said last night Anglo had a "direct and material interest in the resolution of conflicts affecting our workplaces". Anglo's Freegold mining operation employs about 2 500 Thabong

MATTHEW CURTIN

residents among its 100 000 employees.

Du Plessis said Anglo was present at the negotiating table and "was able to bring a little to the table which may have helped the principal parties involved in reaching a settlement". (127) (127)

He would not give details of Anglo's role.

Sapa reports that a source in the Welkom City Council said Anglo had agreed to financially bale out the township "at another meeting" on Tuesday.

Welkom Mayor Alwyn Rohrs said civic leaders had pledged to pay R10 000 daily and to establish extra paying points in the township to offset the more than R800 000 owed to the water board.

11/11/90
22
S/P/2/1

Many heed Pretoria call for stayaway

THOUSANDS of people in Mamelodi, Pretoria, stayed away from work yesterday in remembrance of the 14 people who were shot dead by security forces during a rent protest march on November 21 1985.

Scores of residents, mostly youths, attended the commemoration service at HM Pitje Stadium where speakers called on local councillors to resign.

Mr Bhekí Khoza, who chaired the meeting, paid tribute to civic leader Mr Stanza Bopape, who went missing about four years ago after being arrested by police.

He also called on Min-

By MONK NKOMO

ister of Defence General Magnus Malan to bring to book the killers of Dr Fabian Ribeiro and his wife.

City Press reporter Elias Maluleke was turned away and barred from reporting yesterday's events by a group of youths and local civic leaders who accused him of "bad reporting and distortion of facts".

Wreaths

The procession, led by priests, marched through the streets to lay wreaths on the graves of 13 of the 1985 victims. The 14th victim, Mr Thabo Makola, was buried in

Mabopane

The procession then went to the stadium where speakers blamed town councillors for the deaths of the 14.

Police kept a low profile and monitored the proceedings from their cars.

Mr Lazarus Mzwayine, chairperson of the Mamelodi Peoples Delegation, said the resignation of Mr Zikhali Ndlazi from the council last week "is not enough - he must face the consequences of what he did".

Other speakers at the service were Mr Dan Mmutle of the Pan Africanist Congress and Mr Mos Chikane of the African National Congress.

SO WETAN
22/11/90

127

Ignore rent demands, says SCA

By Stan Hlophe

The Soweto Civic Association (SCA) has advised members of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce to ignore letters from the Soweto Town Council which warned them to pay their rent arrears

SCA president Isaac Mogase told the meeting yesterday that in terms of the accord reached between the SCA, the coun-

cil and the Transvaal Provincial Administration, all rent arrears would be written off, including those of traders

The council has written to businessmen demanding payment

Mr Mogase urged businessmen not to make agreements, as they could be binding

He appealed to traders to become affiliated to the SCA by aligning themselves to street committees. He asked

traders not to donate money to youths in the township unless called on to do so by the SCA

Soweto baker China Ngema asked the SCA to protect businessmen from vandalism — the hijacking of vehicles by youths who committed these crimes in the name of "the struggle"

Mr Mogase said the civic association and chamber should convene an anti-crime conference to address the issues

Star 22/11/90

(127)

Residents fight to restore power

(127)

Sowetan 23/11/90

THE Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation has lodged an appeal against the Pretoria Supreme Court's recent decision to dismiss their application challenging the local city council's severing of electricity supplies in the township.

By MONK NKOMO

Mr Justice Daniels dismissed Asro's application on November 1 and ruled that the council's action in disconnecting the power supply was sanctioned by its by-laws. Residents could only claim the reconnection of the electricity supply

upon payment for that service, the judge said.

Asro's attorney, Mr David Bam, yesterday confirmed that they had filed an application for leave to appeal either to the appellate division or the full bench of the Pretoria Supreme Court against the judgment of Daniels. No date has been set for the hearing.

The application seeking an order directing the Atteridgeville Council to restore the electricity supply was brought by Asro and Mr John Legong, a resident. The respondents were the Atteridgeville and Pretoria City Councils and the Administrator of the Transvaal.

In his judgment

Daniels said 'It is an unfortunate state of affairs and one can only trust that the parties involved would be able to resolve the problem and to compromise their differences in an orderly manner.

'It is not court's function to resolve those difficulties. The parties ought to do so themselves in a responsible and considerate manner.'

THE TEN TOUGHEST LANDLORDS

have 10 people instead of six using the lift, which is why the motor burns out, and the effluent costs go up and everything (127)

"So you evict them and they want to resort to violence and violence meets violence They came with bush picks, knives and a chopper Then one went for his chopper and tried to chop me so I defended myself because I'm always ready, and fortunately he fell next to his chopper because I moer him with my fist

"They laid charges of assault but nothing happened because the police didn't take up the charge"

Actstop lawyers, however, said that they had been granted a successful interdict against eviction and were now back in the building They said that Van Loggerenberg was being sued for damages sustained in the assaults on their clients, and for the loss of possessions

Van Loggerenberg said his tenants "appreciate the fact that we are very strict in this building"

"We don't allow hobos in here You have to pay a R5 deposit when you enter"

He said the rent was R400 for a bachelor flat, "but for that you get security and don't have to go on the trains from the townships"

He said if Actstop tries to "stir non sense they get evicted because I don't allow them on my premises We don't accept them and won't negotiate with them"

"If they want to come here they must buy me out because I pay the rates, taxes, water, lights and repairs But then they'll just turn the place into a brothel or a shebeen"

w/mal 23/11 - 29/11/90
6 JOGGIE SCHOEMAN

JOGGIE Schoeman is a former policeman who runs a private security company and claims to have "no problems at all in my flats"

After hearing reports that his security company, Prim Security, had given some of his tenants a rough time we went looking for him

He had worked for Van Loggerenberg at Park Mews, but the only tenants we could find who would speak about him were Sillman and Skosana.

"He was better than Van Loggerenberg when he was running the show here," said Sillman "He used to say, 'I'll moer you', but he never did"

At a block opposite Park Mews called Boulevard Guest House, a tenant, who asked not to be named, said their rent was R320 a month and that the building was owned by Schoeman and controlled by his son, Kleintjie

"We are treated badly here I'm scared of being evicted if I am identified When we raise problems they don't take them seriously"

"If you have a visitor without an ID they have to pay R5 People get beaten up without reason and Schoeman comes in and does what he wants"

The building, which had previously been an hotel, had communal bathrooms and toilets Several windows were broken

"Look, I don't want to get involved in this because there are no problems in my flats," Schoeman said in a telephone interview

He said his tenants were satisfied and "all my rent is paid by the end of the month and when I was in Park Mews it was the same"

On Actstop, he said "They want people to stay for nothing, but if that's what they want they can stay in Soweto If they want to stay in my building they must pay and that's that Actstop has nothing to do in my building"

Asked about assault allegations against himself and his security company he said, "Listen my friend, I have never hit any tenant, never in my life I have a security firm and usually people call me when they have to sort out their flats"

"But I was 23 years in the SA Police, so I know the law Why must I assault a tenant? If I wanted to I could, but all my tenants are satisfied, and that's that."



The worst building we found decayed Allendene in Berea

w/mal 23/11 - 29/11/90
7 PAUL ZACOVIC

PAUL Zacovic says he came to South Africa last year via New York, Buenos Aires, and Europe He owns three buildings Waverley Court in Smit Street and Kilkenny Court and Drummond House in De Villiers Street

Tenants in Waverly Court complain of assaults and illegal evictions by security guards, a huge problem with cockroaches and other pests and lifts which often did not work

James Julies, a Waverly Court resident, said he had been beaten up by Zacovic's "goons" and "illegally evicted Zacovic gave them authority to evict me on a certain day I came into the building and they didn't even talk to me, they just beat me That was on October 8 I then had an argument with Zacovic and told him he was exploiting us"

Showing me his June rent slip, he explained that for a one room flat he paid R230, plus R89,13 for electricity and R23,60 for water — a total of R342,72

"I had until today to pay, but I was evicted two days ago They broke open the door and removed my stuff"

According to Actstop's Pressage Nkosi, Zacovic's guards have assaulted tenants on several occasions

"Conditions in Drummond House were bad but they've improved Things are still very bad in Kilkenny and Waverley"

Zacovic agreed to talk on the phone. "I keep a very low profile and I don't like to get involved I do things in a very civilised manner, but it's impossible to

satisfy everyone (127)
"This man Julies is very much a trouble maker so they had to get him out of the building"

Asked about the assault, Zacovic said, "we got rid of the security guard concerned"

"We got rid of eight people who were nothing but drunkards Julies wasn't a drunkard, but he is a trouble maker If any person comes and agitates, I tell you man, it's not worth it He must come to me if he has problems but instead he was agitating with the other tenants"

Zacovic said his own response to provocation was that he doesn't take insults but "I never raise my fist"

At Drummond House, where he had been involved in negotiations with Actstop, he said the problems were now "sorted out and the building is starting to make money"

He said he had tried to paint and improve his buildings and to prevent overcrowding "I used to go there at say 2am or 5am and knock on the door and then take pictures with my camera of how many people were staying there because you need evidence."

"We don't get the police involved because I don't believe in brutality Only if a person refuses to leave or if there is a shebeen I am a person who tries to work in a civilised manner"

8 ALFONSO DI DONATO

ALFONSO di Donato is a suave, white-haired Italian who carries a .38 pistol in his belt and has become per-

haps the leading man in the Opposa campaign against Actstop

At the city centre office of his company, Al's Home Marketing, he pointed to a stuffed monkey on his filing cabinet "Pressage Nkosi, Pressage Nkosi," he said, referring to a leading Act stop activist. (127)

Later, I phoned him back for a follow up interview "You remember that monkey on my filing cabinet I put a picture of Pressage Nkosi next to him and they look exactly the same," he said

Di Donato owns several buildings in and around the city centre as well as his own security firm

"The company is well organised" said Nkosi "They have guns dogs, vehicles and a reputation for being very heavy"

Actstop's Cas Coovadia speaks of him as one of the most intransigent landlords they have dealt with

"He's one of the landlords who take the attitude that there is no need for them to listen to the grievances of tenants All attempts by Actstop to talk to him have met with total refusal His attitude is that if tenants don't like it they are free to leave and he's totally opposed to negotiations"

At Fairmont in Hospital Hill, tenants said the building was run by Di Donato They said rents were up to R400 per month for a bachelor flat, and people were thrown out when they complained

"The security guards are very heavy and intimidatory and have stopped tenants from entering the building in the past," said one tenant

Di Donato, however, said that "we are just an agent for the building and the security company is not mine We hire them because this was requested by the tenants, and we haven't evicted anybody for two years now"

Johannesburg lawyer Amichand Soroman said that in about August 1988 one of his messengers, Maxem Mollo went to Di Donato's firm to serve papers on him

"Di Donato assaulted him He punched him and kicked him He laid charges but I'm not sure what happened because he's no longer working for us," Soroman said

Di Donato said "He refused to leave the premises and hit me really So I defended myself I was assaulted and laid charges but I don't know what happened"

On his attitude to Actstop, Di Donato confirmed that he wanted to get a supreme court interdict to prevent them interfering with the "common law right of the landlord"

"Actstop is an organisation to make us victims of blacks We are paying interest at 21,75 percent They think we collect the rent and put it in our pocket. But, for example, if there's a R500 000 bond, your repayment is R97 000 per month Then people decide not to pay rent and you default on your bond, and in three to four months the building society writes you a letter to put the building up for auction."

"The Group Areas Act is going, but who will open doors to blacks? They take a building and make a wreck of it and then blame the landlord"

9 DAVID MALAN

DAVID Malan is a little man who could soon be in some deep legal waters

He and his partner Solly Cohen leased eight buildings from Gorfil Brothers They were five-year leases but lasted less than 20 months Then, as David Gorfil puts it, "the wheels came off" and Malan is being sued for an unspecified amount.

The case against him is that he was overcharging tenants, overcrowding the buildings, neglecting maintenance and that he failed to pay the municipality for services, particularly in the last seven months of the lease.

The result was outstanding bills of nearly R7 000, rent boycotts in five buildings, large amounts owing to the city council, and several buildings in a severe state of disrepair

Gorfil was reluctant to discuss the

matter but confirmed the case would come to court early next year

Malan confirmed he was being sued but said he could not comment on the case because it was *sub judice*

Malan is essentially a middleman who takes out a head lease, administers the building and collects rents He is also the collecting agent for some buildings (127)

The battle with Actstop at five of the "Joubert Park Seven" buildings (Argyle Court Claridge Court, Protea Mansions, Margate Court and Branksome Towers) lasted nearly three years There were frequent attempts at evictions, clashes with Malan and security guards and in one incident Malan "detained" journalist Sally Scally in his office and refused to let her leave

In 1987 several tenants were evicted after refusing to agree to a "no meetings clause and a clause agreeing not to be protected by the Rent Control Act"

On several occasions there were mass evictions for late payments of rent ar-

LANDLORD SPEAKS

I used to go to the building at say 2am or 5am and knock on the door and then take pictures with my camera of how many people were staying there because you need evidence We don't get the police involved because I don't believe in brutality Only if a person refuses to leave or if there is a shebeen

— Landlord Paul Zacovic

rears which led to families spending the night on the street

Conditions at most of the buildings were appalling At Branksome Towers for example for several months there were damp, exposed wires and no flushing toilets or hot water

It led to the council switching off the lights when the electricity bill was not paid the tenants bypassing Malan and attempting to pay rents directly to the Gorfils and then staging a sit in at the Gorfils' offices

David Gorfil then met the tenants and the council got rid of Malan and reached an agreement with Actstop

But, according to Actstop's Cas Coovadia, he has now "reappeared" at other blocks, including Castle Blaney and Navarone Court in Esselen Street, Hillbrow, which belongs to Solly Cohen and Wyntonjoy which is now being run as an hotel

"Recently some members of the police came and broke down doors at Navarone and started evicting people The tenants put the people back in their flats Actstop met with the Hillbrow Police but they said the policemen were not from Hillbrow"

Malan said he was not involved in the alleged police raid at Navarone, and that while earlier this year he had "helped the owner" at Castle Blaney, he no longer had any involvement with it

According to Nkosi, Malan allows shebeens in the flats "When, say, you have one or two toilets in the building and you have a shebeen patronised by scores of people, they start relieving themselves in the lift It's the landlord's job to shut down the shebeen"

Malan denies that he has had any role in this development or that he was aware of it

Nkosi says Malan hires private security companies, such as Trust Security, to keep control "There was one incident, I think it was at Protea Mansions, where Malan was present when security guards assaulted a 50 year-old man"

Malan confirmed that assault charges had been laid against him, but said the matter was *sub judice* and he could not comment

According to Nkosi, Mike Milton, a former Rhodesian employed by Malan, threw him down the stairs and pulled a gun on him

To PAGE 8

P.T.O.

FOCUS ON INNER CITY BLIGHT

The 10 toughest landlords and their running battles with tenants

SLUM LORDS

W/Mail 23/11 - 29/11/90

After a two-month investigation of nearly fifty ramshackle buildings, the Weekly Mail names ten landlords we consider the toughest in 'grey area' Jo'burg.

A WEEKLY MAIL INVESTIGATION
BY GAVIN EVANS



Two residents of a flat in Allendene Court - a young boy and a dead rat

Picture JUSTIN SHOLK

THE effective dismantling of the Group Areas Act in central Johannesburg has brought the return of an old phenomenon the slumlord.

The small landlords are the ones who destroyed the Act by gradually allowing black tenants into their city centre buildings. In the process however, they found tenants who were vulnerable, had little protection and no rights in the area.

The result is that 90 percent of tenants in the city centre are black, and in many cases are paying high rents for overcrowded buildings that are decaying and never renovated. They are at the mercy of tough, no-nonsense, gun-toting slumlords, some of whom impose curfews, charge R5 to allow visitors or evict tenants who complain. Weekly Mail investigated and identified the 10 toughest slumlords.

1 ERIC JOOSTE

IF half of what Eric Jooste's Malvern tenants have to say is true then we're dealing with one tough cookie.

I spoke separately to six black tenants at Belair Flats — one of several buildings he owns in this area — and they told me that at around 10.30pm on an October night Jooste had arrived with a gun on each hip and banged on their doors in an angry search for visitors breaking the building's 10pm curfew. "He kicked at my door like a mad person — in fact at every door in the block — as though he was looking for a fight," said one tenant who asked not to be named.

"When he found that Daniel Baloi had two visitors, he threw them out. Daniel was fined R150 and then evicted when he refused to pay. "Even if your girlfriend stays over with his permission, you have to pay an extra R25 a month. They say it's because she uses hot water. And no children are allowed."

This man pays R325 for his small bachelor flat. He says there is never enough hot water, which means they

can only wash clothes on Sundays. "There are 20 flats and a tiny geyser, so the water's always cold."

He has a small basin in his room, no kitchen and has to use a communal bathroom.

Another tenant told me she paid R275 for a tiny room with no electrical plug, no bathroom, no hot water, a tin roof with no ceiling, and only one naked light bulb.

"If you break any of the rules you get thrown out. Say if you have visitors, you get no notice and you don't get your deposit back," she said.

Baloi said he had been allowed back into his flat five days after being thrown out, because the tenants' organisation Actistop threatened legal action.

Baloi's flat is a single room of three metres by four metres, with an unpainted ceiling, for which he pays R275 per month.

"I don't know why we pay so much. There are three whites in the building who pay between R100 and R150 per month," he said.

At nearby William Court, also owned by Jooste Property Management, one tenant said he paid R450 for a bachelor flat.

Several attempts to interview Jooste proved fruitless.

It took two visits to the office of Jooste Property Management before manager Joy Lubbe was reached. She confirmed that Eric Jooste owned the buildings in question and explained why they had adopted the curfew.

"The reason is to keep the lights and water bill down. It costs us R2 500 a month. If you don't have it, they'll have their brothers and sisters in with

them and you can't allow 10 people in a room with only space for one or two.

"Look, every estate agent sets conditions. We have rules and regulations and the tenants take their flats fully aware of these. Nobody forces them to take our flats."

She said the rules applied to all Jooste's buildings — "and there are quite a few in the Malvern area."

Lubbe confirmed that action had been taken against Baloi.

"This particular one had four people in his room, all in the same bed. If we find they have visitors, they get notice, but there's no such thing as a fine."

"We'd been getting complaints for four months. On that day Jooste did an inspection because people were causing a disturbance, but he didn't go there and lock doors open. He found bottles of beer all over the floor."

Lubbe confirmed that Jooste carried a gun for protection.

She said that only one bachelor flat in Belair Court was rented for over R300, and said that the William Court rents were less than R250, but confirmed that whites in Belair Court paid less than the blacks.

"That's because the four white tenants have been there for over 10 years and had been paying less, so you can't just make them pay new rentals."

Lubbe said it was not true that tenants could only wash their clothes on Sun

days. "The flat has a boiler which works by coal, so for those who come home late there's no hot water because the others take it all. That's why we have the rules about visitors."

She insisted that there was "no conflict between landlord and tenants in our flats."

2 CLAUDIO CERASOLI

THIS man is the owner of one of the most disgusting buildings in Johannesburg.

Allendene, in Soper Road, Berca, is an old building that one would expect to be consistent with the tone of the neighbourhood. A peep inside shows otherwise.

The building stinks from damp, dead rats and rot. There are holes in the floor, and the ceiling is caving in. Toilets are blocked and broken, there is no electricity and the glass from broken windows is strewn all over.

According to city councillor Cliff Garrun, Cerasoli has been summoned several times "for things such as raw sewage running out of the building."

The building, (and an accompanying house at 49 Soper Road, both of which are property of the company 51 Soper Rd cc) has long been the object of litigation and council action, but appears to be in as bad a state as ever.

A few years ago Cerasoli sold the building to Tony Pharboo (see below) who, according to the tenants' lawyers, stocked the building with tenants and then failed to pay the bond, electricity, rates and taxes. Cerasoli obtained

judgment against Pharboo and then found himself up against health inspectors and Actistop.

For a while the flak catcher for the building was the head lessee, Rudi van Wezel (see below), but he parted ways with Cerasoli earlier this year.

"I did Allendene for Cerasoli and he wasn't prepared to repair or put in any money. He just wanted to evict the tenants," said Van Wezel, who accuses Cerasoli of not paying him four months' salary.

Early last year the building's 80 families all found themselves out on the pavement after deciding to reduce their own rents.

Cerasoli is currently involved in a court case in which he claims to want to evict the tenants in order to repair the building. The tenants are arguing that he has waived this right by failing to fulfil similar promises in the past. The dispute is likely to be decided next year.

Tenants are paying R80 rent for their single rooms, while the owners want between R180 and R280.

If he fixes the building and restores services, we will be prepared to pay market related rentals," said John, one of the tenant representatives.

He said Cerasoli was "very rude to the tenants, that he sometimes carries a gun" and "tries to make people scared."

John said the tenants only recently discovered that Cerasoli was the landlord because Van Wezel had previously told them he owned the building.

In an initial telephone interview, Cerasoli said the following: "I had sold the building to Mr Pharboo, who is a

In the course of his two-month investigation GAVIN EVANS interviewed more than 100 tenants, more than 20 landlords, city councillors, lawyers, policemen and officials of residents, tenants, and landlords associations.

P.T.

Illegal power link up 'dangerous', says TPA

THE TPA has declared nearly 3 000 Atteridgeville houses illegally connected to electricity supply as "totally unsafe". The Department of Manpower has warned

By MONK NKOMO the Atteridgeville City Council about the dangers of illegally connecting of power to homes. The department's notice, issued under the

Machinery Occupational Safety Act, said it was illegal to supply electricity to "any meter box where electrical conductors are exposed". The TPA yesterday said "The prohibition mainly results from damage due to vandalism and unlawful reconnection of electricity during the rent/service charges boycott".

The illegal reconnection of electricity in the Pretoria township started a week after the local council switched off power to homes of rent defaulters.

The Pretoria Regional Services Council announced at the weekend that it would finance a R20-million project to upgrade the electricity network in Atteridgeville. The project will be undertaken by the Atteridgeville municipality. "The community will greatly benefit from the upgrading of the electricity network as it will be considerably safer than the old network," a spokesman for the RSC said. Meanwhile Atteridgeville/Saaitseville Residents' Organisation

(ASRO) will meet senior officials of the TPA today to discuss crucial issues including rent and the repayment of R30 000 by former local town councilors who illegally used the money to erect security fences at their houses. ASRO's acting general secretary, Mr Simon Tshidi, yesterday said they were also going to discuss the possibility of writing off all arrears rentals in the township and the implementation of an interim service charge for electricity, water and refuse removal.

Contenders for UK leadership differ greatly

LONDON - The fight for Margaret Thatcher's political crown is more a clash of personalities than policies. The contenders to become Britain's new prime min-

FW will deliver keynote address to Labour Party

STATE President FW de Klerk is to deliver the keynote address at the 25th annual congress of the Labour Party in Cape Town on December 28. LP spokesman Mr Peter Hendrickse confirmed De Klerk's acceptance of an invitation to speak. The congress also said the party was awaiting a reply from Mr Nelson Mandela, who had been sent a similar invitation. Hendrickse said the congress would deal with a new constitution for a future South Africa and the role of the Labour Party. *Sapa*



FW DE KLERK

Illegal power link up 'dangerous', says TPA

Stuwer 26/11/90

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**Complaints
over SAP
action**

(127)

26/11/80
Soweto

MEMORANDA were handed in to Dobsonville, Soweto police stations and post offices after a peaceful march on Saturday, complaining about SAP action and poor postal services.

Dobsonville civic association leaders also wanted to hand over a memorandum to the local town clerk, calling for the resignation of councillors, but he was not available. - Sapa

Plea to Vlok over curfew

Sowetan
27/11/90 By MONK NKOMO

THE Alteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation meets the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, in Pretoria this morning to discuss the possibility of lifting the dawn-to-dusk curfew in the township.

The civic body also wants the lifting of unrest curbs imposed in the Pretoria township on November 11, said acting general secretary of Asro, Mr Simon Tshidi.

Unrest area

Vlok introduced the 9pm to 4am curfew and declared the township an "unrest area" following a weekend of violence in which two youths were shot dead, allegedly by police, and houses of several town councillors and former town clerk, Mr Solly Rammala, petrol-bombed. A number of shops were also damaged.

"We think the curbs are unnecessary and, in fact, they inconvenience people," Tshidi said.

Plea to Vlok over curfew

By MONK NKOMO

Soweto Residents Organisation THE Ateridgeville Saulsville. Mr Adrian Vlok, meets the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adrian Vlok, in Pretoria this morning to discuss the possibility of lifting the dawn-to-dusk curfew in the township. The civic body also wants the lifting of unrest curbs imposed in the Pretoria township on November 11, said acting general secretary of Asro, Mr Simon Tshidi.

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Jubilant dance ... toddlers from Pamela Nursery School in Soweto celebrate the end of the school year.

100 PERCENT

Eskom takes tough stand in talks with townships

B 1000 27/11/90
TOWNSHIP electricity arrears have soared to R96m, and at least 21 of 36 affected areas face possible legal action from Eskom should negotiations to break the payment deadlock fail.

Eskom spokesman Johan du Plessis said yesterday the corporation was not prepared to write off any arrears, and that would be a non-negotiable item in any agreement reached with indebted township administrations.

"So far negotiations have not delivered the desired results, but we will continue negotiations in our attempt to recover the outstanding money," he said.

Du Plessis said although 12 townships had been summonsed and legal action against a further nine was

LINDEN BIRNS

in the pipeline, Eskom would still strive to negotiate a solution.

Negotiations in some areas were going well.

Du Plessis said the amount of arrears was a figure which rose and fell according to payments of outstanding accounts.

"It was R70m a couple of weeks ago and dropped to about R60m. Now it's up to R96m."

WILSON ZWANE reports that residents of the East Rand township of Vosloorus could have a "dark Christmas", according to mayor Morris Sinukela, unless they paid an interim R60 a house.

Vosloorus has an electricity debt of about R5m and, according to Sinukela, Es-

kom had already summonsed the town council.

"We appeal to the community to pay an interim rate of R60 for November and December so we can pay Eskom," Sinukela said. Of that R60, R40 would be for electricity and R20 for other municipal services.

Katlehong, also on the East Rand, owes Eskom about R6m. Mayor McDonald Mohlana said residents had started paying interim monthly rates of R45 (for electrified houses) and R10 (for unelectrified houses).

Eskom had sent the council a letter of demand.

Sapa reports that the situation in Kroonstad's Mookeng township, where the NP-controlled town council cut off all water supplies on Friday, was reported to be tense yesterday.

Township residents have vowed to continue a consumer boycott of white businesses in Kroonstad until water supplies are fully restored.

In another development, the Atteridgeville-Sauls-

ville Residents' Organisation (Asro) was due to meet senior TPA officials last night to discuss crucial issues, including the possibility of the writing off rent arrears.

Asro official Simon Tshidi said they were also going to discuss the repayment of R30 000 by former town councillors who, it is alleged, used the money illegally to erect security fences around their homes, and the implementation of interim rates for electricity, water and other municipal services.

Atteridgeville is without electricity.

As only three councillors remain there, Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough is expected to decide early next month on an administrator to take charge of Atteridgeville town council affairs.

Local ANC official Abe Nkomo has welcomed the appointment of an administrator, saying it would "pave a way for the resolution of the rent crisis".

EB
'paid clerk

IA LEVY

R100 000 in art for Jo'burg council

B 1000 27/11/90
JANIA LEVY
THE Johannesburg City Council has spent R100 000 on a dozen contemporary SA art works to be hung in the



Mrs Flora Gumede of Central Western Jabavu examines the damage caused by the storm on Sunday.

Storm damage in townships

127

Soweto 27/11/90

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI
Own Correspondent

AT least eight houses, seven of them in Soweto, had their roofs blown off as stormy rains ravaged the Transvaal at the weekend

The widespread rain has brought at least slight relief to some of the Northern Transvaal drought areas

Soweto and Pretoria residents were yesterday mopping up after the storm which blew off roofs, uprooted trees, and brought down power lines

Mrs Elsie Moloi, a Central Western Jabavu pensioner, said the destructive storm was sudden and frightening

She said "We were so frightened as our roof lifted off and water rushed into our living room

"It was completely chaotic My garage is completely damaged, its walls are cracked and the roofing is destroyed Where will I get the money to repair it? Even the ceiling caved in and we had to support it with a pole

and bricks to keep it from falling on top of us," she said.

In Pretoria and Oukasie township, Brits, there were many reports of fallen trees and power failures

A spokesman for Verwoedburg town council said not much damage was reported in the area

The weather bureau says its too soon to describe the drought as "broken", but there can be no doubt rains brought welcome relief to the city, and to farmers throughout the Transvaal in particular

A weather forecaster said the system was clearing from the west. However, a new trough was developing in the west and this could bring with it thundershowers in the western parts today, spreading gradually eastwards later in the week

from after seeing it in who testified yesterday been necessary — Sapa

Daveyton wins electricity reprieve

LINDEN BIRNS

BULK electricity supplies to Daveyton township on the East Rand will not be cut off during the Christmas season, due to an agreement reached between the township's city council and the Daveyton Interim Committee.

The announcement was made yesterday by negotiations mediator Dawie de Beer, who said the agreement was "valid until January 18 next year and will allow the parties to continue negotiations on other issues without the interruption of the electricity supply"

Both the council and the interim committee had agreed to call on residents to pay their accounts in accordance with an interim arrangement so the council could maintain basic services, he said

Businesses would have to pay their full accounts once Eskom had certified the accuracy of their electricity meters

De Beer said Eskom had agreed to investigate strategies for testing the meters at residential dwellings and that once they

were certified accurate, metered consumption would have to be paid by domestic consumers

The Daveyton City Council had agreed not to take legal action for the non-payment of arrear accounts until the end of January next year while bona fide negotiations took place, De Beer said

Meanwhile, the health situation in Emzini township near Bethal has become critical after the suspension of water and electricity services to the township by the CP-controlled Bethal council, Sapa reports

A local doctor told Sapa an outbreak of cholera and typhoid was imminent and raw sewage was flowing into a nearby river.

However, Bethal Medical Officer of Health Adam Engelbrecht told Sapa he was unaware of any sewage problems

02/11/90
29/11/90
18/12/90

(127)

DE A NI ITS

Rv Charles Schulz

KRO denies boycott

127

Sowetan 30/11/90

KRUGERSDORP Residents' Organisation has distanced itself from rumours in neighbouring Kagiso township that a consumer boycott is to take place there from tomorrow.

KRO publicity secretary Ms Nomvulo Mkhonyane said in a statement yesterday that although the organisation supported mass action, it had not

yet decided on a boycott. "We are still discussing a boycott with the other community structures in the township," she said.

Mkhonyane added that in negotiations on service charges between the KRO and the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Eskom and the Regional Services Council, all parties had agreed the talks

should be "conducted in good faith".

"Terms of reference were agreed on and it was decided to divide the problems into two categories - short-term and long-term. All the principal people in charge of services undertook not to cut off or take any legal action against any member of the community for arrears."

She said that during the negotiations, which were held on Wednesday, it was agreed that residents who had electricity would pay an interim flat rate of R45 as of the end of December. The charges would be paid at the council offices and the KRO would be provided with information on the money received - Sapa

THE LANDLORDS SURVEY: THIS WEEK WE LOOK AT SOME OF THE BIGGER AGENTS

WHEN African National Congress cultural boss Barbara Masekela arrived home in September after more than 20 years in exile she found getting accommodation in a "grey area" was not easy for a black.

United Democratic Front official Neil Morisson was helping her to find a flat and he assumed that he would have no problems in Berea/Yeoville — a "grey area".

"I went to the biggest agency in the area, Zulbergs, and saw signs up advertising scores of flats and houses. So I went around with Barbara to the letting department and spoke to a woman there.

"She assumed we were a couple and became very stiff and said: 'Our landlords do not let to black people.' I

asked whether this applied to all the buildings they controlled and she confirmed it did.

"Then the owner, Hyme Zulberg, came storming out of his offices and said: 'Just leave please, get out, we don't let to black people. I don't want to get into a political conversation with you', and then went back into his office."

A couple of weeks later *Weekly Mail* reporter Glenda Daniels (who is classified Indian) and her flatmate Susie Nkomo got a letter under their door at Celeste Mansions in Natal Street, Yeoville (where Zulbergs are the agents).

Grey areas? No, it's Group Areas

127

A major letting agency in Johannesburg's largest 'grey area' has a whites-only policy.

By PHILIPPA GARSON and GAVIN EVANS

purporting to be from "the owners of Zulbergs".

It said: "We want you blacks out of this flats you know this is a white flat we dont want trouble. theres flats for nonwhites somewhere else. so people are complaining they dont want you indians and nonwhites in places you dont belong please get out."

ing to get them out We stick to Group Areas Act. We uphold it"

Zulbergs is one of the largest letting agencies in the area. In a follow-up interview Zulberg said it was "highly confidential" how many blocks of flats they let in the city, but added that the "exist in almost every part of Johannesburg".

Asked again about his firm's policy he said: "Whites and Chinese may be side in Yeoville blocks but under the Group Areas Act no Indians are allowed."

"I'm a law-abiding citizen. If the bring in certain laws I'll do my best to keep them."

"We take instructions from the owners, and we will not break the law even if the owners were prepared to



All are welcome at these flats. (Whites only)

W/Mon 30/11 - 6/12/90

One of the ironies of property letting in this country is that it is the small slumlords, some of whom are openly racist, who defy the Group Areas Act, while the bigger landlords often apply a whites-only policy.

GAVIN EVANS and PHILIPPA GARSON report (12)

PROSPERATIVE tenants at buildings controlled by Africa's biggest letting agency are handed a glossy brochure which includes "A word of welcome", but many inhabitants of JH Isaacs-controlled apartments are made to feel most unwelcome — especially if they are black.

"Isaacs has a history of not letting black people in," says Cas Coovadia of the tenants' organisation Actistop. "When we challenge this their response is that they are just upholding the law and that it's illegal to let black people in under the Group Areas Act — despite the fact the state is no longer applying the law and has made it clear it will be repealed next year."

A JH Isaacs representative, who asked not to be named, explained: "We are not a political organisation. Many non-whites have gained access to our buildings via whites — by that stage it is too late, what can we do? But we don't break the law."

"If a black person does move in via a white person, well, whether we take action depends on many factors such as the attitude of the landlord, over-



Corridor of protest ... a resident of Fortesque Mansions surrounded by signs denouncing conditions in the building. Photo: ANDREW BANNISTER

W/Mon 30/11 - 6/12/90

the tenants had a host of complaints. Two of these were Constantia building in Koch Street, Joubert Park and Fortesque Mansions in Yeoville.

At Constantia, one black tenant, who asked not to be named, told us: "I pay R523 a month for a three-room flat and the conditions are terrible."

"When you move in you get one month to paint the flat, rent-free, but visited several Isaacs buildings where

umise people, but we are certainly go- if the owners were prepared to."

W/Mon 30/11 - 6/12/90

Tenants say conditions include blocked drains, faulty wiring, hot water shortages, leaky plumbing, volatile geysers and wet ceilings.

When one tenant approached Pestana about her meagre water supply, she said he replied that since she was very small person she did not need much bath water. Another got an electric shock as a result of an overflowing geyser.

Earlier this year the then-careaker of the block, Jason Aarons, sent letter about the situation to the *North Easter Tribune*, but after attempts to spur the authorities into action failed he resigned.

He was then served with an eviction notice, supposedly to make way for a new superintendent.

Contacted by *The Weekly Mail*, Pestana commented: "They are all mad".

"It is all lies. We spent a lot of money putting in new pipes. What they say is not the truth, you must believe it."

Tenants claim there is no attempt on the part of JH Isaacs to rectify the situation, and point out that Isaacs have common business interests in Madeira with Pestana.

The JH Isaacs representative said: "The fact that we are dealing with the Pestana family in Madeira has no bearing on Mr Pestana as such. His attitude towards the building has remained unchanged for 15 years before our involvement."

On the conditions in the flat the Isaacs representatives stressed they were Pestana's agents and acted on his instructions.

Two different worlds: The landlords and the tenants

W/Mond 30/11 - 6/12/90 12x

LANDLORDS Mrs HP Martin and her son Dr Ian Martin live in a mansion in Johannesburg's prestigious Houghton Drive, drive a Rolls-Royce each, and own, say some, "nearly half of Kensington".

However, their tenants live in a world apart, and when they heard that *The Weekly Mail* was investigating the city's landlords, several phoned us with a string of complaints. The trail they set led us to a city councillor, the Rent Board, ratepayers' associations, the council's health department, several Martin-owned buildings, and finally to Martin Manor, the Martins' Houghton mansion.

We focused on two properties where the tenants were most angry. No. 58 Roberts Avenue, Kensington is a large rambling house which has been subdivided into upstairs and downstairs units, an outside cottage, a bathroom and a shed. We spoke to nine past and present tenants, none of whom had a good word to say.

Ewart Potgieter is an electrician who lived there until earlier this year, and was also paid to do electrical work for the Martins.

"When I moved in the place was totally unlivable. It was in terrible condition — holes in the walls, filthy, in need of a paint, the electricity bugged. They gave us some paint and said if we fixed it up ourselves they would let us off half a month's rent. So we painted, fixed the plugs and

Landlords Mrs HP Martin and her son Dr Ian Martin inhabit a world very different from the less favoured milieu in which their tenants move.

GAVIN EVANS reports

wiring, put up pelmets and so on. But they still freaked out when one room wasn't painted because they hadn't given us enough paint.

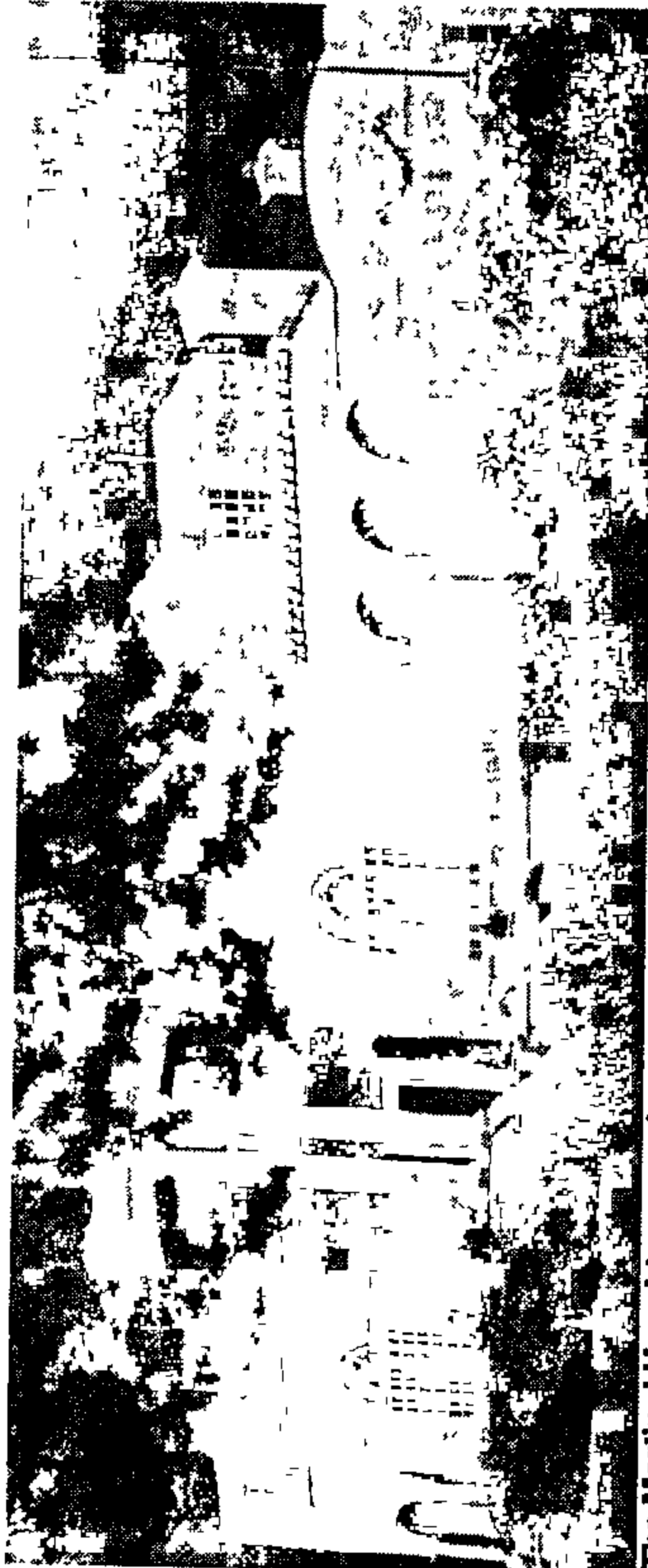
"Later they said if we painted the outside they would let us off half our deposit, but we worked out it would have cost at least R1 500 — more than our whole deposit. In fact in labour time alone we had spent more than 10 times the deposit on the inside alone.

"In several of the buildings Mrs Martin owned the electricity was illegal. In one building a woman got shocked in her bath because of faulty wiring, in another there were no earth wires.

"I did electrical work for her cheaply, but she didn't pay me for the work I did in May or June, because she told me she hadn't been paid rent at some of the flats I worked in."

Another former tenant, Denise Walters, said when she moved in "a lot of stuff was broken and I had it fixed and had the whole place carpeted, but haven't been paid a cent".

Sub-editor Christian Stephen, who recently moved out, said the electricity for the property had previously been in the name of the Martins.



The Martins' Houghton mansion.

"They then said the tenants must take it over, but we objected. One day it was just cut off, so I was forced to get the electricity in my name and administer it for the whole block, which meant I lost a lot of money when people left without paying," he said.

Businessman Nicholas Chetwin, who also moved out after an ongoing row with the Martins, said that "twice she tried to put up rents because interest rates went up, which is illegal. In my second year there she put up rents by R50 and backdated it, but we complained and she backed off."

A black tenant at the back, who asked not to be named, said she was paying R100 per month for a tiny room which leaked and had no lights, electricity or running water.

Another series of complaints came from tenants at Roberts Avenue Mansions, further down the road. Complaints from tenants included

leaking toilets, blocked pipes, rising damp and "hot" water which was cold. Tenants complained to their councillor, Robert Rousseau, who conducted an investigation. This led to an inspection by Johannesburg's Acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr Nicky Padayatchee, who on May 29 found that "the landlord failed to provide warm water, and the reason was that the boiler was not adequate. There should have been a geyser in each unit, but landlords don't want to do this because of the added expenditure."

At the time Martin was quoted by the *Bedfordview/Edenvale News* as saying the accusation of no hot water was "absolute rubbish". However Padayatchee thought otherwise and issued her with a notice.

"She complied before we needed to prosecute, so the situation was rectified."

After numerous attempts to contact Potgieter, denies:

On Roberts Avenue Mansions she had this to say: "I don't know who these tenants are who make allegations. They were all Portuguese and now they've all moved out."

"They were paying R283 for a bedroom, balcony, kitchen and bathroom, and as for the hot water, some used R4 to R6 a day."

Asked about Potgieter's allegation that he had not been paid for work done, she confirmed that he had done electrical work for her but added, "he stole one of my cupboards" (which Potgieter denies).

Photo: JUSTIN SHOLK

Township sewage flows into spruit leading to Vaal

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

Stev
3/12/90

BETHAL — Raw sewage from Emzinoni township, where doctors report an outbreak of dysentery, is flowing directly into a spruit which eventually leads into the Vaal Dam.

Emzinoni administrator Neels Malan said he was "very much perturbed" about the growing health hazard.

The crisis comes three months after the Government stopped bridging finance to townships involved in rent and service boycotts.

Sewage from Emzinoni (population 40 000) began seeping into the nearby Blesbokspruit two weeks ago when Bethal's Conservative Party town coun-

cil cut water and electricity to the township for failure to pay bulk service arrears.

After 10 days without water, two Bethal doctors reported an outbreak of dysentery and gastro-enteritis among township residents. They pleaded with the Bethal council to restore the water supply before a major outbreak of diseases such as typhoid and cholera swept the township and other communities.

"If dysentery gets into the river you'll never stop it because people are using that water for their personal needs all the way downstream to the Vaal, and beyond," one doctor warned.

Four days ago the water service was reconnected after a private donation of R15 000.

This will pay for a supply until Wednesday.

Mr Malan said there was no chance of reconnecting the township's electricity in the near future and that without power, sewage could not be pumped up to the treatment station. This meant all the township's sewage was flowing out of manholes near residential areas and into the Blesbokspruit.

Mr Malan asked local industries to consider lending Emzinoni two large generators "to avert a worsening health crisis".

The newly appointed administrator disclosed that Emzinoni was technically bankrupt.

"The township has debts of R2,2 million, of which R500 000 is owed to the Bethal council."

Authorities are adamant on switch-offs

127
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ORGANISERS of rent boycotts in Transvaal townships had to accept responsibility for deteriorating conditions after services were cut because of non-payment, Transvaal Provincial Administration liaison services director, Mr Piet Wilken, said yesterday.

Three townships, Emzisoni near Bethal, Maokeng in Kroonstad and Tumahole in Parys have had water cut by white municipalities

The situation in Emzisoni has reached crisis proportions with an outbreak of dysentery.

An ANC spokesman said the only alternative left to communities was mass action such as consumer boycotts.

A Johannesburg Health Department spokesman said earlier that in terms of the Health Act, municipalities which cut water and waterborne sewerage to townships could be breaking the law.

A spokesman for the Free State provincial authority said the water cuts to Maokeng and Tumahole were not their concern.

06/12/14
Wepster OS

Council to look into converting hostels

B1004 5/12/90

THEO RAWANA

127

JABULANI men's hostel in Soweto is a complex of live-in couples, shebeens and discos — and the discovery has moved the Soweto City Council to look into the question of converting hostels into family units.

The hostel featured prominently in the recent feuds between dwellers and Soweto residents which left more than 800 people dead.

An inspection of the hostel by councillors and officials unearthed a semblance of family life

Councillor Edward Kunene said there were six discos in the complex, where the registered population was 4 465

"The only answer to this problem is conversion of these hostels into family units," said Kunene.

Kunene said the plight of the hostel dwellers was exacerbated when their wives came to visit from their rural homes "The man has to get out of the hostel and hire a backyard room in the township at a rental of about R80 — on top of the R18,50 he pays for his bed," he said

But he said some of the older dwellers were against the idea of their hostel being converted.

Housing Committee chairman Simon Mkhize said the council would look into the question of either upgrading the hostels or converting them into family units

"This would go along with the upgrading of two old townships, Mzimhlophe and White City Jabavu, which are lined up for upgrading"

Houses in these townships are divided into three family units.

Police show the 'whole picture' behind video

B1004 5/12/90

THE ANC's video showing alleged police collusion with Inkatha-supporting Zulus at Zonkezizwe was yesterday described as "a distortion by omission" by Law and Order Ministry spokesman Capt Craig Kotze.

Kotze, accompanied by SA Police public relations head Brig Bernie Mostert and Vosloorus Unrest Unit chief Maj Hein Killian, addressed journalists and ANC members at a Pretoria briefing. He distributed photographs showing "the whole picture of events" which took place on November 12 in the shanty town

The photographs, taken by a police photographer, showed how at least two Casspirs were used to transport delegates from the Xhosa and the Zulu factions of Zonkezizwe to joint negotiations where Killian acted as mediator

They also showed police disarming both groups prior to the negotiations

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said in a statement released by Kotze that the ANC had "apparently willfully" given out a distorted version of events by not showing "or even subsequently admitting" that Xhosa representatives also attended the peace negotiations

Kotze and ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma argued about the police translation of a chant sung by armed Zulus on the video tape. Kotze said it was a peace chant, which stated that "the war is over", but Macozoma said the chant was a war song

LINDEN BIRNS

proclaiming that the battle of Blood River would be fought again, against the Xhosas

In reaction to ANC calls for the police to identify the negotiators, Kotze said he could give the name of only one of the Zulu men, Elias Mazibuko — whose hacked and shot body was discovered by the police on the morning after the negotiations — and a Mr Madiba from the Xhosa delegation

When asked to name more of the delegates to the talks, Kotze said neither side had wanted individual members to be identified "and made into targets as happened with Mazibuko"

Replying to queries on why the police had not released the photographs earlier, Kotze said they had been processed only after the police were sure they constituted "hard evidence"

PETER DELMAR reports that Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said he "deplored and condemned the vicious smear tactics of the ANC"

He accused the ANC of "a hideous bit of propaganda" by producing a video tape with "ingeniously contrived scenes and commentary to make propaganda" No Inkatha member would ever sing an Inkatha song containing the name "Gatsha", as happened in the video, Buthelezi said

"On the other hand, it is policy of the ANC leadership to use that pet name of mine — not as a sign of endearment, but to belittle me," he said in a statement

Black housing market still strong

By Frank Jeans *Star 5/12/90*

While there has been a withdrawal by some contractors from the black housing market because of the persistent unrest and a reported reluctance by building societies to grant home loans in the sector, there remain viable pockets of white activity

An indication of the constant demand, notwithstanding violence and uncertainty, is seen in the operations of Rabie Property Developers which reports impressive sales figures in all 12 of its housing projects

Dave Harris, executive director of Rabie, says "In Dobsonville we have sold more than 400 homes in the past six months and are building at the rate of 13 a week

"Our capability and that of our sub-contractors are being explored to the limit

"In Protea Glen Gardens,

where we began selling only seven weeks ago, we have already sold more than 100 houses"

Pinpointing the prerequisites of operations in black housing, Rabie's Transvaal manager, Rean Booysen, says these must include a highly strategic land purchasing policy, a high-quality finished product and in-depth training of sales teams

Sales technique *127*

"The salesman should be able to answer all questions which a home buyer is bound to have," he says

"This extends to information about financial implications of home ownership and details about services provided by local authorities

"People today also have to be familiar with employer and State subsidies"

Commenting on the reported

resistance from building societies, Mr Harris says the public has either been misinformed or has misinterpreted remarks by Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs Hernus Kriel

"It is simply not correct to say that mortgage finance is not available," says Mr Harris

"We are currently able to arrange finance for our buyers through several national financial institutions, including building societies and pension funds.

"What has happened is that the institutions have reviewed their qualifying criteria and are looking for a measurable injection of a man's own equity as a mark of sincerity and good faith"

Houses which Rabie sold in some of its earlier developments on the Witwatersrand are now being resold at prices as much as 40 percent higher than the original purchase price two years ago

Tembisa power to stay on, says mayor

By Abel Mabelane *SKW 6/12/90*
East Rand Bureau

Power supply to rent-boycotting Tembisa residents will not be cut off, despite a Supreme Court judgment ordering the local council to pay Eskom a R4 million electricity debt, according to mayor Solomon More.

On Monday, the Tembisa Town Council distributed notices by helicopter appealing to

residents to pay a flat rate rental of R75 a month for people who had electricity and R25 a month for those without.

Tembisa Residents Association (TRA) president Albert Tleane said the deadline for the council to resign had long passed.

Mr Tleane said talks between the TRA and TPA over the rent issue had deadlocked and the council's rent demand was therefore "irrelevant"

(127)

Sewage problem blamed on funding

B. P. C. M.
11/2/90 WILSON ZWANE (127)

STREAMS of unsanitary effluent were running in the streets of Thokoza on the East Rand because of the lack of funds to repair a damaged sewerage pump station, Thokoza administrator Gert Muller said yesterday.

"We hope to get the necessary funds from residents, but I cannot say when that will be as it is presently difficult to get all the interested parties together because of the unrest situation," Muller said.

He was concerned that sewage flowing through the streets would pollute water and cause health hazards.

Unless funds could be generated to pay the private refuse removal firm contracted by his administration, there could be no refuse removals in Thokoza this month, he warned. Alternatively, the firm might agree to scale down its services.

Katlehong mayor McDonald Mhlana said sewerage was a problem to his council. Sewage was running in the township's streets as a private company hired by his council to repair sabotaged sewerage pipes and remove refuse was intimidated about two months ago.

"The council has to send its employees in to render services. I don't know how we'll cope because of the lack of funds. The monthly flat rates that residents pay are far from sufficient," he said.

KwaGuqa light go on again

KWA Guqa residents rejoiced on Wednesday night as electricity was reconnected to the township for the first time in three weeks.

"It's like Christmas," said one resident.

The township's power was switched on after the Highveld Regional Services Council made a R1 million payment and gave guarantees to the Witbank Town Council to cover KwaGuqa's R1,3 million services debt.

RSC chairman Paul Broodryk said the R1 million was a soft loan which was repayable.

Residents reported extreme hardship during the blackout with students having to study for examinations by candlelight and housewives unable to buy economic quantities of perishables without refrigeration.

Meanwhile Witbank town has been in the grip of a crippling consumer boycott since the switch-off *Sowetan 7/12/90*

One businessman said his turnover had been down 80 percent and he had not hired any students this year because of the boycott.

Meanwhile a KwaGuqa People's Delegation spokesman Jackson Mthembu hailed the agreement it had entered into with the various authorities as "a victory for the community."

Sowetan Reporter

Groups to seek end to boycott

Star 10/12/90 (127)
Daveyton and Wattville residents have appointed two joint working groups to assist with negotiations between the two city councils to end rent and service boycotts.

Earlier an arrange-

ment was reached between Eskom and the two city councils avoiding a cut in electricity supplies to the towns. However, electricity to individual consumers is still being cut — Staff Reporter.

Forum aims to improve life in Middelburg

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

127

MIDDELBURG — A community based forum, believed to be the first of its kind in the country, has been set up to solve problems and improve life for all communities in Middelburg

Representatives on the apolitical Middelburg Informal Regional Planning Forum (MIRPF) include the local civic association, industries, mines, the local Chamber of Business and Sakekamer, churches, Cosatu, the SAP and an unemployed

workers' association

The forum, which was launched yesterday, had recently solved Mhluzi township's rent and electricity payment crisis. Through funds raised by the forum's foundation further black-outs were prevented

Under the forum's auspices, township residents have now agreed to pay a flat-rate of R68 per electrified household until February

Mhluzi Residents' Organisation spokesman Godfrey Maseko said the forum was being

star 11/12/90

viewed seriously by other towns facing similar problems

He believed the concept could be used as a bridging approach for the country's problems

In a statement the forum said its foundation had already embarked on a campaign for funds for community projects and job creation in the region. Big businesses, churches and individuals had already donated

A key to the forum's success was the grassroots support from township organisations and the link it forged between them and employers in town

Hope over boycott

Sowetan 12/12/90

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has approved plans to upgrade Tshikota township in Louis Trichardt, thereby boosting chances of an end to the consumer boycott of the town.

Announcing this yesterday, Zoutpansberg Chamber of Commerce chairman Mr Brink Schlesinger said he was awaiting a letter from the TPA which would be handed to the consumer boycott committee.

The upgrading of the township is one of the central demands of the boycott committee.

Tshikota, situated about 2km from Louis Trichardt, was built in 1960 when the freehold area of Masaganj was demolished.

Hostel

Residents were removed from the township in 1981 and resettled, along tribal lines, at Vleifontein and Waterval, both about 30km from the town.

Only a small community of Sotho-speaking people and hostel dwellers remain in Tshikota.

The CBC has demanded that sewerage, electricity and roads be

installed so that people in the two new areas wishing to go back could do so.

Schlesinger said he had informed the CBC about the TPA decision and hoped progress could be made in the deadlocked talks over the boycott.

He said many employers had laid off staff as turnovers had fallen by up to 80 percent.

Schlesinger would not say how many workers had been laid off but cited a hardware shop that had retrenched 20 of its 24 employees.

CBC spokesman Mr Magwedzha Mphaphuli said his com-

mittee was still awaiting the letter from the TPA.

The CBC was due to meet last night to discuss the boycott and decide on its next move.

Attack

The boycott started on November 28 after the attack on Sunday school children in the town four days earlier.

Other demands of the CBC include the opening of the central business district to all races, the opening of public facilities and an end to alleged harassment of trade union members by police and employers.

Switch on or face boycott, warns ANC

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

The ANC has warned that a consumer boycott will begin in the Conservative Party-dominated Eastern Transvaal next week unless essential services are immediately reconnected to affected townships.

"There is a deafening call by members on the ground for a blanket regional consumer boycott and other forms of mass action," said the ANC's Eastern Transvaal publicity secretary Jackson Mthembu.

Disrupted

He said the lives of residents in most Highveld townships had been disrupted since the Transvaal Provincial Administration cut township subsidies by up to 80 percent in September.

CP-controlled town councils had cut supplies of either water, electricity or both when residents were unable to pay mounting arrears.

Bethal's eMzinoni township has been without electricity for a month, Carolina's Silobela township for two months and Bronkhorstspuit's Sithobeni township for four months.

Waterval Boven's eMgwenya township has had no electricity, and water has been severely rationed since October.

He said that part of the prob-

lem was the refusal of most CP councils to recognise and meet civic associations.

The ANC's recent Eastern Transvaal regional congress had taken decisions on how these councils should be dealt with and details would be announced next week, he said.

Mr Mthembu said ANC members were also unhappy about the TPA's intransigence.

"Seemingly the TPA wants to force people to acknowledge its authority and control over the masses. But the people are fed up.

"Unless the TPA changes its strategies and stops this nonsense of undermining the black communities, then the Government has only itself to blame for whatever mass action results."

Crippling

Mr Mthembu said the ANC wished to remind businessmen that the organisation had only suspended the crippling consumer boycott held throughout the region in August.

"We suspended the consumer boycott as a means of testing the honesty and integrity of those people who were involved in deliberations, especially the TPA. But obviously they have been found wanting in these respects, and as such our members are saying we must resume the consumer boycott and all other forms of mass action with immediate effect," he said.

Star 12/12/90

127 (10)

8:10 am 13/12/90

Hough: ANC must honour its pledge

PRETORIA — Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough yesterday called on the ANC to honour its undertaking to ensure eastern Transvaal residents resumed payment for rents and services and to stop calling for such boycotts.

A statement said he wanted to remind the ANC of its undertaking, made on September 28, to stand in for losses incurred as a result of non-payment of rents and services fees to local authorities in the eastern Transvaal.

"In the eastern Transvaal an agreement was reached between the ANC, the TPA and other parties on August 31 1990. As part of this agreement the ANC undertook to ensure that residents resumed payment for rents and services — the response has been very slight."

Attempts to blame the Transvaal Provincial Administration and CP-controlled councils for hardships experienced by blacks in the eastern Transvaal were "far-fetched" (127)

Hough was reacting to a statement by ANC eastern Transvaal publicity secretary Jackson Mthembu, published in a Johannesburg newspaper.

Mthembu had warned that the ANC would call for a consumer boycott in the CP-dominated eastern Transvaal if essential services to affected townships were not reconnected immediately.

Hough said intimidation and coercion of people into withholding payments or joining consumer boycotts could not be reconciled with democracy and the freedom of choice that democracy was supposed to guarantee.

TIM COHEN reports ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said last night she had no knowledge of the undertaking referred to by Hough. — Sapa.

Cast reacts to 'Press frenzy'

Sowetan 14/12/90
THE Civic Association of Southern Africa yesterday said its campaign for the resignation of councillors would not "develop into a reign of terror against councillors" as claimed by sections of the Press.

Cast criticised some papers for their "frenzied reaction" to the organisation's resolution to intensify the campaign.

Cas Coovadia of Cast said: "We must question the role of the press in this regard. They appear to be assisting the State in sowing division in communities and aiding and abetting friction."

"It is black councillors and management committees

rather than Cast who are one of the causes of violence in townships and their continued existence exacerbates the violence."

He said Cast has always espoused peaceful and non-violent pressure since its launch and had continued that tradition since the intensification of the campaign on November 7.

On Cast's legitimacy, he said: "We have no hesitation in going to our people to test our legitimacy. We are prepared to invite the press and Government to such meetings and the people can respond to the question of Cast's legitimacy."

Deadline for rent ⁽¹²⁷⁾ boycott

Sowelen 14/12/90

A CLASH is looming between residents of Toekomsrus and their management committee over the rent boycott in the West Rand township.

The boycott was called in August this year to force the resignation of the management committee and the reduction of rent.

Members of the Toekomsrus Crisis Committee yesterday said efforts to hold negotiations with the local municipality hit snags when the two parties disagreed about delegates.

The TCC demanded that its delegation include a representative of the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal but the Randfontein Town Council was prepared to meet only with Toekomsrus residents.

Letters giving residents seven days to pay off their arrears or face court action were received by a few residents last week.

A meeting to discuss the letters will take place tomorrow at the Toekomsrus Civic Hall.

Mr Billy Reed, town secretary of the Randfontein council, said his council had conceded to some of the residents' demands - but not to such ridiculous calls as the resignation of the management councils.

"You cannot get the MC's to resign because 10 percent of the residents want them to, these people were democratically elected by the majority and some people are unhappy because they are under the influence of certain elements".

Vlei' taps run dry

127

Sowetan 14/12/90
VLEIFONTEIN township, home of about 5 000 people, has been without water for two weeks following a drying up of boreholes because of drought.

Residents have been walking up to 5km a single trip to beg for water at nearby white-owned farms, where they pay R7,50 for 25 litres.

A strong smell of unflushed toilets hangs over the small township, situated about 30km from Louis Trichardt. Taps dried up on November 26, residents said.

The director-general for water affairs, Mr. WMR Sigwawhulumi, said the level of water in boreholes supplying Vleifontein had gone down.

reviewed.

Sowetan Correspondent

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127

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Political foes join forces in 'miracle' forum

Local solutions sought

THERESE ANDERS

SOMETHING so unusual is happening at the Eastern Transvaal home of South Africa's stainless steel industry that Archbishop Desmond Tutu cannot believe his eyes

Not only does it have the ANC's blessing, but local Conservative Party councillors actually wish it success!

What is this "miracle" that had somehow got two implacable political foes to agree? It is the "Middelburg Forum", a local initiative which has brought together a whole range of community organisations, from civic bodies and town administrators to businesses, churches, trade unions and the unemployed.

The purpose? Nothing other than to create a better Middelburg for all its people, say those behind it

Already it has successfully solved Mhluzi township's recent services crisis. Further blackouts were prevented when the forum covered outstanding electricity arrears, giving the community a breathing space to work out an affordable flat rate for the next few months

Create jobs

A high percentage of residents are now paying for their services and forum officials believe the local "lights and water" issue will be a thing of the past by early next year

The money used to pay the electricity arrears had been earmarked to start "Pots for Africa", a project which would create jobs for up to 100 unemployed

The Middelburg Forum, now up and running for six months, is being watched and marvelled at in high places throughout the land, especially as Middelburg is not the sort of town where you would expect to find a dynamic community initiative starting up.

Let no one be fooled, the town's council is as right-wing as they come. Black children are charged R5 for a dip in the local pool and black students are asked to fork out R250 if they want to study in

the town's library.

Yet it has given birth to a project that transcends entrenched barriers and has drawn former political foes into a co-operative alliance working for the benefit of everyone

"Our goal is simply to bring about a better Middelburg for all its people," says Brian Wegerle, forum facilitator and a director of Middelburg Steel and Alloys.

"We believe our forum is a beacon of light and hope for the country. We want to encourage Nelson Mandela and F W de Klerk, what they are doing at their level is also cascading down to grassroots level

"In the face of great odds we have something here that is working, and we would like to see other towns experiment as we have done

"In Middelburg the black community had no access to structures, services or resources before the forum was created

"We have been able to get the co-operative and listening ear of the police, the local magistrate, big business and local government authorities."

Apart from job creation other areas identified for attention are education, housing, health and welfare and security liaison

So far the foundation has raised only R500 000, mainly from local industry, but small business concerns, churches and individuals have also chipped in. There are now plans to canvas for support from national and international organisations.

The forum has an interesting history. It all began in May after demands for jobs by a Cosatu-backed group of the town's unemployed. Meetings were set up with local industry

Initially hostile, the focus of the meetings was to see how business could assist in resolving the unemployment problem.

As co-operation grew so did the realisation the issues involved were greater than unemployment. It was also apparent that it was beyond the capabilities of big business and the unemployed to solve these problems on their own

Cosatu's Abes Matebela says the forum had been mostly well accepted by the black community. "However there are those who are critical and want to see tangible results, so we are working very hard."

He believes the forum has the potential to predict and solve problems and avoid crisis situations

Brian Wegerle says there has been a remarkable amount of support from the white community.

"Even the chairman of the town's management committee, CP councillor John Carlisle has said he hopes the forum works"

Survived

"Mr Wegerle said during November the forum had faced its toughest test when Mhluzi township erupted in violence after police had stopped an illegal protest march. A week-long stayaway resulted

"The stayaway almost blew the forum out of the water, but we survived. In fact we've become stronger. People have said this is exactly why we need a forum."

An umbrella body has been set up on which representatives from all sectors of the community sit

Says the local civic association's Godfrey Maseko "I feel this forum presents a real alternative for the new South Africa. "The ANC and the government do not have the solution yet, but we the people at grass-roots level are working to find one for them."

Star 16/12/90

Also 127

New deal for townships

Star 15/12/90

SECRET meetings have been held by the Transvaal Provincial Administrations and the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal to find a replacement to the Black Local Authorities (BLA) system which has collapsed

A total of 405 councillors have resigned — most citing intimidation as a factor — and only 82 have withstood the pressure to resign

31 administrators

These 82 councillors face a bleak Christmas after the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) decision to step up efforts to unseat them.

Mr Len Dekker, Deputy Director-General of Community Development in the Transvaal Provincial Administration, said 31 administrators had already been appointed to run townships where the remaining councillors did not form a quorum.

Mr Dekker said meetings had been held to try to find a solution

Talks on replacing system



to the problems facing township residents and the TPA. The last meeting was held in Johannesburg where a number of proposals were discussed

Mr Dekker explained the TPA had no problems with residents calling on councillors to resign. "Residents have a democratic right to call on councillors to resign, but the councillors must be replaced through a democratic voting system." He said he was against the scrapping of the present local authorities system. "We should reform the present system other than do away with it."

Services in the townships where councils had collapsed had not been affected. The appointed Administrators had the same powers as fully constituted councils and made sure services continued

Mr Cas Coovadia, Cast's assistant general secretary said. "We are calling on councillors to resign because the people they purport to represent were not consulted when they were elected."

No upliftment

"The history of their conduct shows they've done nothing to uplift living conditions of residents. They've also been corrupt."

Mr Coovadia described the BLAs as extensions of State machinery "which continued to oppress the people they claim to represent"

The question of who should replace the BLA was still being debated. There were a number of proposals being considered.

"One proposal is that an administrator be appointed after consultation with the civics and TPA"

He explained that civic associations would remain independent of local authorities and political organisations but should be consulted before any system of local authorities was decided upon

Second phase

Mr Coovadia said, during the second phase of the campaign (under the theme of "Black Christians against councillors, management committee members and violence")

local civic associations would individually embark on one or more of these actions

- Boycotting councillors' businesses
- Isolating councillors and their families from the community.
- Marches to councillors' homes to demand their resignations.

"In some areas on the West Rand, civics have also decided to embark on a wider consumer boycott against white-owned businesses"

He said, although Cast would support actions by local civics, the organisation would not call for a regional boycott.

79 resignations

Mr Coovadia said that of 189 black councillors and Indian and coloured members in the areas represented by 40 civic associations in the southern and western Transvaal, 79 had resigned since the campaign began on November 7

"The situation will be reassessed in mid-January and we will consider regionalising our campaign"

● Six councillors have died in "first strike attacks" in the first seven months of 1990, says the latest South African Institute of Race Relations

(SAIRR) report. One councillor was necklaced.

An average of two attacks on black city councillors were mounted daily. There were 87 attacks on the homes of black town councillors.

Dying, if need, for his community

WHAT kind of man would risk his life and that of his family plus damage to his property for a position in a black local authority?

"It is the kind of man who has the interest of the community at heart. It is the man who is prepared to do everything, including dying, for the welfare of the people he leads," says M J Khumalo, mayor of Diepmeadow who is one of the few councillors who have refused to resign from black local authorities.

Mr Khumalo, asked why he would not resign, said he would only do so when he was convinced that a better town council would replace his — "the people who replace us must serve our commu-

for 15/12/90.
JOVIAL RANTAO

nty as loyally as we do"

Mr Khumalo, a long-serving Diepmeadow councillor before being elected mayor this year, said councillors also agreed that local authorities, based on race, must go.

"We've agreed that this racist system must go. However, we are also saying that, until the black authorities are done away with, we should be allowed to continue serving the community. It's no use asking us to resign because we will probably be replaced by a (white) administrator who will not be elected by the masses," Mr

(127) (2003) (2003) 2003
Khumalo said

Mr Khumalo said when the new constitution was being drawn up, the reconstitution of local authorities should top the agenda.

He was not worried about threats made by the Civic Association of the Southern Transvaal that they would boycott businesses of councillors who refused to resign.

He dismissed the threats as undemocratic. "And I'm not saying this out of arrogance — but from my convictions."

● Mr Khumalo's Diepmeadow Town Council still has all its 20 councillors intact. So does the Soweto City Council.

A POOL FULL OF PROPAGANDA?

By **DESMOND BLOW**

Open 16/12/90

127

MEMBERS of the Milanpark Indian community claim their management committee is a puppet of Bethal's CP-controlled town council and have allowed themselves to be used to drive a wedge between Indian and black communities in the area.

A community spokesman said the Bethal CP council was angry because Indians had opened their taps to the 40 000 black residents of nearby eMzini after the council had cut off their electricity and water

Milanpark residents have now signed a petition calling for the resignation of the five-person Indian management committee. They claim management committee chairman Dhirajlal Lala blamed black vandalism as the reason for his committee's decision to fill the Milanpark public swimming pool with sand.

A medical doctor said the reason the pool was filled with sand was because the filter pump had failed and the water had turned black and was unhealthy

The Bethal town engineer advised the Indian management committee to dump sand in the pool to prevent cracking after it was emptied, and the CP council took advantage of this to call a Press conference to tell the world that even the Indians were closing their pools to prevent blacks from using it because of their "bad behaviour"

"Lala and the others know this is a lie, but they have perpetuated the lie because they are intimidated by the CP council"

But Lala this week repeated the story that the pool was closed because of vandalism by black children.

He said the children had broken into the Indian sporting facilities, which included tennis courts and a swimming pool, after the October 15 scrapping of the Separate Amenities Act.

Lala said they had broken the locked gate to gain entry, stolen doors, ruined the pool's filter pump, stolen the fencing around the tennis courts, stolen the nets, and wrecked the ablution block

"It was the third time in four years they had ruined the ablution block," Lala said, adding it was unanimously agreed by the management committee to close

They helped the CP lie, say angry Indian residents

the pool until it was repaired. The Bethal Town Council had been informed of its decision

Lala said the pool was insured and once they received payment, repairs would be made and the pool opened to all races

"The pool was being swamped by blacks and we have appealed to the Bethal Town Council to build a pool for blacks in eMzini to alleviate the congestion"

He claimed none of the blacks had complained about the closed facility, and the relationship between Indians and blacks in the adjoining townships was good

"When the water for blacks was cut off by the Bethal Town Council, every Indian opened his taps to the residents of eMzini. They flowed night and day and we could not even bath, because there was no pressure inside the homes because the garden taps were constantly open"

In a letter to the Bethal town clerk calling for the resignation of the Indian management committee, Milanpark residents claimed the committee had refused to do anything constructive in having the water restrictions lifted in eMzini, and thus have provided no relief to the residents of Milanpark who have been burdened by extra water accounts

"We feel it is our religious duty NOT to deny water, and also feel it is the Christian duty of the council to provide water, if only for a few hours"

They also suggested that the R3 000 a month allowances for the management committee, which was taken from residents' rates, should be used to alleviate the water account of eMzini

The doctor also said many residents of eMzini had suffered gastric diseases as a result of water restrictions and the overflow of sewage in the streets

Timberframe plan to tackle homes crisis

PETER GALLI

NOVEL low-cost timberframe housing schemes are to be introduced into areas of Crossroads, Winterveid and Thembisa townships from early January, SA Lumber Millers' Association (Salma) marketing manager Mike Richards said at the weekend.

The cost of these timberframe homes was relatively low, starting in the R850 to R2 000 range — the same price paid for the existing shacks.

There were two sizes of shack — five by three metres and six by four metres. The structures would take the form of an open room which could later be modified or separated by a partition, Richards said.

"The timberframe homes will be built on a modular basis so they can be upgraded or expanded at very little expense," he added.

For this price, the consumer would either be taught how to cut the wood

and assemble the shack, or it would be supplied in a panel form that could be erected immediately.

A low-pitched tile roof or a deck-tile roof (using Marley tiles or something similar) would be included, as would steel windows and wooden doors.

An advantage of the scheme, Richards said, was that the consumer would be trained to erect the structure.

The consumer could then turn the knowledge into a business by becoming a shack-builder, Richards said.

However, a problem existed among black consumers as they had aspirations of masonry-type houses, which were not viable at the price they could initially afford, Richards said.

The three communities had been approached and educated concerning the viability of timberframe housing. He said Salma had assessed the requirements of the majority of consumers. The demand for this type of housing ranged from 200 to 2 000 in each of the areas.

The claim that the SA climate was too harsh for timber structures was not true, Richards said.

Proof of this was that a number of perfectly sound timber houses were still to be found in Pilgrims Rest and Johannesburg.

The timber was treated at a mill and then, as with any house, regular maintenance was required, Richards said.

"Timberframe structures are undoubtedly one of the most competitive forms available for quality low-cost housing," he concluded.

Tambo calls for intensified struggle against apartheid

19/12/90
C.A.P.T. Tra.P.S.
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JOHANNESBURG. — ANC president Mr Oliver Tambo told the crowd at his welcoming gathering in his home town of Wattville, near Benoni, yesterday to intensify the struggle against apartheid and to prepare to take full control of their lives.

"Let us hasten the dawn of freedom by intensifying the struggle — we must leave the enemy no quarter," Mr Tambo said to a ululating crowd of about 1 500 at Wattville Stadium.

Mr Tambo had just completed a day of reunions with family and friends in Wattville, where he lived before his 30 years of exile.

He said his return had come at one of the most

tragic phases in the history of the country. "The violence that apartheid has unleashed on our people with blind fury has claimed countless lives in Natal."

He also expressed his sorrow to the families of victims of "the ruthless slaughter which has claimed over 3 000 lives since June".

Earlier he "officially opened" Tamboville — an informal housing settlement — as well as the land marked for his house to be built in the township early next year.

Both ceremonies were marked by Mr Tambo's cutting of black, green and gold ribbons while crowds sang, danced and shouted "Viva Tambo".

Mr Tambo, was accompanied by his wife Adelaide, his two daughters, his son, grandsons, relatives and friends.

Tamboville was officially given to squatters and proclaimed an informal housing settlement after negotiations between the Wattville Concerned Residents' Committee and the Benoni town council earlier this year.

The council has provided water and mobile toilets and the area is extremely clean. There are not many residents yet.

Mr Tambo is expected to travel to his birth-town of Bizana in Transkei later this week — Sapa

Asro offers interim flat rate

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THE Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation, in an effort to end the rent boycott, has offered to pay an interim monthly flat rate of R50 for each business, R20 per house and R8 for each hostel inmate

Mr Simon Tshidi, Asro's acting secretary, yesterday said they presented the offer to senior officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration at a meeting on Monday to discuss ways and means of ending the rent boycott that started on April 1 this year. The newly-appointed Administrator of Atteridgeville, Dr Ernie Jacobson, also attended the meeting.

Tshidi said the interim offer was for the payment of essential services while real negotiations on affordable rent were continuing with the TPA.

He said the TPA were considering the offer and their

By MONK NKOMO

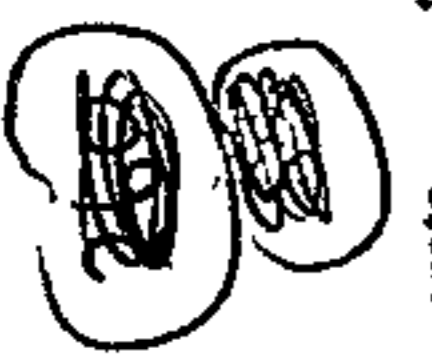
response was expected at a meeting tomorrow. Another issue on the agenda will be the scrapping of all rent arrears since April 1 this year. *Southern 19/12/90*

In another development, Asro were due to meet with the Laudium Management Committee yesterday to discuss the resignation of its members from "apartheid structures". Tshidi said they were also going to discuss the occupation of Lotus Gardens, near Atteridgeville, by local residents.

The area popularly known as "Dairy Farms", was proclaimed an Indian residential area seven years ago over the protests of the Atteridgeville Council.

Eskom aims at aiding Evaton

SOWETAN—MOTORING



operate their refrigerators and other gadgets in the wake of a hike in the price of fuel.

Businessmen also said that their shops have been looted, robbed and burgled because they did not have electrical devices which could help curb the high rate of crime in the township. Streets were not lit. There were few high mast lights

Mr Don Mashini said that Evaton - probably one of the few areas where blacks still have freehold rights - was the oldest residential areas in South Africa which did not have electricity. "It is the dark city of the Vaal Triangle," he said. He said that surround-

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

Myburgh, in the township this week.

He said that Eskom wanted to provide electricity to everybody. However, the cost of supplying it was too high. They would conduct a survey to find out how many residents needed it. They would also consider building a sub-station which would in future service the rest of the townships, he said, adding the research would probably start in January next year.

The meeting came about as a result of complaints by businessmen that they spent thousands of rands in buying diesel

THE giant electricity company, Eskom, has pledged to conduct a feasibility study with the aim to install electricity on business sites in part of Evaton township, popularly known as "Parktown," next year.

However, the survey will also include thousands of residents, who have made representations to the Evaton Town Council for the installation of power which they say is vital in the developing South Africa.

This was explained by Eskom's southern Transvaal development areas manager, Mr Paul O'Connor, at a meeting attended by a delegation of businessmen and the Evaton Town Clerk, Mr

Cool relief

A GROUP of Carolina businessmen have clubbed together R6 000 to pay for nearby Silobela township's water supply over the festive season.

Silobela's water was due to have been disconnected by Carolina's Conservative Party controlled council yesterday because of mounting service arrears. (127)

R6 000 offer to keep taps open

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

CAROLINA — A group of Carolina businessmen has offered R6 000 to maintain Silobela township's water supply over the festive season

Silobela's water was due to have been disconnected by Carolina's Conservative Party-controlled council yesterday because of mounting service arrears

The township, which owes the council R120 000 in service arrears, has been without electricity since October.

Silobela's administrator, Manie van Vuuren, said the businessmen had told him they found it totally unsatisfactory that township residents would be without water over

Christmas.

"Their attitude was that to cut water just before Christmas was a bad decision.

"They wanted to buy some time, then early next year we can look at the problem and see if it can't be solved," he said

Mr van Vuuren conceded that there might be other motives for the payment.

The ANC had threatened to launch a consumer boycott of white Carolina businesses this week if services continued to be disrupted.

Also, said Mr van Vuuren, the local commando, of which most businessmen were members, would then have been called up to guard water pumps over the Christmas period

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Lenasia angered by water cut-off

127
star 20/12/90

Municipal Reporter

Residents of Lenasia South who have been without water since 8.30 am on Tuesday are furious that they were not warned of the water cuts and no alternative supply was provided by their Local Government Affairs Council.

One resident said he had to go 22 km to a relative so he and his family could bath and collect drinking water.

"We received no notification from the council and no water tanker has been around to our house or any of our friends."

When he complained, he was told a water tanker had been sent out

"That is not true," he responded.

A spokesman for the LGAC engineers' department said a major blockage in the drains had resulted in water having to be cut. Workers tried until the early hours yesterday to correct matters and were back at 7 am.

He said no water tanker had been sent. The council hoped to have water restored by yesterday afternoon.

Campaign against councillors hot up

THEO RAWANA

THE Civics Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) would step up pressure next week on black councillors and coloured and Indian management committee members to resign, Cast vice-president Kgabisi Mosunkutu said yesterday.

The campaign, which would run from Monday until January 1, would involve the boycott of councillors' businesses and ostracism of councillors and their families.

"Specialised action" had begun in Klip town, Ennerdale and Eldorado Park, and soon there would be marches to collect resignations from management committee members. Petitions were being circulated in Kagiso and a consumer boycott was planned at Toekomsrus.

Councillors for Khuma, in Potchefstroom, resigned after rubbish was thrown at their houses, he said.

Sapa reported that Cast general secretary Sam Ntuli said the campaign could include occupation of Johannesburg City Council chambers on January 7. Cast would not apologise for mobilising people to remove elected local government officials who were "militating against genuine resolution of township problems".

Fear and disruption of services in townships were related primarily "to govern-

□ To Page 2

Campaign □ From Page 1

ment's continued attempts to legitimise discredited and unrepresentative councillors and management committees"

President F W de Klerk's statement that local government had to be reviewed urgently was proof that mass action was producing results, he said.

Cast president Moses Mayekiso said the organisation was working with the TPA on

alternative local government structures, and was liaising with Eskom on power supply cuts in townships.

A national "civic" could be in place by the middle of next year, following a planned national consultative conference in March. Government's proposed alternatives for local government would be rejected even if they were good because they had not been negotiated, he said.

Thokoza residents to boycott white business

ANGRY Thokoza residents yesterday announced a total boycott of white-owned businesses in nearby Alberton

The move followed the residents' "black" Christmas Electricity supplies to the township were cut at the beginning of December. *Blom 27/12/90*

Thokoza Civic Association president Sam Ntuli said there would be a march on the Alberton Town Council offices on January 1

The East Rand township was without electricity following its failure to raise funds to settle an electricity debt with the Alberton Town Council

Power was cut after the township's

THEO RAWANA
and WILSON ZWANE

administration failed to raise R1,7m to settle the electricity debt, administrator Gert Muller said

Ntuli told a Press conference in Thokoza yesterday the action against the Alberton council would be maintained until there was clarity on the R70 the residents paid for September and October.

Saying the civic association had proposed a R40 interim payment, he added "The residents refuse to be intimidated into paying for the Thokoza Town Council's maladministration and demand that the

council should account for the R70 paid for September and October."

He called on the Alberton council to investigate Thokoza's finances over the past three years

The civic association demanded that Alberton start talks on the implementation of one non-racial council

This is the second power cut to hit Thokoza in four months. The first was on September 13

"I cannot say when the rent crisis is going to be resolved and it has been difficult to get interested parties together be-

□ To Page 2

Thokoza *Blom 27/12/90*

cause of the unrest that has been going on in Thokoza, but I hope negotiations will resume in the first week of January," Muller said

He warned, however, that if residents showed the same unwillingness to pay that they showed in September and October they would be without electricity for "a very long time".

"In September and October we had an

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interim agreement with the Alberton Town Council whereby R10 000 for electricity was paid daily. But only 49% of the residents came forward and paid the flat rates agreed upon

"I urge residents to pay if they want to have power restored," Muller said

An Alberton Town Council spokesman confirmed the council would not restore power to Thokoza unless the R1,7m debt was settled.

Alexandra housing plan is opposed

THEO RAWANA

THE Alexandra Town Council has announced that it plans to sell 3 600 houses in the township, but the plan has drawn strong opposition from the powerful Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO).

Mayor Prince Mokoena said yesterday the council would sell the properties — some of which accommodated nine households — to tenants under freehold title.

However, ACO president Moses Mayekiso said the council had no right to sell property. He said it had lost a Supreme Court case last year after attempting to sell a resident's house.

The Supreme Court had barred the council from selling land when it ruled in favour of Samuel Mothoa, who had contested the sale of his house.

Mayekiso warned that the council was "taking people for a ride" because the ACO, the TPA and the council were still negotiating the sale of old houses.

Mokoena said the offer to buy would be made to the tenant who had been there the longest — waiving a ruling that the tenant needed the approval of other occupants.

The tenants would be given 90 days to raise the money, after which the person with the next longest occupancy would be approached.

Mokoena said the properties would not be under the 99-year leasehold scheme, but under freehold. Between 3% and 5% of properties in Alexandra were already owned under freehold title, he said.

Cast's Council campaign halted by festive season

and the campaign would again be stepped up by mid-January.

However, the campaign has been largely successful since it was "intensified" on November 7.

Since then, 100 of the remaining 189 councillors had resigned in the target areas of 41 civic associations, said Coovadia.

Eight councils had either collapsed completely or had been left without quorums due to the resignations. Those were Lekoa, Kanaana, Munsieville, Atteridgeville, Tokoza, Khuma, Ikageng and Mamelodi.

THE anti-councillors campaign of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal, which was supposed to reach a climax between Christmas and New Year, seems to have met with limited success.

Little activity has been reported in the Transvaal, the main target area.

Commented Cast's assistant general secretary, Cas Coovadia: "The unfortunate thing about the struggle is that everybody seems to go into recess over the festive season."

Activities would take place in some areas before January 1, he said.

bers had promised to report back to residents.

* In Kagiso, block committees had started a door-to-door petition, asking residents whether they wanted the councillors to resign. It appeared that the "overwhelming majority" of residents were in favour of their resignation, Coovadia said. - *Sowetan Correspondent*

* In Khuma, outside Potchefstroom, residents had dumped garbage at the homes of councillors. Six councillors had resigned.

* In Eldorado Park, deputations of between 10 and 20 residents had gone to the houses of the six management committee members to demand their resignations. Five management committee mem-

Some of the activities reported over the festive season included:

* In Mamelodi, 10 councillors are said to have resigned after residents had marched to their houses to demand their resignations.

* In Tokoza, residents will boycott white Alberton businesses in protest against the cutting of electricity.

WORLDWIDE

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JOHANNESBURG

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28/12/90

Sowetan



Festivities affect CAST campaign

Star 28/12/90

By Esmaré
van der Merwe
Political Reporter

The anti-councillors campaign of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST), which was supposed to reach a climax between Christmas and New Year, seems to have met with limited success.

Commented CAST's assistant general-secretary, Cas Coovadia "The unfortunate thing about the struggle is that everybody seems to go into recess over the festive season."

Activities would take place in some areas before January 1, he said, and the campaign would again be stepped up by mid-January.

However, since the campaign's inception, 100 of the remaining 189 councillors had resigned in the target areas of 41

civic associations. Eight councils had either collapsed completely or had been left without quorums due to the resignations, he said.

Some of the activities reported over the festive season included:

- In Mamelodi, 10 councillors are said to have resigned after residents had marched to their houses to demand their resignations.
- In Eldorado Park, deputations of between 10 and 20 residents had gone to the houses of the six management committee members to demand their resignations. Five management committee members had promised to report back to residents.
- In Kagiso, block committees had started a door-to-door petition, asking residents whether they wanted the councillors to resign.

Boycott 'could wreck talks'

Staff Reporter ^{Star} 28/12/90

The Transvaal Provincial Administration yesterday accused the Tokoza Civic Association of calling a boycott of white business in Alberton in order to distract the people from their own shortcomings

The boycott began on Wednesday

In a statement yesterday, TPA acting deputy director-general Jan van der Walt said a boycott of business in Alberton could wreck fragile negotiations to have Tokoza's electricity reconnected

"This foolish tactic is an attempt to distract

the people's attention from the civic association's direct responsibility for additional misery and inconvenience which they are now suffering," he added

The TPA and the administrator of Tokoza hoped to resume negotiations early next year with a view to ending the rent boycott and promoting the concept of nonracial government under a new constitutional dispensation, said the statement

Most businesses in Alberton polled by The Star yesterday said the boycott had not yet affected sales

Pick 'n Pay spokes-

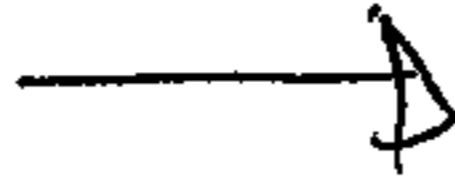
man David Jennings said "We have many customers from Vosloorus and Katlehong who are not taking part in the boycott"

The branch manager of Checkers in Alberton, Joshua Thenjekwayo, said he was not even aware of the consumer boycott.

A spokesman for OK Bazaars said the boycott had not affected her branch at all.

Business was slow yesterday morning at the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet and manager Gerrit Grobbelaar blamed the boycott

Victory



FOR THE PEOPLE OF TSHIKOTA

Cl/Pres 30/17/90

By ELIAS MALALUKE

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AFTER an eight-year struggle 58 families in Tshikota township, adjacent to Louis Trichardt, have won their battle against forced removal. The news that Tshikota would remain a black township and be upgraded - after years of neglect - resulted in the defiant residents toy-toying in the rubble-filled section already bulldozed by the authorities.

Now, however, residents are demanding that Tshikota be merged with Louis Trichardt to form a free settlement area with a single democratically-elected municipality.

The 58 families began the struggle for their right to stay after the Conservative Louis Trichardt Town Council decided in 1982 that Tshikota should be closed to black residential dwelling and that residents should be resettled in the homelands of Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda.

Many families had already been forced to move before the 58 families decided to hold out.

The victory celebration for the families, the remainder of a once-thriving community of about 15 000 people, was the result of hard bargaining and protest action.

Tshikota was given a new lease of life this month when the government overruled the council's 1982 decision to resettle residents and demolish the township.

A daunting task awaits the residents in rebuilding their township, though Tshikota is a mass of rubble, without infrastructure.

The Louis Trichardt council has already demolished many houses, churches and clinics. There are no sports fields or recreation facilities, residents use communal taps, there is no electricity and the bucket system is still in use.

According to chairman of the Tshikota Residents' Committee, Lazarus Legong, 35, the town council had earmarked Tshikota for a white residential area. Tshikota and Louis Trichardt are divided only by a street.

Legong, a school principal who defied the Department of Education and Training by spearheading the anti-removal campaign and was transferred from Tshikota as a result, said trouble between residents and authorities started in 1984 when families were divided according to their ethnic groups.

"Shangaans, Pedis and Vendas were living side by side in harmony before this division," said Legong.

Children, too, were divided in schools when the authorities established schools for all three groups.

Tshikota was established in 1957 in terms of the Black Consolidation Act, and residents came from a hill overlooking Louis Trichardt from the north.

Forced removals in Tshikota started in 1979 when over 7 000 people were moved to Vleifontein, about 27km from Louis Trichardt, before Vleifontein was incorporated into Venda.

Legong said Vendas were later moved to HaTshikota near Vleifontein, Shangaans to Waterval and Pedis to Seshego. Bulldozers then moved in and flattened all empty structures - but the 58 families refused to budge.

"We formed the Tshikota Residents Committee to oppose the move," said Legong.

The committee tried without success to resolve the dispute with the Transvaal Provincial Administration. They were instead given an ultimatum to leave Tshikota or their houses would be demolished.

58 families said 'NO' and forced government to stop removals



Tshikota Residents' Committee chairman, Lazarus Legong.

"We approached the Legal Resource Centre for assistance in fighting our case and the Transvaal Rural Action Committee also stepped in to offer us assistance."

However, the committee also used other strategies and blacks from other areas who work and shop in Louis Trichardt started support committees that embarked on work-stayaways, protest marches and consumer boycotts.

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Alex land row just one more chapter in a saga

31 Dec 1990

THE furore over the proposed sale of 3 600 old stands in Alexandra is one more episode in a saga that has spanned 32 years of the township's 78-year history

The Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO) has locked horns with the Alexandra Town Council over its plans to sell the stands — some of which accommodate nine families — on freehold title to tenants who had been there the longest

ACO president Moses Mayekiso contends that the council has no right to sell property on which more than one family resides, in fact no right to sell the property at all since it is still a subject of negotiations between ACO, the TPA and the council

Resettlement of the original owners of the stands began in 1958 when the Peri-Urban Health Board took over as administrator. Previously the township was run by a health committee

In 1961 the then manager of Bantu Administration of the board, CH Kotze, said the board was buying black-owned property in Alexandra as part of a plan to turn it into an area exclusively for Africans employed in the suburbs north of Johannesburg

"Most of the stands were worth about £1 400 with improvements, Kotze said

"I don't think many of the stand-owners who have sold get the whole £1 400 or so into their pockets. Most of them have bonds and other charges on the properties," he added

"The stands were bigger than most in African townships, but many were grossly overcrowded. Policy was to lease the houses to blacks from Johannesburg's northern suburbs, not to sell them, Kotze

THEO RAWANA
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said. According to one newspaper report, when the board took over Alexandra in 1958 there were about 96 000 people living on 415 morgen — an area that could hardly house 40 000 on a sound family basis

The board began the removal of blacks, mainly tenants, to Meadowlands in February 1959 and then to Diepkloof and finally to Tembisa.

By 1961, 6 653 families — a total of 34 354 people — had been rehoused at Meadowlands and Diepkloof.

The Native Resettlement Board provided free passage to the new homes and the Peri-Urban Board supplied a day's rations on the day of removal

By 1963 government had made it clear it planned to turn the township into a single-sex hostel complex

It was commonplace for landowners to receive letters from the board offering to buy their properties — giving them 30 days to make up their minds and submit claims for compensation

By 1965 the population of Alexandra had been reduced to about 11 000. The board had pledged that the removal would be completed by 1970. By 1969 families were being moved at the rate of 15 a day

But now the population has swollen to about 120 000 through the influx of squatters and the sprouting of hostel complexes

Alexandra was granted a reprieve in 1979, and in 1987 township administrator Steve Burger offered properties for sale. The Alexandra Town Council, which came into office in 1988, continued with the drive to sell the old properties

Hostel men reject fence

Ufitem 13/9/90 (127)

By SOPHIE TEMA

INMATES of the Mapetla Hostel objected loudly this week when they were fenced in with razor wire "We are not animals, so why must we be caged in?" they said.

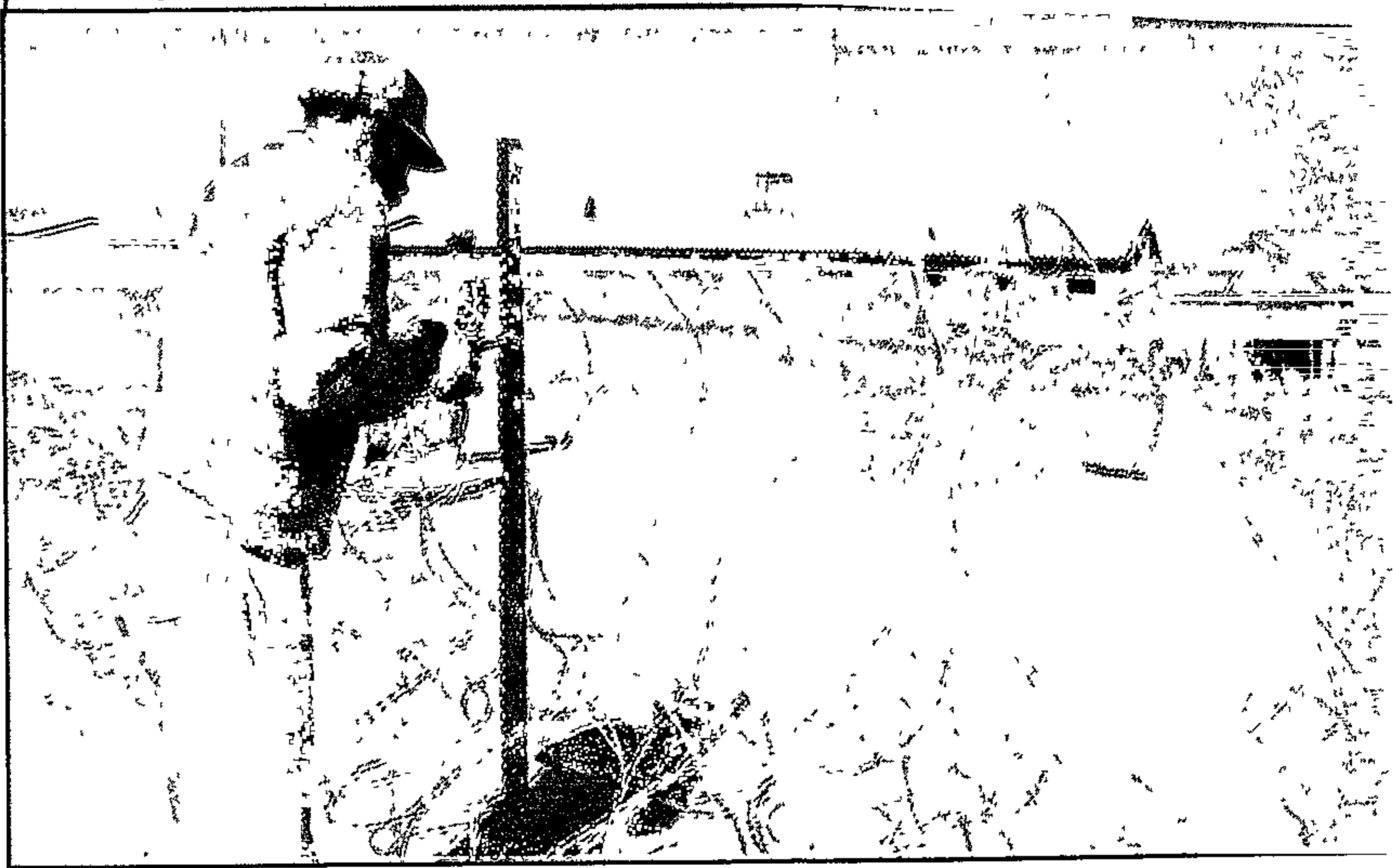
Soweto divisional commissioner of police, Gen J Swart, had to be called in when inmates complained about the razor wire placed around their premises as a protective measure.

Police Liaison officer, Lt-Col Tienie Halgryn, explained that fencing was one of the measures taken by the police in Soweto to stop violence between hostel dwellers and residents in the townships and to bring peace and stability to the area.

But an angry hostel spokesman asked newsmen: "Why must we be fenced in. Why don't the police fence in those people across the road who are the ones who have been causing all the trouble?"

"Why treat us as if we are not part of South Africa? Are we the scabby sheep of the community? We feel we are being discriminated against simply because we live in a hostel."

After a long discussion with some of his colleagues, a hostel spokesman complained to police that township people



Mapetla Hostel inmates said of the razor fence: We're not animals -- so why cage us in? ■ Pic: TLADI KHUFI

were treating them with contempt.

"Right now, we keep to ourselves in the hostel, but we are being provoked by the people from the townships because whenever they go past they hurl insults at us. They also sing derogatory songs about us," he said.

"We will not tolerate this type of behaviour from people who come looking for unnecessary trouble."

Halgryn said: "The razor fence was placed around the Mapetla Hostel firstly to pre-

vent hostel dwellers from going into the area to attack residents, and also to protect hostel dwellers from being attacked.

"There will only be one entrance to the hostel. It will be controlled by the SAP."

Halgryn said the SAP decided to start with the Mapetla Hostel where trouble started.

An "Operation Clean-up" was also conducted in townships on Friday to clear the roads on which barricades were erected during the violence.

Azapo meeting

THE Soweto branch of Azapo will hold an emergency meeting of its members today from 2pm at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Pimville Zone 3.

The meeting will focus on Azapo's National Council and on the peace initiative mounted to stop violence on the Reef.

Inkatha steps in to block Kagiso hostel demolition

By ELIAS MALULEKE

INKATHA is seeking an urgent interdict against the Kagiso Council over moves to demolish a hostel to make way for family units

Deputy mayor MI Sengoera said the council had been prevented from demolishing the hostel by the interdict notice issued by lawyers acting for Inkatha leader Themba Khoza

The council decided on the demolition last month following violence between residents and Inkatha supporters in hostels

Sengoera said the notice was issued early this month when the council was due to demolish the hostel. Khoza has since been arrested under Section 29.

"Most of the legally registered hostel tenants had already left and were staying at the Durban Deep mine hostel near Roodepoort when Inkatha lawyers

issued the notice to restrain the council. At the moment the hostel is occupied by unemployed illegals," Sengoera said.

He said while the council was negotiating with Inkatha lawyers, the government had been drawn into the issue and was discussing its implications with the ANC and Inkatha.

"We will wait for the final decision from the government but will continue upgrading the Extension 10 hostel into family units because the project was started before the violence," he added.

In the East Rand townships of Thokoza, Katlehong and Vosloorus steps have already been taken to demolish the hostels and the issue is being tabled in the Tembisa and Daveyton council meetings this month.

Thokoza town clerk HA Combrinck said most hostels were beyond repair following attacks during the unrest and only three remained standing.

Hostel fears mount after cash demand

TENSION is mounting at Soweto's Diepkloof Hostel where Inkatha members last week distributed letters to dwellers instructing each to contribute R5 to a fund before the end of this month.

The fund was established after an Inkatha Freedom Party meeting at the hostel a few weeks ago.

It will provide, among other things, arrested

By SY MAKARINGE

members of the party with legal assistance

The letter, written in Zulu, said everyone living at the hostel should pay the money before the end of the month, irrespective of whether they were Zulus or not

Members

Concerned non-Inkatha members at the hostel expressed fears yesterday that people who

failed to comply with the request may be "identified and dealt with accordingly"

"We do not know what will happen to people who do not pay. We're in a Catch-22 situation because if we don't pay, we might be seen to be against Inkatha."

"If we do, we would be seen to be endorsing its policies and the deeds of its members."

"It is very clear that they want to control all the hostels. We may even be made to join the party against our will," said a dweller who refused to be identified.

Another dweller said a friend, who lives at Dube Hostel and is not a member of Inkatha, had vacated his room after Inkatha had allegedly requested everyone at the hostel to donate R100 towards a fund.

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HB

Women's hostels: Behind the sisterhood, a note of sadness

W/EM and 26/10 - 11/1990

(127)

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brooms rush to her aid
 "Then we hit him. Some men have been killed in here," another woman says. "But no one gets arrested because they don't know who killed him." Another woman chips in with: "We are like a government here."

Motobo goes off to find Jane Mogotso who recently found a man hiding in her room. Despite the vastness of the building, the endless corridors lined with identical rooms, the communication network is swift and efficient and she reappears minutes later with widened-eyes. Mogotso, a cleaner at the family planning centre in the hostel complex which serves the hostel-dwellers and the township.

After doing her washing in the early hours of the morning — a time many women choose to do their daily chores given the unpredictable water supply — Mogotso returned to her room to find a man wedged behind her cupboard.

Despite an advanced prison-like security system where electronic gates seal off blocks at the switch of a button from the supervisors' office, most women say they never feel safe. The friendly support structure helps act as a buffer from the harshness of impersonal, prison-like living quarters. The residents contribute small amounts of money when someone dies. When a woman gives birth or falls ill she is rushed to hospital in one

of the few cars owned by the luckier hostel-dwellers, or an ambulance is called from a hostel resident's private telephone. Few have their own telephones and the communal phones never work.

But limited resources, cramped living conditions and an absence of communal recreational facilities undercuts the "sisterhood", fueling petty rivalries, tribal differences and jealousy.

"There is often fighting in the rooms, sometimes even physical fighting," says Mabiletsa.

Some squabbles are over things like the scarce water supply, the lack of space and — given language differences — which radio station to play. Others accuse each other of stealing washing, of keeping the light on too late, of waking everyone in the room when returning from night-shift.

There are no plugs in the rooms and the more resourceful women run their radios, hi-fi's and fridges from the single light bulb hanging from each ceiling. Such "unfair advantages" are the source of more resentment and daily bickering.

"The reason we fight is because of our situation. There is no privacy. If we had our own rooms it would be better," says Motobo.

The women are stoic, even cheerful, about their unenviable lot. A woman



Washing day in the quad adds a touch of colour to the grey building

Picture: AVIGAIL UZI

sums up the situation. "Yes, we are laughing but, really, it is terrible."

The rent boycott is another divisive factor. While many of the older women are reluctant to stop paying rent and risk eviction, others are more militant, less tolerant of traditional attitudes.

While the women would jump at the chance to live elsewhere, there are queues of others waiting to come in.

However, according to an urban consultant researching this alternative, it is a complex issue which cannot be separated from the country's housing crisis.

"Some women are terrified of being displaced through an upgrading process — which often happens. Some

simply want the hostel to be improved, not necessarily converted."

Not all the women have families or husbands and many would prefer to live in bachelor quarters. Building family units would require more land and hefty financial input, he says.

ACO is pressing the council to reveal its accounts to show the hostel-dwellers how their money, which totals about R70 000 a month, is used.

A research project on the viability of transforming the hostel into family units is soon to be released.

Responding to the allegations concerning the lack of maintenance in the hostel, the chairman of the executive

committee of the Alexandra council, Dennis Tau, said the council was experiencing heavy financial difficulties.

"The area where the residence is situated is currently being upgraded, hence the continuous water, and sometimes electricity, cut-off," he said.

The police, under whose jurisdiction the municipal security guards fall, were investigating allegations against them.

Tau confirmed that the council would make available a document recording the breakdown of expenditure from the revenue generated by the hostel rents.

He said negotiations were underway to privatise the hostel. "It is the council's wish that the residences should be converted into housing units as we are presently experiencing a housing crisis"

Jouberton power supply restored

B/DAY 13/11/90 (127)
THEO RAWANA

THE Klerksdorp Town Council has restored power to Jouberton township after an agreement to which the local civic association was not party.

The council said in a statement yesterday it had reached agreement with the Jouberton Community Information Society, representatives of taxi associations, and other members of the community, and bulk services were restored last Friday until 4pm tomorrow "on condition that accounts rendered are paid to such an extent that the bulk supply account of the Klerksdorp council can be paid".

The Jouberton Civic Association boycotted the meeting.

The council of the East Rand township of Ratanda said in a statement yesterday "payment of not less than 20% in each category should be made by Friday, November 16, a further 25% by the 25th and a further 20% by November 30

"Otherwise the supply of electricity will be terminated between the hours of 5am and 8am and again between 4pm and 8pm daily."

Meanwhile the Daveyton Town Council was yesterday reported to have threatened power cuts for residents who failed to pay accounts.

Reports quoted council spokesman Joe Moropa as saying services would be cut to defaulters from today

Protest stay leaves Pretoria streets empty

B/DAY 13/11/90

PRETORIA'S streets, offices and shops were virtually emptied of blacks yesterday as the majority of residents from surrounding townships stayed away in protest against electricity cuts in Atteridgeville and Saulsville townships and in support of the reincorporation of Bophuthatswana into SA.

Taxis

Shops operated on skeleton white staff, while some restaurants were reduced to serving only liquid refreshments in the absence of kitchen staff and supplies

A Sabta spokesman said no taxis were on the streets yesterday.

Sabta members, he said, were part of the community and heeded the call by the various progressive organisations.

Secondly, it would have been uneconomic for taxis to be out on the streets when there were no custom-

ers coming

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Five killed, two hurt in 'faction' fights

FIVE people were killed and two injured in clashes between Xhosa and alleged Inkatha factions at Zonkezizwe, an informal shack settlement south of Katlehong on the East Rand.

Police liaison officer Capt Ida van Zweek said yesterday police discovered five bodies yesterday morning. Two of the deceased had been shot and the other three hacked to death.

Police also found an injured man who had been shot through the chin, but his injuries were "not serious".

By yesterday afternoon police had

LINDEN BIRNS

moved into the settlement to restore calm and had disarmed warring sides. Van Zweek dismissed as "utter nonsense" claims that police had disarmed Xhosa residents while supplying arms to the Zulus.

A priest said he went to Zonkezizwe yesterday after hearing complaints that men claiming to be from Inkatha broke up a residents' meeting on Sunday. He said a man was stabbed. The same men returned yesterday and killed others, he said.

Campaign to oust black councils gets under way

B1 Day 8/11/90

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THEO RAWANA

A CONCERTED drive to force the collapse of black local authorities would begin with marches in southern and western Transvaal towns, the Civics Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) announced yesterday.

Cast spokesman Moses Mayekiso told a news conference in Johannesburg that a recent conference of affiliated civic associations gave his organisation a mandate to announce the beginning of mass action to mobilise people towards effective change.

In the wake of electricity and water supply cuts to townships recently, the civic associations had stepped up pressure for the resignation of black councillors and, under the umbrella of Cast, have seen a number of them leave their posts.

Mass action in the form of protests, isolation of councillors and boycotts against their businesses would be embarked on, with the immediate goal

of getting all black councillors to resign by November 30.

Pressure on white councillors would soon follow to work for one city, one tax base, Mayekiso said. Coloured and Indian management committee systems had to go by the end of December.

Tax base

The reasons for the mass action were given as the continued existence of the black local authorities and coloured and Indian management systems, and the cutting off of electricity supply to many black townships.

Another reason was the lack of appreciable movement towards the establishment of one tax base per city.

GERALD REILLY reports the TPA yesterday listed nine townships hit by, or threatened with, power and

electricity cuts.

They are Silobela (Carolina), Kwaguga (Witbank), Emgwenya (Waterval Boven), Atteridgeville in Pretoria, Zithobeni in Northern Transvaal, Tsweselang (Wolmarandstad), Botunelong (Bloemhof), Kqakale (Leeudoringstad) and Jouberton (Klerksdorp).

A TPA spokesman stressed the administration was not responsible for power and water cuts. This was done by the bulk suppliers.

Negotiations had been held or would be held later this month with about 20 other black townships on the issue of mounting unpaid service charges and possible power and water cuts. Included are Kagiso (Krugersdorp), Alexandra and Evaton (Vaal), Jouberton and Wesselton in the eastern Transvaal.

The spokesman said it was difficult to determine at any one time how many towns had been blacked out because the situation fluctuated.



12/11/90

16 die as rent dispute flares into fighting

By SANDILE MEMELA

AT least 16 people died in Zonkizizwe, Katlehong, this week when a dispute over a rent boycott exploded into violence

Now the violence threatens to grow into a new ANC-Inkatha war, according to residents

Residents have expressed concern over the renewed fighting in the area

"We thought peace had returned to the people and are disappointed that this has to take place just before Christmas," said Agnes Khumalo, 65

Already a wave of panic has spread through the area with residents fleeing their homes after a series of dusk attacks by assailants armed with AK-47s

Stunned survivors of the new wave of violence described the past week as a "living hell" and have sought refuge in surrounding areas of Palm Ridge, Natalspruit Hospital and nearby police stations.

Scores of others have escaped into houses of relatives and friends in Thokoza, Se-



Residents flee strife-torn Zonkizizwe clutching the few possessions they could carry. The violence seems set to escalate into another ANC-Inkatha war. Pic: ANDRIE'S MCINEKA

bokeng and Natalspruit

Zonkizizwe - which means "all nations" - was tense this week as residents returned to the area in daytime to salvage whatever possessions they had left behind

The outbreak of violence followed a community gathering last Sunday which ended abruptly after alleged Zulu-speaking men attacked residents

This follows a dispute over joining the rent boycott

East Rand TPA spokesman Tom Botha said a faction in the community wanted to

engage in a rent boycott and not pay for water and sewage services.

"Apparently some of the residents were unwilling and said they did not want to be part of self-serving political groups in the area," said Botha

Water-tanker drivers were intimidated and could not go into the area

"It was impossible for us to move in and things only got better under police escort"

Residents said a rent-office employee, Khehla Petros Maduna, was shot and

killed after he had defied the call from a faction not to pay rent

But Botha said Maduna's killing could have been a personal issue

Residents said the rent dispute was being overtaken by tribal prejudice and Zulu-speaking men had pledged to attack non-Zulus in the area

A Swazi-speaking man who asked not to be identified told *City Press* he spent a night on his shack roof on Tuesday after groups of Zulu-speaking men went on the rampage

"I heard sounds of gunfire and saw them shoot randomly at

men who were not Zulus I only escaped because it was dark and I could not be spotted"

He said he was living in fear of his life and could not return to his shack until the fighting subsided

Late this week it was tense in Zonkizizwe and hundreds of shacks had their curtains drawn and windows shut

Zonkizizwe was established last August and has a population of about 80 000. Many of the residents escaped the recent Reef war that claimed 800 lives in Katlehong and Thokoza

LABOUR

Metalworkers flee hostels as Inkatha supporters move in

HUNDREDS of metalworkers have fled hostels in the PWV area following tensions sparked by a continuing Inkatha recruitment drive.

This is according to Alfred Woodington, co-ordinator of the National Union of Metalworkers' "crisis unit", set up recently to deal with ethnic/political conflict among the union's members.

The disclosure comes against the backdrop of violent conflict at Iscor hostels in Vanderbijlpark, in which three people have died in three separate attacks in the past week.

Numsa suspects a "mini-commando" is operating out of the disused kwaMadala hostel, where a small number of Inkatha supporters fled in July. Their numbers have swollen to 600, half of whom are not

Ethnic/political violence has spread from Iscor's Natal collieries to the Reef, reports

DREW FORREST

Iscor employees. Numsa suggests unemployed workers were bused in from kwaZulu.

Two of the attacks have been on workers at Iscor's kwaMasize hostel, where the Inkatha fugitives were originally housed. "We see this as an extension of events in the Natal collieries," Woodington said. "The aim is apparently to get all Inkatha supporters to resign from Cosatu."

Woodington said 300 of the Iscor hostel fugitives have quit the union.

On the broader problem, he said:

● About 200 workers, some Zulu,

some Xhosa, had been displaced following hostel conflict in Tembisa.

● About 100 workers had quit hostels in the Benoni area. Tensions were running high in the Vosloorus hostel.

● Local organisers had managed to contain problems in the kwaThema hostel, but some workers may have moved to the Tsakane squatter camp.

● Some hostel dwellers were displaced in West Rand townships, while members had been threatened and their houses attacked.

Woodington said serious problems were not currently being experienced on the shopfloor.

In a statement this week, Numsa said Iscor had tried to portray the Vanderbijlpark violence as a tribal clash, but believed it had enabled management to "take a hard line in wage negotiations and retrenchments, without fear of effective strike action".

A key demand is for the immediate removal of non-employees from the kwaMadala hostel, and Iscor's Piet du Plessis said every effort was being made to do this.

Iscor had in principle agreed to a union proposal for an independent investigation of the violence, but wanted clarity on its terms of reference.

The company also favoured the idea of mediation to resolve differences between the two hostels.

● Iscor is to appoint an outside investigator to probe National Union of Mineworkers allegations of management complicity in conflict at its Durbanville and Hlobane collieries in Natal.

Numsa wants govt involvement

R4bn plan to replace hostels with houses

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THE National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) has proposed a R4bn joint Cosatu/ANC/SACP/government plan to replace urban single-sex hostels with housing units integrated into surrounding communities.

Numsa general secretary Moses Mayekiso disclosed yesterday that the proposal was being discussed by Cosatu, which had approved the plan in principle although many key details still had to be finalised.

It is understood the plan has also been put to Seifsa which, together with Numsa and other unions administers the Metal Industries Group Pension Fund (MIGPF), whose assets

amount to nearly R4bn. Numsa has proposed that pension funds, primarily the MIGPF, provide up to a quarter (R600m to R1bn) of the total project budget.

Numsa has proposed an additional R1bn each be sought from Jan Steyn's Independent Development Trust, central government and a consortium of building societies and finance houses.

The plan was devised during the township violence in August and September.



● MAYEKISO

ALAN FINE

A notable feature is that the direct beneficiaries of the plan would be hostel dwellers rather than specifically Cosatu union members. About 125 000 people live in 31 hostels in 10 townships in Greater Soweto and the East Rand.

The formal Numsa proposal argues. "It has become clear that the violence in the townships will be endemic for so long as the hostels exist." It says hostels serve as a focus for tribal enmity and forced recruitment.

"They also create an obvious split in the community between 'township dwellers' and 'hostel dwellers'. (Their elimination) must take priority over other housing needs because of the overwhelming importance of the problem of violence."

It was proposed that a joint committee comprising the ANC/Cosatu/SACP alliance and government be established to coordinate the project, with regional sub-committees.

The same parties should establish a trust fund to deal with the massive finances.

Numsa proposed that housing should be made available for sale to families or individuals, but that rented accommodation be provided too and be "geographically integrated with other types of housing".

It also anticipated a significant proportion of accommodation would have to be in the form of site and service schemes.

The proposal emphasised a great deal of

□ To Page 2

Hostels

research still needed to be done to estimate the number and type of housing units required. Questions of land availability, township layout and infrastructural services and other issues were mentioned.

Mayekiso said the proposal was still no more than bare bones, and matters like precise financial arrangements, including

return on investment for participating pension funds, would have to be devised by participants.

A Seifsa source said it could not comment immediately as the two officials involved in the matter — director Brian Angus and industrial relations specialist Dave Carson — were out of the country.

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