

PUBLIC SECTOR - LOCAL AUTH. - NORTHERN TRANSVAAL .

266(w) (INCL LEBOWA, VEINDA, GAZANKULU)

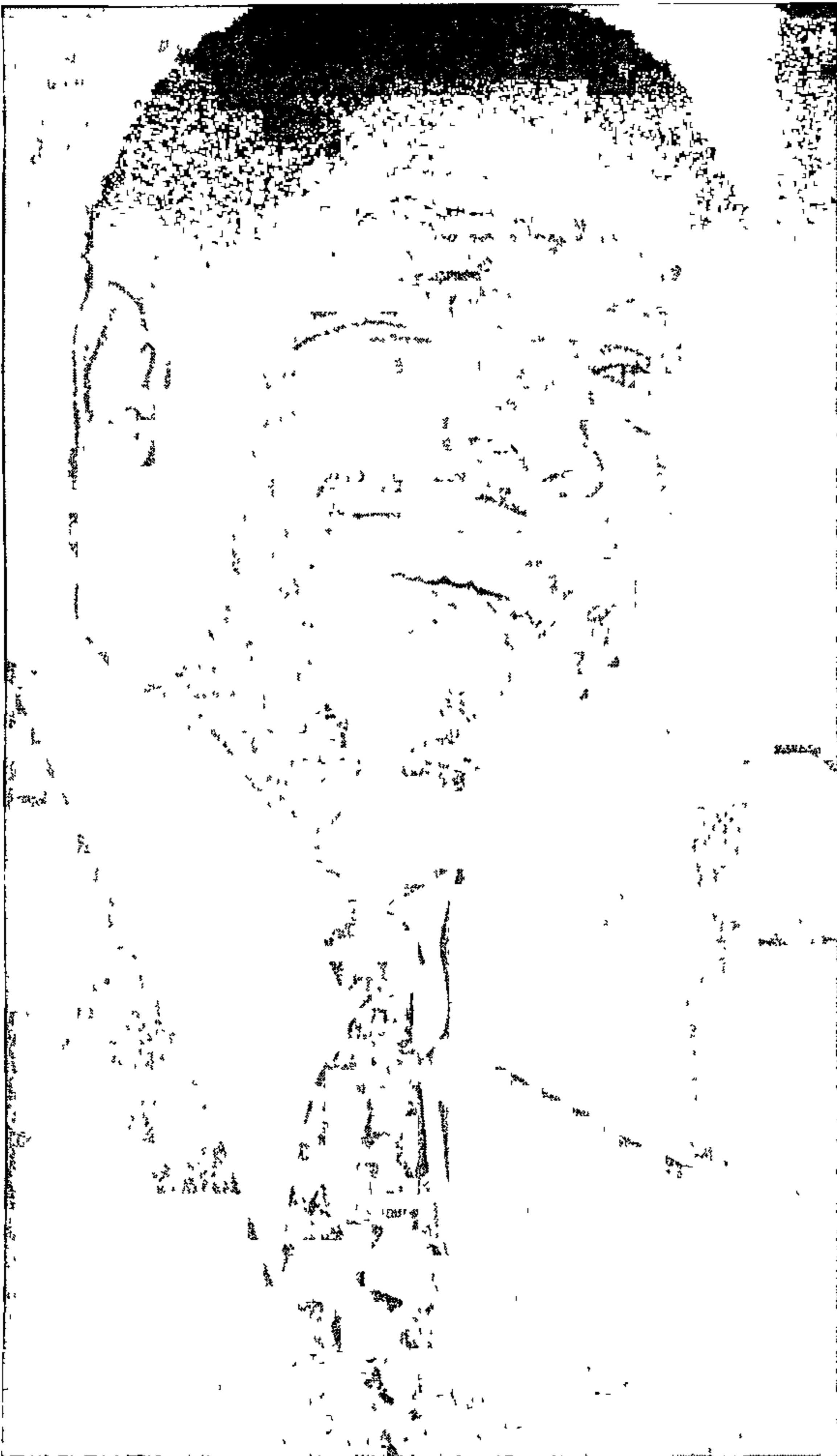
1994 - 1995

1994 - 1995

Edited by Mike Siluma

On Saturday nine men will be sworn in as premiers of :
 some readers they are almost unknown, while to others th
 The Star introduces you to four of them. The series will

Meet new premiers for



Tokyo Sexwale ... PWV region

Tokyo Sexwale (PWV)

As a nation lined up at the polling stations on April 27, the PWV province's premier-elect was "hijacked" in Palestine. Palestine, Orange Farm, that is — 50 km south of Johannesburg.

Tokyo Sexwale's benign hijackers were young residents of the dusty settlement who insisted that he vote at the station closest to their homes, rather than at the pre-selected venue.

"Why did I go all the way to Palestine to vote? Well, I live and I sleep in Houghton. But I exist, and I think I'll die, for Palestine and Phola Park and Crossroads and Khayelitsha. I wanted to vote in a place that is called a squatter camp."

Now the chips are down. Sexwale, born 41 years ago in a squatter camp in Orlando, Soweto, is in the PWV driving seat. And he will be judged not on his emotional affinity for those who have been pushed to the margins of this bustling province, but on his government's ability to boost them into the mainstream of social and economic life.

Sexwale is certainly not the custom-made career politician whose every move has been calculated to achieve high government office. As a result, although his is one of the most widely recognised faces in the political firmament, Sexwale is in many respects an unknown quantity.

He joined the ANC underground while still a teenager in the early '70s and was forced to flee the country a couple of years later when his cover was blown. He trained as an Umkhonto weSizwe soldier, and was arrested while on a cross-border mission in 1977.

He spent the next 13 years in jail until he was granted amnesty in mid-1990 and immediately became a senior MK commander. In the second round of ANC regional elections, he became PWV regional chairman.

Although in exile he studied public administration, Sexwale reckons this is the least of the assets he brings to his powerful new position. Far more valuable, he believes, is his experience of collective decision-making in the political structures of the ANC and of army-style implementation of decisions in MK.

He speaks of establishing peace as a prerequisite for development and as a means of

"protecting the investment environment." It is no secret that as ANC PWV chairman he set out to get to know senior police officers. Currently, he says, he has regular contact with "all the police generals in the region."

It was the assassination of Communist Party leader Chris Hani just a year ago, which thrust Sexwale into the spotlight. His powerful and largely effective pleas to millions of enraged South Africans to refrain from random reprisals commanded attention. So did his obvious non-racialism.

Asked how he will ensure that a gulf will not open up between his 'Cabinet' and the largely inherited civil service, Sexwale answers with characteristic conviction. The priority will be to get various people who have served to understand that there's a new flag here. There are going to be new ways of doing new things.

"And we will say to them that we want complete loyalty. Not to any person but to the country."

— Jo-Anne Collinge

Matthew Phosa (Eastern Transvaal)

Naked Matthew Phosa is no great statistician. Even as a schoolboy he hated maths.

But, when it came to calculating the chances of the ANC winning the Eastern Transvaal province and elevating him to the position of premier, he found it as easy as adding one and one.

"It was simple arithmetic," he said. "There are 200 000 whites in this area and almost two million blacks. There's no way we could not win this one."

Phosa, born 42 years ago in Mbombela township, Nelspruit, is a man of few words. But he does not stumble when he talks about his plans for the Eastern Transvaal.

Elections in this area, Phosa says, were about housing, education, health, jobs and development. The Eastern Transvaal is rich and ripe for development.

Trained as a lawyer (University of the North) and a soldier (Umkhonto weSizwe), Phosa faces the immediate task of setting up his 'Cabinet' or executive committee with assurance. He already knows — "exactly" — who will be in it.

Phosa learnt his politics from

worn in as premiers of nine new provinces. To
 known, while to others they are folk heroes. Today,
 r of them. The series will be completed next week

Premiers for old Transvaal

Sexwale

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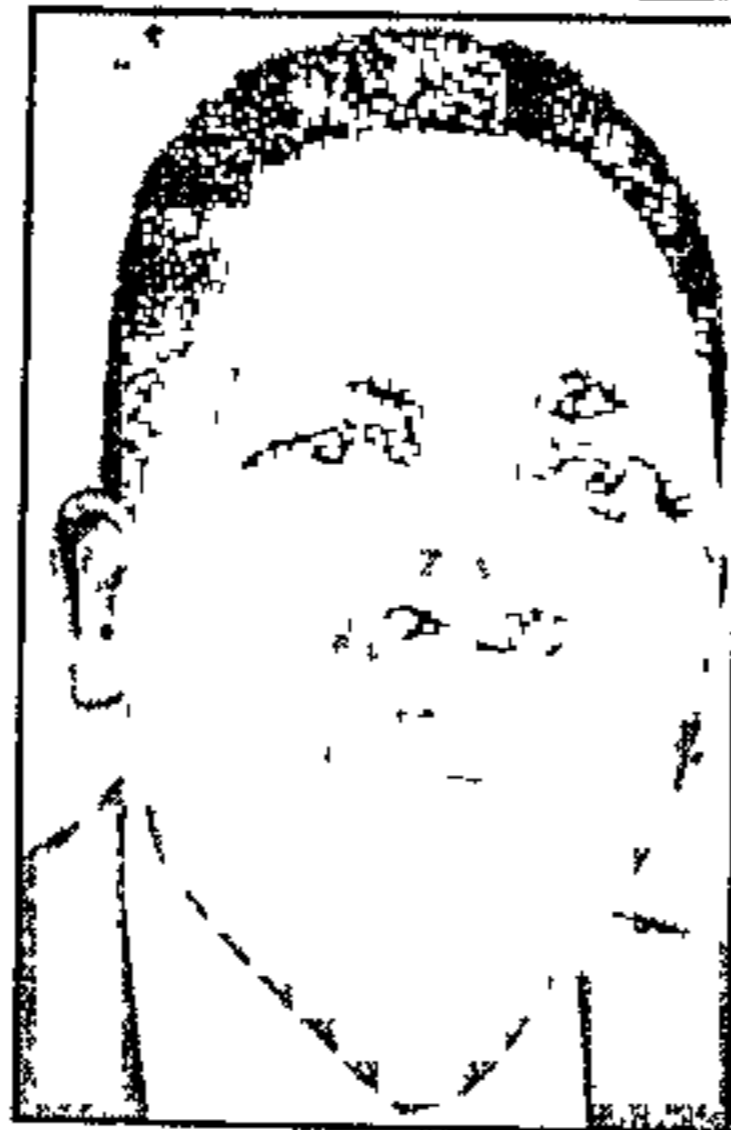
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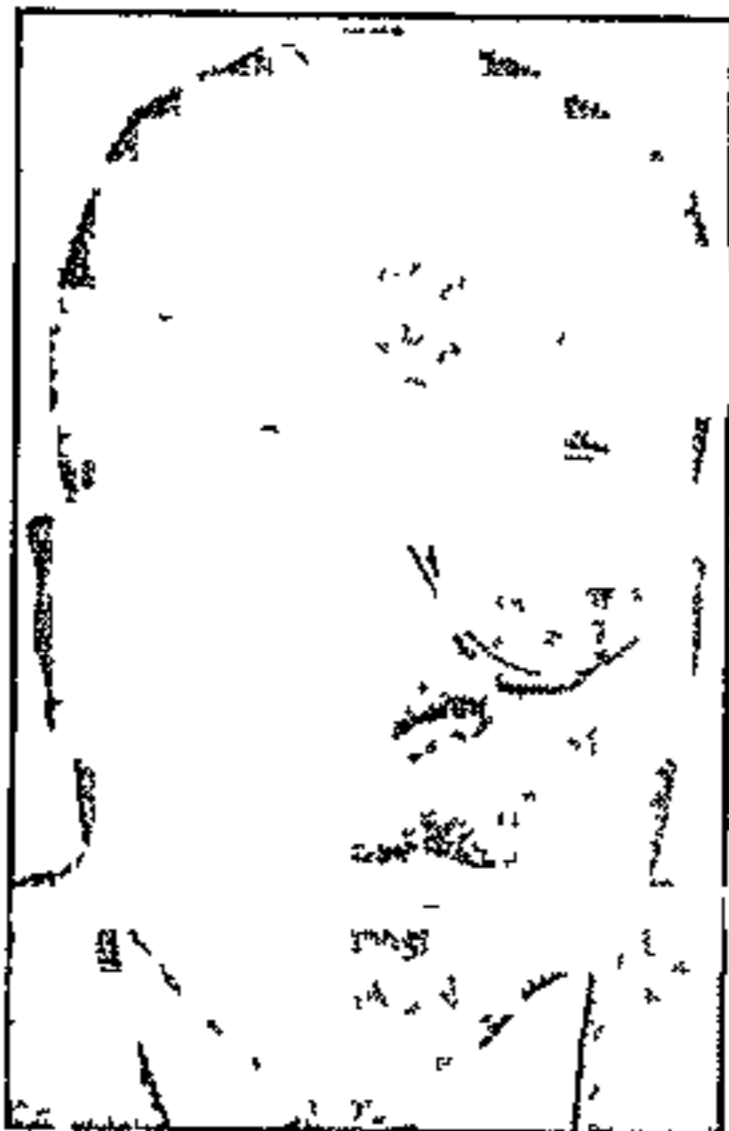
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Matthew Phosa
 Eastern Transvaal



Ngoako Ramatlhodi
 Northern Transvaal



Popo Molefe
 North West region

his mother — a World War 2 nurse — and worked in the ANC underground while he ran his Nelspruit law firm. In 1985 he crossed the border into Mozambique and became part of the structure directing ANC political and military activity in the Eastern Transvaal.

In 1990 he was among the first to be sent back into South Africa to begin negotiations with the Government — Jovial Rantao

Ngoako Ramatlhodi (Northern Transvaal)

Ngoako Ramatlhodi is slight, quiet, earnest, bespectacled — and exceptionally young for the job of premier of the Northern Transvaal.

The 38-year-old former ANC exile, swept to power by the most comfortable regional majority, readily concedes that his is not a household name. "I've always kept a low profile because I like it that way," he says.

The outward diffidence is deceptive. Ramatlhodi is a powerful politician with a powerful vision — to create a government of regional unity in his province in which every resident of the area can see themselves reflected. Irrespective of his huge electoral support, he proposes to offer white rightwingers a role in his government. "We're all in this together up here," he says.

Ramatlhodi was born in the village of Tauetswala near Potgietersrus. Part of a large traditional family — his father, an ordinary labourer, had two wives — Ramatlhodi set out to get the schooling his parents did not have. The quest took him through Hammanskraal, Potgietersrus and Tembisa. He eventually arrived at the University of the North in 1976.

Repeatedly expelled by the university for his political activism, in 1980 he decided 'to skip the country'. His first years in exile took him through Lesotho (where he worked with Chris Ham) and Botswana. Back in the Northern Transvaal he recruited Peter Mokaba.

Eventually Ramatlhodi arrived at Roma University in Lesotho, securing his BA Law degree in 1984 and fitting in some military training in Angola. The 1986 Lesotho coup saw ANC exiles forced out of the tiny country, and Ramatlhodi moved on through Zambia and Zimbabwe. Six months training in the So-

viet Union followed, and a role on the ANC's influential Political and Military Council, headed by Oliver Tambo.

After Tambo suffered his stroke, Ramatlhodi was seconded to Nelson Mandela's staff — though he was still in exile in Mozambique — and accompanied Mandela on his first world tour in 1990.

At the end of 1991, he was elected chairman of the ANC's Northern Transvaal region — the watershed event which propelled him to the premier's office — Shaun Johnson

Popo Molefe (North West)

Popo Molefe, ANC premier candidate for the North West region, will have his hands full juggling the right wing, the former Bophuthatswana administration and the high expectations of his strongly ANC-oriented rural electorate.

One of the accused in the Delmas trial, a member of the Black People's Convention and former general secretary of the United Democratic Front, Molefe is well aware of what he calls the more 'creative and proactive' approach required in the switch from resistance politics to parliamentary leadership. Hence his list of priorities.

The first point is the creation of a government of national unity which will lay the environment for reconciliation and which excludes the possibility for violence, he said. 'We will engage in an information campaign to inform people that they are guaranteed their property, the protection of their culture, language, beliefs and families.'

He aims to emphasize that the whole country has accepted the process of transition, and the Constitution guarantees everybody a place in the sun.

The first line on the angry right wing — pockets of whom are prominent throughout the western Transvaal — will be a political approach.

The good showing of the Freedom Front may allow us to defuse tensions there."

Molefe promises to chisel an efficient bureaucracy from candidates of a variety of backgrounds — including those loyal to Lucas Mangope's toppled administration — emphasising that people who are not professional enough to commit themselves to a new government will not be needed — John Soderlund

NEWS FEATURE *Civil service in the Northern Trans*

Fostering spirit of nonracialism

By Khathu Mamaila

■ **FIRST DAYS** ^{21/05/94} *Ramathlodi will*

take government to the people:

NORTHERN Transvaal premier-elect Mr Ngoako Ramathlodi said the first thing he would do after assuming office tomorrow would be to establish an administrative structure for the province.

In an exclusive interview with *Sowetan* at his Pietersburg home on Wednesday night, Ramathlodi acknowledged the king size task of fusing four administrations — the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Lebowa, Gazankulu and Venda — into one governing body.

Asked if the rationalisation would not lead to massive retrenchment, Ramathlodi said the process would obviously involve pruning the civil service.

However, he said the ANC would try to avoid increasing the level of unemployment, adding that another method of rationalising would be to abolish all posts of people who were on retirement.

Responding to what will happen to top bureaucrats of the former homeland governments, Ramathlodi said the constitution guaranteed jobs for everybody but not positions.

"We cannot guarantee posts because they might not be there in the new administration," he said.

He added that the positions of the technical heads of the various depart-

ments would be occupied by people who were committed to the ANC's programme of reconstruction and development.

The provincial executive council would sit at the Jack Botes Hall in Pietersburg and speculation that the body would make use of the buildings of the former Lebowa government in Lebowa were proved to be false. But what will happen to the parliament buildings in the former self-governing states?

"We want to take services as close to the people as possible. These buildings would be used to house sub-provincial administrations. We believe in the devolution of power," said Ramathlodi.

Asked how his administration will eradicate the culture of strikes and boycotts, the Northern Transvaal supremo said the new administration would organise a special convention of all the civil servants where a new code of conduct would be adopted.

"This is the government of the people. We want people to agree to the rules of promotions and sanctions should they violate the regulations they agreed to obey," he explained.

He said the convention would be held within weeks of his assuming power.

Ramathlodi, who started school under a tree at Segole Community School near Potgietersrus, committed his administration to improving the quality of education.

Other priorities include the provision of adequate water and cheap electricity to the rural dwellers.

He said his administration would try to stop the export of raw material and labour to the big cities.

"If we have oranges in this province, I cannot understand why we can not produce orange squash for example," he said, adding that all raw material should be processed in the province to create jobs.

Asked if there would be any Pan Africanist Congress and National Party faces in his council, Ramathlodi said "It would be ideal to have them but we are bound by the constitution. According to the constitution, members of the executive council should be chosen from parliament and the ANC forms more than 90 percent of the parliamentarians."

He said his administration would be a government to those who placed it in power and those who voted for other parties, adding that he would work to heal the wounds of the past through the policy of nonracialism.

NP and Freedom Front promised top regional posts

8/Day 6/5/94

JOHANNES NGCOBO

PIETERSBURG — The NP and the Freedom Front will get senior positions in the Northern Transvaal government, says premier-designate Ngoko Ramatlhodi.

The ANC was heading for a majority of around 90% in the region last night.

Speaking before his inauguration tomorrow, Ramatlhodi said yesterday that long before the election campaign he had suggested the NP put forward candidate names for the ANC list. (266A)

"We knew we were going to win overwhelmingly in this region."

Ramatlhodi said a full audit of all the effects of the provincial administration, the former homeland governments and the former self-governing states within the region had already begun.

"We have identified that previous governments have been using too many cars. Our government will have to auction off some vehicles to members of the public," he said.

Buildings belonging to previous administrations which were not needed by the new government would be offered for use by the public.

He said the possible changing of town names in the province, as well as the re-

moval of symbols such as statues, would be a matter for the cabinet as a whole.

Ramatlhodi, who used to be a speechwriter for the late ANC president Oliver Tambo in exile, has been working as a deputy registrar and executive principal at the University of the North (Turfloop).

He will be sworn in tomorrow — with the 40 other members of his parliament — in the Jack Botes Hall in Pietersburg.

Ramatlhodi said his organisation had been involved in discussions with the NP, the Freedom Front and many other organisations in the region before the elections and after them.

His government would honour the legitimate demands of public servants in the region but would be firm in dismissing those which were not considered just. Civil servants at retirement age would be encouraged to retire so that new jobs could be created in the public service.

Ramatlhodi said the ANC's reconstruction and development programme would guide his region in prioritising the needs of the people who had voted his government into power.

N Tvl

premier *Sowetan 9/13/94* SWORN IN

By Khathu Mamaila

THE time for the resistance against apartheid had passed and the struggle was now for economic and social emancipation of the people, the Northern Transvaal premier, Mr Ngoako Ramathlodi, said at the weekend.

In his address shortly after he was officially sworn in as the premier, Ramathlodi said the terrain of struggle had shifted to nation building, adding that the ANC government would ensure reconciliation among races.

"We should derive strength from our diversity. Our diversity should not be a source of conflict," said Ramathlodi.

He said the Northern Transvaal province was the poorest because the region had always transported labour and raw material to the metropolitan areas, adding that the practice should be stopped. (ZibbA)

He recommitted his administration to delivering essential services such as water. He said people in the area would not have to buy water any more as the Government would repair existing water pipes.

The Jack Botes Hall, where the legislature had its first sitting, was packed to capacity.

Ramathlodi was elected to the premiership unopposed.

Mr George Mashamba was sworn in as the Speaker of the Northern Transvaal legislature, while Mrs Koti Nyama was appointed Deputy Speaker.

The historic occasion was marked by ululations and praises for Ramathlodi from members of the public.

POST-ELECTION REALITY...

... FOCUS ON THE PROVINCIAL PREMIERS

Premiers on the provincial thrones

Some of the new provincial leaders are well known, others are not. We focus on five of the lesser-known premier. **Farouk Chothia, Stephen Laufer, Chris Louw, Steuart Wright** report



THE new premier of the Northern Transvaal, **Ngoake Ramathodi**, is probably the least known of the provincial leaders

But the 38 year old has a long history of resisting apartheid since his days as a student leader in Lesotho,

where he lived in exile for 10 years. Ramathodi — currently deputy registrar and executive assistant to the principal of the University of the North — was described this week by his vice-chancellor, Professor Njabulo Ndebele, as "fair-minded, extremely warm and caring and very competent"

"You can expect a very self-effacing premier, but extremely insightful in his understanding of issues"

Ndebele has known Ramathodi since 1983, when the latter was the president of the students' representative council at the National University of Lesotho and Ndebele was head of the department of English

"I remember him as a very energetic leader. Then I didn't see him for a long time, the South African government exerted pressure on the ANC to leave Lesotho, so most of the people left. I only met him again when I came back"

Ramathodi was born at Tauetswala, a small village near Potgietersrus, on August 2 1955. His father was a mineworker and his mother a housewife

In 1976 he enrolled for a BJuris at the University of the North, where he made his name as a poet. Expelled in 1977 for his political activities, he was later allowed back, but left for exile on July 17 1980. Today Ramathodi holds a masters degree in law from the University of Lesotho

He is known to get along very easily with a wide range of people. Says Ndebele "I expect him to be somebody who will be easily acceptable to the different communities in the Northern Transvaal"

"He can be a person around whom differences can be resolved."

"He inspires confidence and is very self-effacing in a very humble sort of way, but at the

same time can project qualities of fairmindedness which are necessary when you get into a leadership position"

Ndebele thought Ramathodi would be ably suited to deal with the rightwing in his area. "He is willing, in the tradition of the ANC, to meet and talk to everybody, so I don't think he will pre-judge the rightwing before meeting with them"

"He already said on television that his position is that everyone who is born here, belongs here, and that he would want to make everyone comfortable"

"I would presume that if the rightwing presents itself as a problem, it will not be because the premier is unwilling to meet them, but because they themselves prefer to be a difficulty"

(266A) Wm 13-19/5/94

30 000 demand pay increase

Sowetan 16/5/94

(2b6A)

By Khathu Mamaila

VITAL ROLE N'Tvl Premier

Ramathlodi reassures civil servants:

NORTHERN TRANSSVAAL PREMIER Ngoako Ramathlodi has called on the public servants in the three former homelands to go back to work

His call comes amid threats by more than 30 000 Lebowa civil servants who suspended their strike shortly before the elections, to down tools on May 17 if their demands for salary adjustments are not met

Addressing a Press conference at the weekend, Ramathlodi said "We urge all public servants in all three former homelands of Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda to go to work and rededicate themselves to working for their democratic provincial government."

"We indicated before and we wish to repeat that we are committed to

addressing all legitimate concerns of all the civil servants "

He said workers played a vital role in society and the government would never shirk its responsibility to address their genuine grievances

The workers embarked on a strike demanding promotions and salary adjustments

According to government sources, the two administrators, Mr André Cornelissen and Mr G Pitje, were working on the demands of the workers in a last-ditch attempt to avert a strike

Meanwhile Ramathlodi announced his provincial cabinet at the same Press conference

They are. Mr Thaba Mufamadi (Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry), Dr Aaron Motsoaledi (Education and Culture), Mr John Dombi (Land, Housing and Local Government), Professor Tiny Burgers (Agriculture and Forestry), Mrs Mari-Stella Sexwale-Mabitje (Environment and Water), Dr Joe Phaahla (Health and Welfare), Ms Dikeledi Magadzi (Public Works), Mr Seth Nthai (Police and Protection Services), Mr Edgar Mushwana (Finance and Expenditure); and Mr Johan Kriek (Public Transport)

Apart from Kriek, who is a member of the Freedom Front, all members of the cabinet are ANC candidates

Labour disputes hit new regions

Sowetan

18/5/94

By Tyrone August, Khathu Mamafa
and Sowetan Correspondents

TENSION and anger in the former homelands may plunge the country into its first crisis since the election of the new Government Civil servants in the former Bophuthatswana, Venda, Ciskei and Lebowa are demanding salary parity with their counterparts in the rest of South Africa.

About 500 civil servants in the former Bophuthatswana homeland went on strike last week in support of their demand that all civil servants should earn the same salaries.

The two-day strike ended only after a meeting with new premier Mr Popo Molefe on Monday afternoon, at which he pledged to look into their grievance. Their complaint was legitimate, he told the meeting, but appealed to them to take up the matter "in a democratic way".

In Venda, about 850 former government workers are now into the third week of a sit-in at their offices in Thohoyandou without any end in sight. There is still no agreement on the demands for salary parity by the striking health inspectors, drought-relief officials, land surveyors, govern-

ment printer's staff and computer operators.

They went on strike after former Venda government officials suspended moves towards salary parity because of the reincorporation of the homeland into South Africa. The Technicians' Interim Committee, which is overseeing the sit-in, said it was concentrating its negotiations efforts on the new leaders of the Northern Transvaal Region.

In the former Ciskei about 2 500 civil servants who were dismissed by Brigadier Oupa Gqozo were also threatening to go on strike.

The former homeland's administrators, Mr Pieter Goosen and the Reverend Bongani Finca,

handed in a report to Eastern Cape premier Mr Raymond Mhlaba on Monday about the threatened mass action.

In Lebowa, a meeting to review the suspended strike by 30 000 civil servants in the former homeland has been postponed indefinitely.

A representative of the workers said the meeting was postponed because the Transitional Executive Council had convened a central administration forum in Pretoria yesterday.

He said this summit, attended by representatives of civil servants from various homelands, was scheduled to end today.

Pay parity to be probed

JOHANNES NGCOBO

THE Northwest and Northern Transvaal provincial cabinets have appointed commissions to investigate pay parity and other demands by public servants from former homelands in the two provinces, both administrations said yesterday. *8 Day 1915/94*

The three-man commission appointed by Northwest Premier Popo Molefe said yesterday it had written a letter to Public Service and Administration Minister Zola Skweyiya requesting a meeting with his office to discuss the issue. *(Zola) (Zibba)*

Northwest Security, Safety and Justice Minister and head of the commission Satish Roopa said his cabinet wanted to address Skweyiya on the plight of public servants in his region.

He said his cabinet was affirming positions and decisions of the now defunct Transitional Executive Council that salaries of public servants in the former homeland administrations and self-governing states now be on a par with central government public servants.

"In a meeting last week we told civil servant representatives that the cabinet agreed with their demands and that the cabinet would begin the process of negotiations with them and the central government in an attempt to find a solution to their complaints," Roopa said.

Northern Transvaal Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla yesterday said a task group of about four people comprising members of the cabinet and members of the assembly had been appointed by Northern Transvaal Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi to deal with a public servants' wild-cat strike.

Phaahla said he and Finance Minister Thaba Mufumadi had been delegated to deal with the Lebowakgomo public servants' demand for pay parity.



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84 Lebowa govt cars stolen

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Eighty-four government vehicles, including Mercedes-Benzes and other luxury cars worth more than R15 million, have been stolen allegedly with the connivance of former senior officials of the defunct Lebowa homeland

This is one of several cases of corruption uncovered in some of the former homelands as police investigations continue into the plundering of public property

In Ciskei, police have arrested seven people in connection with two separate incidents of fraud in the former homeland's department of finance and economic development in a crackdown on officials alleged to have defrauded the administration of more than R500 000

One incident involved R418 000 and the other R139 000, and police suspect these figures could rise as their investigations continue

Lebowa police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel M L Tomatsana said yesterday at least 10 people had been arrested in connection with vehicle thefts. They are expected to appear in court soon

Recovered

He said 95 cars belonging to the former Lebowa government had been recovered

Tomatsana said most of the stolen vehicles were new and some, which were to be used by ministers, were being kept at the government workshop in Lebowakgomo. He said there was evidence that government employees, including senior

politicians, were involved in the thefts

"How did an outsider know the exact time when the vehicles could be stolen without this being detected? We can only conclude that most of these cases were inside jobs," he said (266A)

Most vehicles were stolen during last month's civil servants' strike

Government sources have revealed that there was a racket in which civil servants in the three former homelands of Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu exchanged the engines in their cars for new ones from state-owned vehicles

Northern Transvaal provincial premier Ngoako Ramathlole and his Cabinet have appointed a team to investigate the matter

THE good, the bad and the ugly
This is the story of the Venda pension fund saga

The good

About 22 000 Venda civil servants successfully fought for their pensions to be paid out after the fund was privatised by the then ruling military junta led by Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana

In the first payments effected in 1992 and 1993, about R600 million was paid to civil servants

About R200 million of the fund remained and the beneficiaries were told that there would be a second round of payments

This month, most of the remaining R200 million was distributed among the civil servants, making Venda the only homeland to empty its pension coffers and still have a civil service

The issue of pensions was a mobilising factor in the popular uprisings that led to the downfall of Chief Lucas Mangope in Bophuthatswana

Workers demanded that their pensions be paid out, but this failed to materialise as the new Government cooled tempers and assured the Bop civil servants that their monies were safe

Venda civil servants had every reason to celebrate because they achieved what all homelands, including Transkei, failed to get their pensions

After the pension payouts, which in the homeland jargon is called *figure* or *khundu*, life in the area changed for the better for most of the beneficiaries

Cars, including the luxury Camry, were bought like cakes. Mansions were built all over Thohoyandou, Makwarela, Shayandima and even in the rural villages

While some ran out of cash as they overspent their money, the second payouts — about 30 percent of the initial figure — could not have come at a better time

Intense debate

It is certainly good news for many that the struggle for pensions has finally ended with tangible results

The bad

For some civil servants, especially married women, the payments spelt bad news

While thousands of workers left their banks with smiles after finding out about the large deposits in their accounts, the married women were told that they were owing thousands of rands to the fund

Most of the married women, employed by the health department, obtained small amounts in the first payment as it was said they only started contributing to the pension fund in 1989

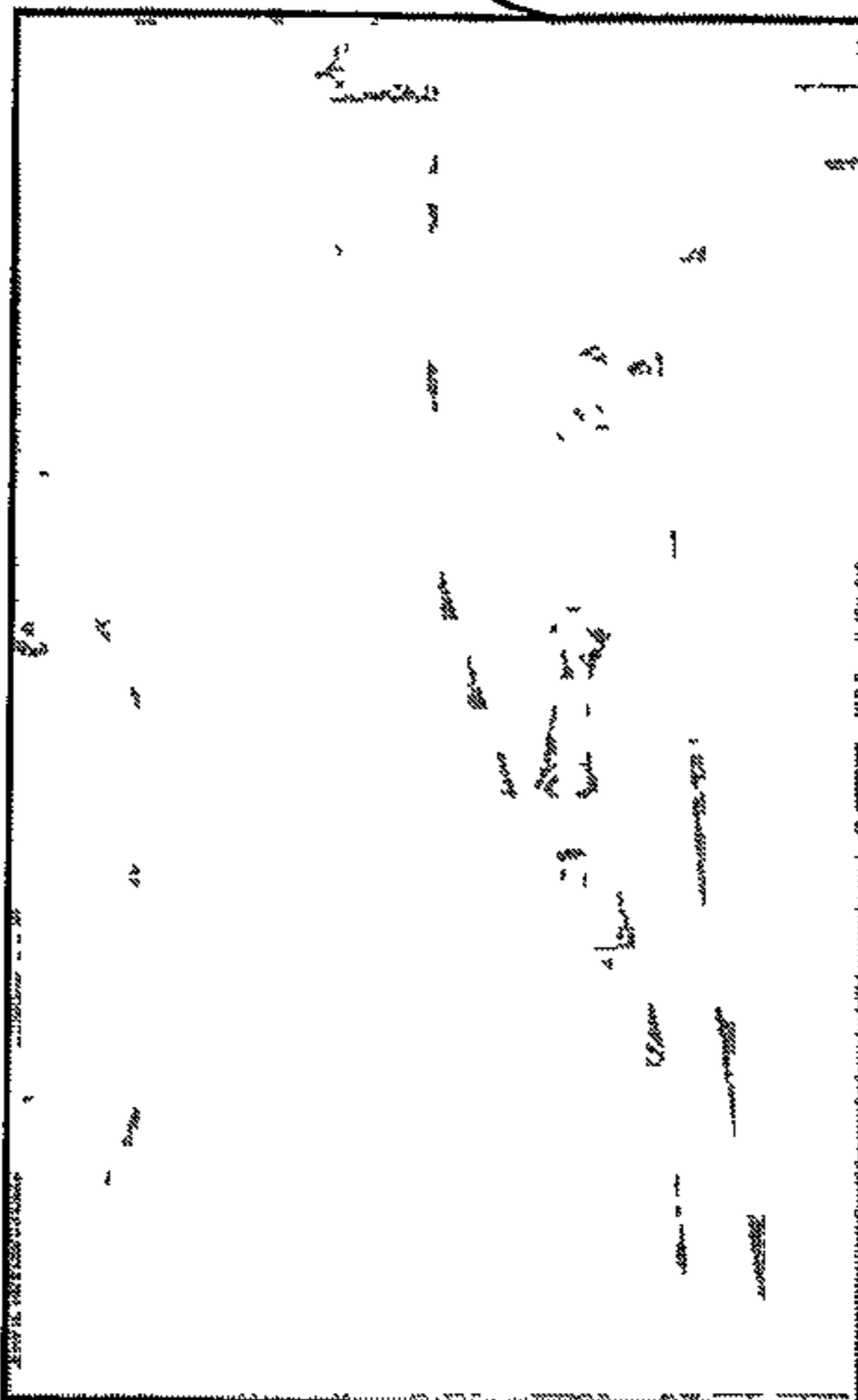
Before then, most of these women were contributing to the superannuation fund. They had hoped that they would get their money in this month's payments

Mrs Dorothy Rampfumedzi, who got R10 101 in the first payment, was told that she owed R32 000 to the fund

Sowetan 29/6/94

While many Venda civil servants are smiling all the way to bank following huge pension payouts, *Sowetan* reporter **Khathu Mamaila** encountered some stories of woe from those being told they have to pay back more than they got:

(266A)



Brigadier Gabriel Ramushwana privatised Venda's pension fund which spelt good news for some and bad news for others.

According to nurses in the area, the majority of female health workers had a similar problem. The amount they are said to be owing is far higher than the figure they got in the first payments

Sources within the department said the married women had contributed to the superannuation fund before 1989. They said when the initial calculations were done, some married women were mistakenly overpaid from the current pension fund

The officials were adamant that those who were overpaid should pay back the money

However, the department's officials are unable to explain how a person could owe much more than she got from the fund

While the matter has generated intense debate in the homeland, those who are said to be owing thousands of rands are desperate as they have been told to reimburse the money within 10



‘The people who represent us don't care because they don't have any problems — they have their money’

days

“We were told that if we do not pay the money within 10 days we will have to pay it with interest,” said a woman who said she was told that she owed R6 000

The ugly

The workers' representatives who were in the forefront of the campaign dubbed “pension *tshandani*” (we want pensions in our hands), have seemingly taken a dive

“The very people who are supposed to represent us and rectify these errors, are urging us to pay for something we did not even get. They seem not to care because they do not have any problems. They have got all their money,” said a woman who is alleged to be owing several thousands of rands

Sowetan tried to speak to coalition committee spokesman Mr Takalam Netshutuka, who was charged with the task of responding to Press inquiries by the committee formed to secure money from the pension fund

Netshutuka said he did not want to discuss the pension issue with the Press

“I do not want to confirm or deny anything,” said Netshutuka

Coalition chairman Mr Ahdzuli Muvhango said he could not comment as he was still to be briefed

Asked why Netshutuka was avoiding speaking to the Press, Muvhango said although he was the committee chairman, he could not instruct him (Netshutuka) to comment

It is clear that some civil servants who were dealt a raw deal, feel abandoned and betrayed by the committee as there are no plans to rectify the apparent mistakes

And while some civil servants drive in luxury cars and stay in newly built mansions, some frustrated workers are on their own and have to repay money they never got

The poet who didn't want to be premier

(266A) WML-7/7/94

PROFILE: Ngoako Ramathlodi
Sibusiso Nxumalo

THE loneliness of the politician was one reason Ngoako Ramathlodi was unwilling to be one. The premier of the Northern Transvaal says he can't walk to the corner store to buy a newspaper.

But Ramathlodi has opened the door of his temporary office in Pietersburg — formerly a scout hall — to everyone. Unannounced visitors are asked by the receptionist to "give the premier ten minutes." Exactly ten minutes later, he ignores the incessant ringing of his phone to talk.

His office is simple and too cramped for the constant coming and going of visitors, mostly MPs. It houses a desk, a government-issue lounge suite, a wall clock which has stopped and a large portrait of President Mandela. A small, neat man, he is modest and polite — at one point reminding me to drink my tea before it got too cold.

Ramathlodi, at 38 one of the youngest of South Africa's new regional premiers, has come a long way since his childhood in the obscure village of Tauetswala near Potgietersrus. Before his elevation to regional premier, he was personal assistant to two ANC presidents, Oliver Tambo and Nelson Mandela.

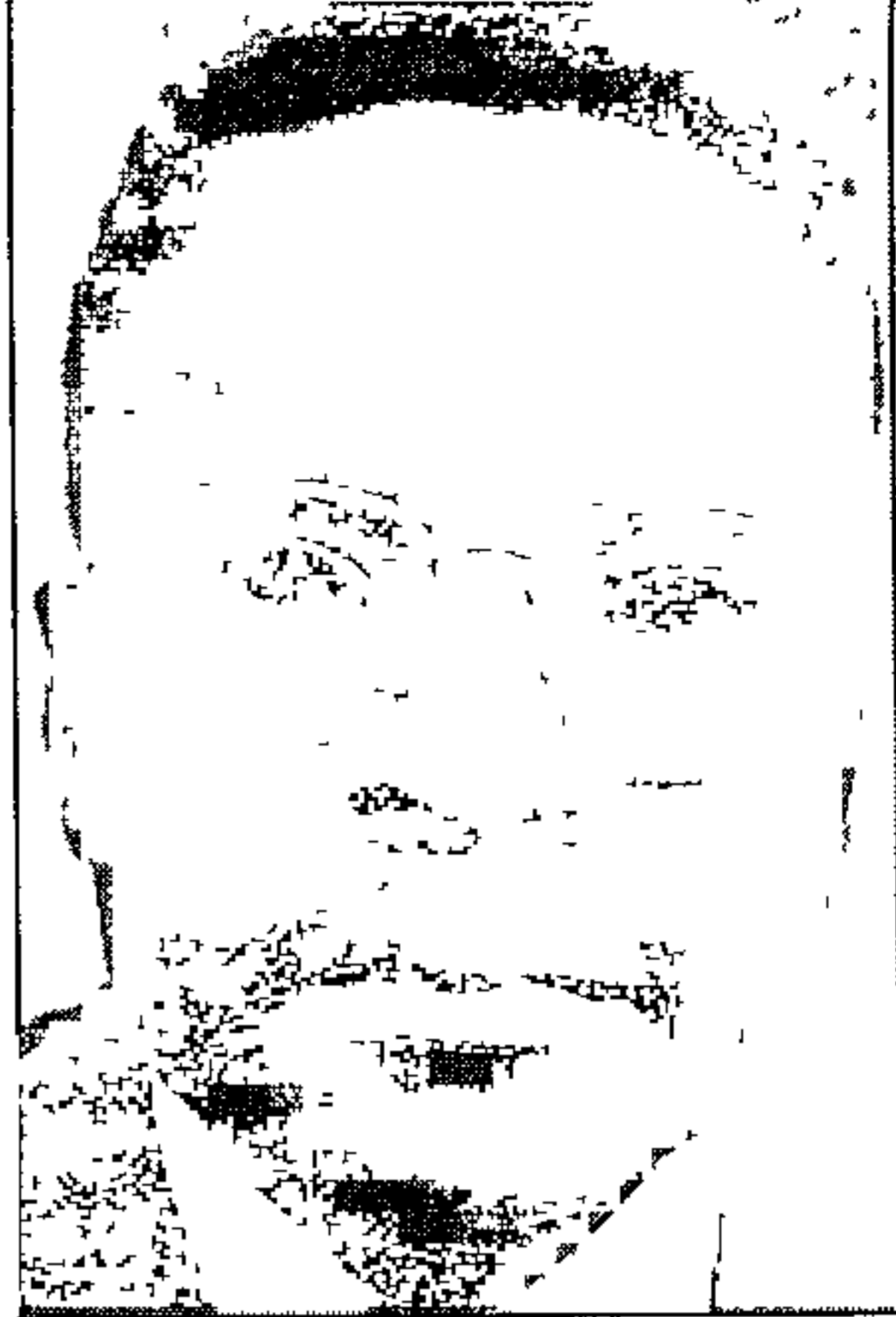
But he is a reluctant politician. It took some coaxing to make him abandon academia and resign as deputy registrar and assistant to the rector at the University of the North, he says. "I've always wanted to be an academic, and even as I was rising through the ranks of the ANC my sense was I should not lose out on the things I cared about."

A campus poet, he is a great admirer of Nigeria's Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka. He gets more of a kick from Gibson Kente's work than from the plays of Shakespeare, he says.

But like Chris Hanu — under whom he served — he unites the scholar and the hard-line activist in his spare frame. Expelled from the University of the North for his political activities, he joined the ANC in 1978 and Umkhonto we Sizwe in 1980 as one of the first MK recruits from the East Rand township of Tembisa, where he went to school. The township honoured him by renaming one its sections "Ngoako Ramathlodi."

As MK commissar in Lesotho, Ramathlodi continued studying at the National University of Lesotho, where he obtained a masters degree in law. But his double life as a soldier and student had its complications. "I returned to camps in Angola every holiday when other students went home. As an exile, I didn't have a home to go to." Whenever he went back to Angola he would "sharpen his military skills."

The region he now heads was, by historical irony, the theatre for military operations he once commanded. By the mid-eighties he had risen to the post of head of MK's Political Military Council in the Northern Front, embracing the northern Transvaal.



Ngoako Ramathlodi ... would rather have been an academic

It is a region he now seeks to rebuild. Ramathlodi fears that the ANC's 96 per cent poll victory has created unrealistically high expectations in the impoverished and backward north. But he is optimistic that they can "turn things around."

The fact that the north is the only province bordering on three countries presents development possibilities, he says. These include plans for a casino and — with the co-operation of Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana — a tourist area. Most of the Kruger Park lies in his province, he points out.

He plans to develop the small airport in Pietersburg — it can land a Boeing 747 — to receive intercontinental flights and to deal with the overflow he expects from Jan Smuts. Also planned is the expansion of Beit Bridge to take increased trade and tourism from the north.

Ramathlodi is indignant at the exploitation of the region's abundant mineral resources. The mining houses, drawn by diamond and chromium deposits, have left "holes and no infrastructure", he complains.

Directing the fortunes of one of South Africa's conservative provinces — it was the only area to vote "no" in the 1992 referendum — Ramathlodi has been careful to offer an olive branch to local whites. "We have to remember that this is not just a region of Africans. There are other people, and I would not want to make them uncomfortable."

He offered the Freedom Front a cabinet post, which they accepted, a gesture he did not extend to the National Party. And there are signs that his personable style is winning over the right — he takes satisfaction from the fact that Volkstaat signs are coming down throughout the region.

But he cautions: "They bear the scars of superiority, just as we bear the scars of inferiority. These will take time to disappear."

By Khathu Mamaila

GRAND THEFT Top cops walk a tightrope

recovering stolen property from former homelands:

WALKING THROUGH a mine-field
These words perhaps sum up the king-size task lying ahead of the investigating team of top cops whose brief is to recover stolen government property in the Northern Transvaal and bring the culprits to book

The special team of policemen, appointed by the provincial cabinet following reports of grand theft of public property valued at millions of rands, assumed its duties last Monday

The team will cast its net around the former Lebowa, Venda, Gazankulu and the TPA administrations. Police believe that the plundering of public property was done with the connivance of government officials, including former senior politicians

While the team could easily deal with clear-cut cases of theft and extend the long arm of the law to those involved, the investigators could find it difficult to act against those who used the law to enrich themselves

Hijack arranged

Some of the sophisticated cases include the following

● A government employee arranges for an official car to be hijacked. The government vehicle is taken from him at gun-point and he reports the case to the police

What the police do not realise is that the car has been taken to a scrapyard where it will be cut into pieces for spare parts

If the vehicle is not recovered within two days, the case is closed and the employee can once again arrange with the thugs to have his car hijacked again

● Hundreds of government vehicles which are supposed to be on auction are sold by officials attached to the Works Departments before auction day

The trick is that the official buys the vehicle at the lowest price. He organises a buyer who keeps his hand raised at the auction regardless of the sum asked

Say the initial price is R5 000, the "buyer" keeps his hand up even as the bid goes up to say R60 000. The "buyer's hand" is kept raised until



Mr Seth Nthala

all other hands of potential and genuine buyers go down

After the pretence of selling at R60 000, the government official sells the car to his pre-arranged buyer for R5 000, resulting in the loss of thousand of rands intended for government coffers

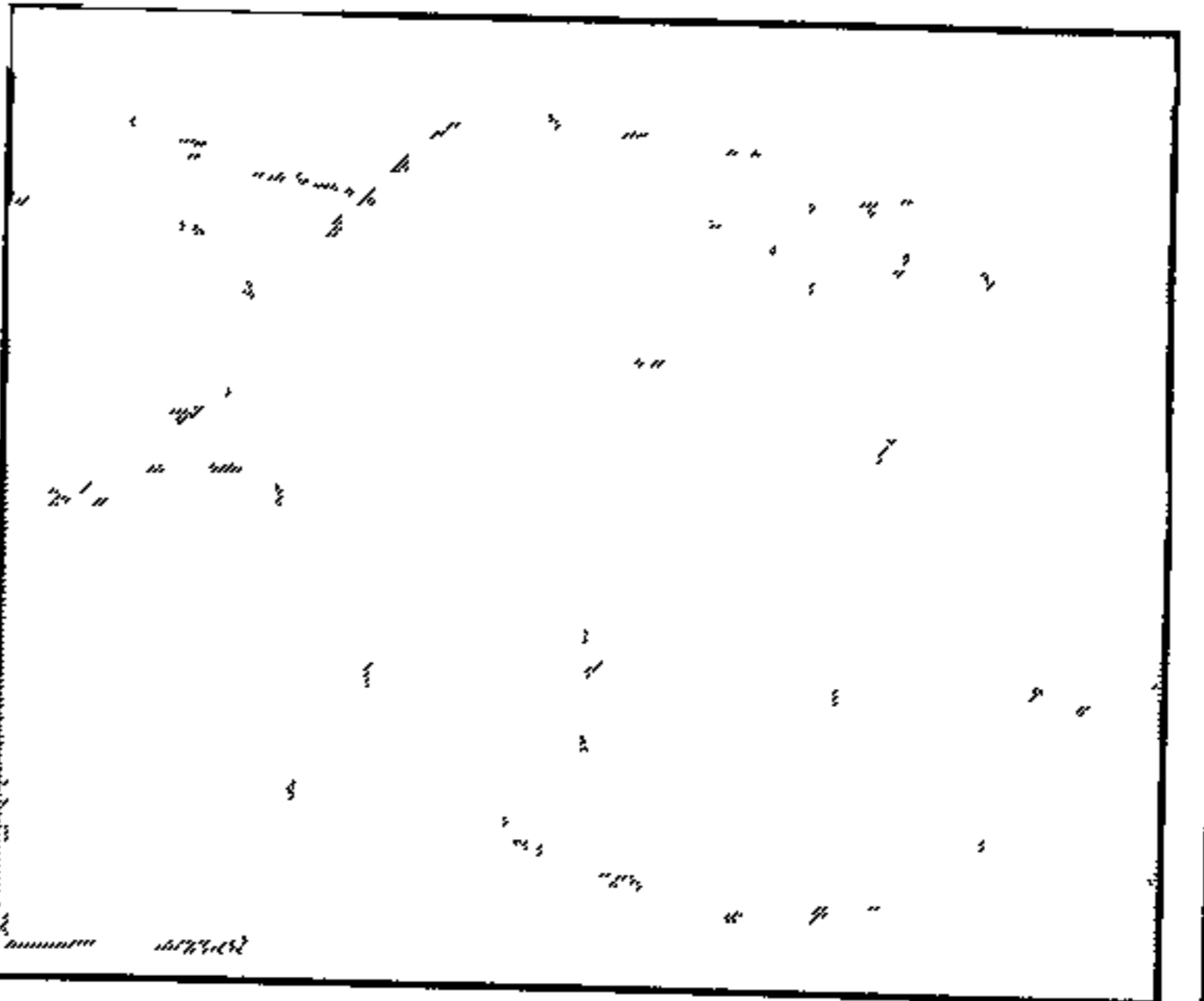
● Some former bureaucrats signed contracts and granted loans to private companies. Some of the loans were within the broad spectrum of the law as the senior officials had authority to approve such loans

Corridors of power

What few people know is that most of these "legal deals" were investments as these officials knew that they were on their way out of the corridors of power

Nobody is more aware of these deals than advocate Mr Seth Nthala, the provincial Safety and Security Minister

In an interview, Nthala said: "We are aware that several contracts committing the government were signed shortly before the elections. We will scrutinise every contract to check if



Mr Lucas Mangope

there were any irregularities. If we find any the law will take its course"

A spokesman for the investigating team Lieutenant-Colonel Dion Pelser agreed that some of the cases were highly sophisticated

Because of this four units will investigate the theft in the various homelands and the TPA

In an attempt to encourage members of the public to come forward, Pelser said rewards for vital information could be paid

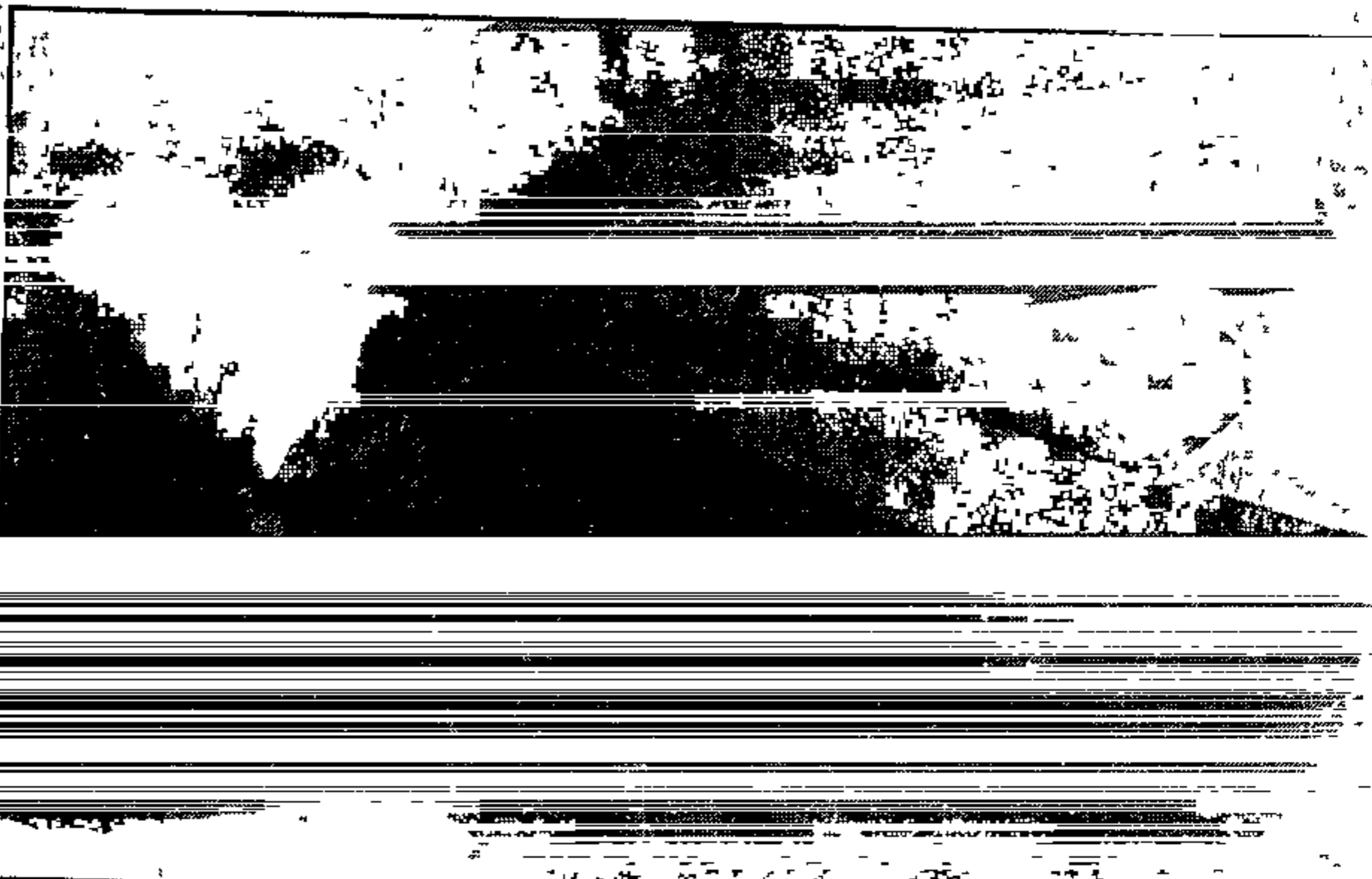
He said the investigations would last for several months

Pelser said it was too early to comment but rumours circulating led them to believe that the theft was of alarming proportions

However, some cases are less sophisticated, like the theft of engines by mechanics at the government workshops and the stealing of government vehicles, including luxury cars

In Lebowa alone, the plundering of public property amounts to more than R15 million

Given that the civil service of the old order is basically intact, few people doubt that the investigating team's task is as difficult as walking a tightrope



Mr Nelson Ramodike once headed the Lebowa bantustan in which R15 million worth of government property was plundered.

STATUS OF DATA CLEANING

30 May, 1994

the Pcodes of the Individual files in Roster against other files

	Output	Status
2 against 4,5,13,16,17,20	CHKALV01	
20 against 21,22,23,24	EMPLOY01	
2 against 32,34,35,36	CHKALV01	

programs to calculate all the components of individual income

	Output	Status
venue from rent and s 3, 18 and 19	HHINC04	
venue from regular wage	HHINC21	
venue from casual job 1,	HHINC22	
venue from casual job 2,	HHINC23	
venue from agriculture;	HHINC25	
venue from self , file 31	HHINC31	
venue from non sources, file 32	HHINC32	
total montly income by the components from other	HHINCTL	

Cleaning Series of programs to calculate quantities, calories and budget shares

	Output	Status
	FOODEX00	Sent to Carlo
the food quantities for s purchased, file 7		
the food quantities for s received, file 7		
the food quantities for s produced, file 7		
total quantities for food s	FOODQC01	To be retransmitted
assing values with per capita ians	FOODQC02	To be retransmitted
alories and calorie shares	HHCAL	
the food expenditures for s purchased, file 7		
the food expenditures for s received, file 7		

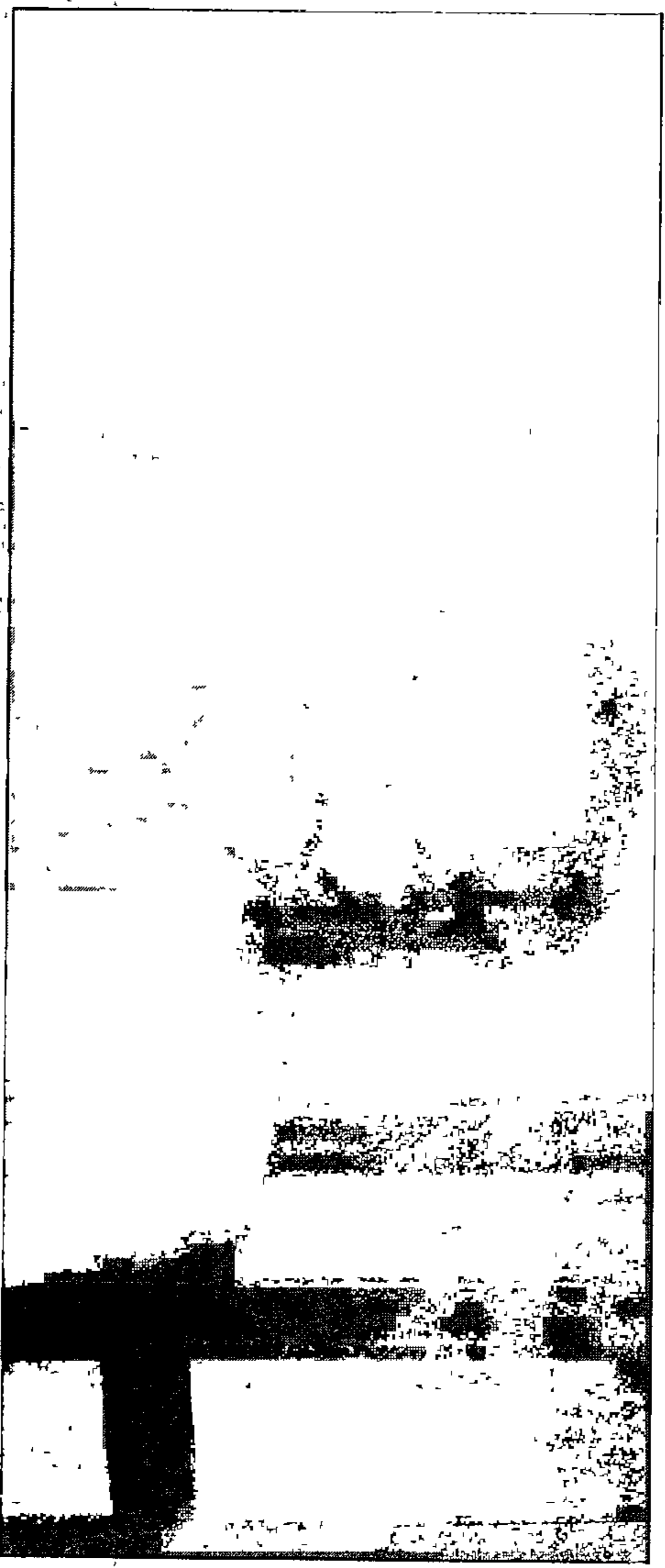
Huge task to find

NEWS FEATURE Sophisticated scans ensured money never went into government coffers

Monday July 4 1994 SOWETAN

(CONT-5)
(266A)

POLITICS Tribalism complicates Northern Transvaal's search for seat of government



Northern Transvaal premier Mr Ngwako Ramathlodi he is frustrated by the controversy surrounding Pietersburg as capital.

Want in midst of plenty

By Mathatha Tsedu
Political Editor

PIETERSBURG is Northern Transvaal's temporary capital and all indications are that the town will eventually be the permanent capital.

That is despite the fact that the infrastructure to house and run such an operation does not exist in the town. This means the province will have to start using large sums of its meagre resources to put together a seat of government.

However, about 50km away, the former Lebowa bantustan administration centre wallows in virtual disuse — with all the facilities that may have to be recreated in Pietersburg.

Another 150km away in Giyani, and another 160km away in Thohoyandou, similar structures exist.

But tribalism has ensured that any of the three towns cannot be made a capital.

Provincial premier Mr Ngwako Ramathodi confessed his frustrations in an exclusive interview in Giyani.

"The idea of having Pietersburg as a capital has so far gone down well. With the entrenchment of interests of specific groupings, it is impossible to use any of the other areas as a capital."

Unleash controversy

"It would unleash such controversy it is not even possible to consider them as an option. We are therefore faced with a situation where we have to utilise what is available in Pietersburg, and build more for other needs," said Ramathodi.

And while Ramathodi dismissed allegations that the ANC is itself riddled with tribalism, *Sowetan* can reveal that battles are raging within the organisation as appointees are scrutinised for tribal affiliation.

■ IDLE MINDS Centralisation

means no jobs for civil servants:

The province is home to people who speak Venda, Northern Sotho, Tsonga and Ndebele. It is faced with merging the administrations of at least three bantustans and the TPA.

This means, for example, that while there were previously four directors general for health, there should now be one. The province is faced with the problem of what to do with the other three.

And when that decision is eventually taken, the balance of tribal affiliations in the appointments have to be taken cognisance of.

In discussions with civil servants in Thohoyandou and Giyani, grave fears exist about the fate of hundreds bound to be made redundant.

The fortunate ones face relocation to Pietersburg, a prospect not awaited with glee in some quarters. Many of the civil servants live in semi-rural areas where they have built expensive houses.

For them, the exodus to Pietersburg can only mean some temporary housing arrangement as home will forever be where they have built.

Ramathodi said he was aware of the problem, and was looking at ways of retaining as many people as possible in their respective centres.

"Our policy is to keep government as close to the people as we can. So the province will be divided into sub-provinces where some of the executive functions will be based."

"But we cannot utilise all the people or all the buildings. We think we could use some of the buildings for educational purposes, with the buildings in Thohoyandou for example becoming

Zebra ^{aid}, "one worker said."

Ramathodi said a strategic planning committee in his office had been appointed to deal with these issues. He called on people to speak to him if they thought he was doing things wrong.

He said his government faced a problem of theft of state property by politicians and civil servants in Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu were not affected, he said. Another problem is that of idle civil servants.

In his address to civil servants in Giyani, Ramathodi said the practice of knocking off at noon should come to a stop.

"Africa failed to develop because of this type of behaviour and we are not going to tolerate it," said Ramathodi.

He said some civil servants who were members of the ANC were using government vehicles to do political work. "This must come to a stop immediately or I will come for them personally," he said.

Other immediate needs impacting on the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme concern the three development corporations in the province.

Legislation to abolish these and create a central unit is being debated in the legislature this week. This also affects the tender boards, which must also be abolished and a new one created to speed up the issuing of tenders, on which the delivery of essential services depends.

Ramathodi said pensioners were one of his major priorities. There was a backlog of over two years, with applicants arriving at the payout point each month without receiving their pay.

The strikes by civil servants just before the elections left many people destitute and in some areas no pension had been paid out for months. That would have to be remedied immediately.

SOWETAN 28 July 1994

Cry goes up for water

By Mathatha Tsedu
Political Editor

THE cry in the Northern Transvaal is not for housing — but water.

And the provincial government led by Mr Ngwako Ramathlodi is acutely aware of this. Not that they could somehow have missed the need.

For on any given day, parts of the semi-urban areas in which they operate, go without water, crippling health facilities there. During the past week toilets in parts of Seshego, outside Pietersburg, and Sibasa in Venda could not be used due to lack of water. (56) (266A)

But for rural areas, the need is not only for the sewerage, it is for drinking water, which has to be carried from afar or delivered by army trucks. Many people survive by buying the precious liquid, at between R2 and R3 for a 20 litre container.

Ramathlodi told *Sowetan* that providing drinking water to villages and townships was the region's priority and that plans to do so were at an advanced stage.

"We are going to get the army to take an even bigger role in taking water to people in the villages. Broken pumps must be repaired.

"This government will not spare any effort to get water to our people. If it means going outside the country that is what we are going to do.

"We intend building more dams and reservoirs. These projects link up with the RDP and local material and labour will be used to create jobs," Ramathlodi said.

Ramathlodi said while other regions may plan for the advent of drought, their area took it as a starting point in their plans, as many of the areas are permanently drought stricken.

Health problems

Over the past four years, deaths in the province have hovered at a level of between 10 percent and zero. This has led to numerous health problems and innovative schemes have been designed to transport water over mountains into dams serving local towns.

The scheme proposed by Ramathlodi is part of a national programme that would cost R1 billion over five years to bring clean and secure water to the estimated 16 million people countrywide who do not have access to clean water.

The money is to come from the RDP budget over the next five years. The Department of Water Affairs has estimated that between 21.5 million and 25.5 million people are without adequate sanitation.

This would cost between R300 and R350 per family a year to provide. To bring drinking water of at least 20 litres per person per day in a family to within 200 metres would cost about R250.

Over 30 000 children are said to have died from diseases linked to poor sanitation in 1993 alone, a figure that the Water Affairs department says is conservative.

Ramathlodi said his administration was faced with creating infrastructures where none existed before due to the neglect of the previous regimes. But, he stressed, if this was the only thing his government could do in the next few years, they would do so, for to fail would mean a catastrophe for all the inhabitants.

Premier faces mass action

By RAMATSIYI MOHOLOA

WHILE Northern Transvaal premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi is addressing election victory rallies throughout the province, civil servants threaten mass action to force his administration to honour pre-election promises.

The province is expected to come to a standstill on Thursday when thousands of government employees in the former Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu homelands take to the streets to highlight their plight.

Hundreds of workers in the former Lebowa this week attended a meeting at the civic centre in Lebowakgomo where they accused the new administration of failing to deliver on every promise.

The workers called for civil disobedience, encouraging one another to

defy the various circulars issued by the government.

One circular ordered all department heads to stop ferrying workers to their homes in government vehicles. Another called on workers to be on duty until 4 30pm on Friday and stop leaving before time.

"We should defy those circulars. As far as we are concerned no one has told us anything because we cannot talk to papers," said a Nehawu official.

The meeting was told that during Thursday's marches on the government's offices in Pietersburg, Thohoyandou and Giyani, Ramatlhodi would be handed an ultimatum to meet the workers' demands or face intensified mass action.

The workers demand promotions, salary parity, housing and car subsidies, and maternity and paternity leave.

Strike looms in Northern Transvaal

Michael Sekuneke

CIVIL servants in the Northern Transvaal are threatening mass action to force premier Mgwako Ramatlhodi's administration to honour his pre-election promises.

They are expected to bring the province to a standstill on Tuesday when thousands of government employees in the

former Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu homelands take to the streets to highlight their plight with a march on government offices in Pietersburg.

Hundreds of workers in the former Lebowa this week attended a meeting at the Lebowakgomo Civic Centre where they accused the new administrator of failing to deliver on its campaign promises. Speakers called for a campaign of civil disobedience and encouraged each other to defy various circulars distributed by the government. They said one circular ordered all heads of department to stop taking workers home in government vehicles. Another called on workers to be on duty until 4:30pm on Fridays and that the workers should stop leaving before time.

On Tuesday, they intend handing Ramatlhodi an ultimatum: meet their demands or face intensified mass action. Workers are demanding promotions, salary parity, housing and car subsidies and maternity and paternity leave.

Defend the right to think

Venda hits cash crisis

ON HOLD Claims by civil servants

are waiting to be paid out:

By Mathatha Tsedu
Political Editor

A FINANCIAL CRISIS caused by unrestrained expenditure by departments of the former Venda homeland government may result in the non-payment of civil servants' salaries on Thursday

Already, contractors involved in State projects as well as travel and subsidy claims submitted by civil servants have been put on hold because Venda spent more than R200 million of a bank overdraft facility

The overdraft has now been stopped Unless a meeting called by Northern Transvaal MEC for finance Mr Edgar Mushwana this morning with all heads of departments produces dramatic results, civil servants may not be paid this week

Mushwana told *Sowetan* yesterday that the same fate awaited civil servants of the former Lebowa homeland

"I have called for a meeting so that we can locate the culprit (who authorised over-expenditure)

"It is a simple problem of people

living above their means in a situation where no mechanisms exist for controlling expenditure," Mushwana said

He said because of old budgetary structures, allocations were still being made on the basis of the homeland administrations and the Transvaal Provincial Administration

Venda received R108 million each month but spent more than this figure

Mushwana has asked all heads of departments attending today's meeting in Pietersburg to bring documents detailing their expenditures

"We have no figures of expenditure yet but we are dealing with a culture of willful expenditure encouraged by the previous regime, which always advanced money to the bantustans in an effort to prove to the world that they were viable," he added

He said the matter was raised with Deputy Finance Minister Mr Alec Erwin last week

If some of the civil servants were paid on Thursday, it would mean teachers and other government workers would not be paid at the end of the month

The introduction of pay parity for many workers last year had raised the salary bill to levels not budgeted for

No pay for civil servants

By Khathu Mamalla

THERE will be no money to pay thousands of civil servants in the former Venda homeland at the end of this month, MEC for finance and expenditure Mr Edgar Mushwana has said.

Addressing a Press conference in Pietersburg yesterday, Mushwana confirmed there was a financial crisis in the former homeland.

Mushwana said his ministry had appointed a task team to investigate the crisis, adding that there was a possibility his department would approach the national ministry for more money.

Detailing the drying up of govern-

ment coffers, Mushwana said although he had not yet identified issues which resulted in the crisis, he did not rule out the possibility of corruption.

He said the crisis was largely attributed to the lack of tmeous reporting on financial activities, undercollection of taxes and unbudgeted salary adjustments.

"The opening balance at the beginning of the 1993-94 financial year was wrongly reported by the budgetary task team as a positive R18,6 million."

Asked if salary increases would be reversed, Mushwana said the fact that they were not budgeted for did not mean they were not justified.

Sowetan 15/9/94

(266A)



'Promoted' officials are facing the chop

By Khathu Mamaila

ALL OFFICIALS who promoted themselves before the installation of the Northern Transvaal administration would have their promotions reversed and would be required to repay the extra money they received

This was said by Northern Transvaal premier Mr Ngoako Ramatlhodi when addressing parliament in Lebowa-kgomo this week

Ramatlhodi said the officials who promoted themselves would have to reimburse the money as this amounted to theft of government property

Ramatlhodi said a special team charged with investigating the matter had gone through hundreds of files and it would soon submit a report

He said while public servants who

Sowetan 29/9/94
■ **LUMP SUM** About 6 000 civil

servants in Lebowa self-promoted:

qualified for promotions would be promoted, action would be taken against those who were promoted unduly

Government spokesman Mr Jack Mokobi said yesterday he could not give the exact number of government officials who promoted themselves

He said the actual cost of the promotions, believed to be in the region of millions of rands, would be determined by the investigating team

Government sources said that in the former Lebowa administration alone, about 6 000 public servants were promoted. Some of the promotions were back-dated to 1985 which resulted in some officials getting a lump sum of

R150 000 *(2160A)*

Commenting on the victimisation of workers by the previous bantustan regimes because of their political views, Ramatlhodi said those who were dismissed simply because they held political views different from the government of the day would be reinstated

He warned that the application of parity did not mean general salary increments but that people who were doing the same job under the same conditions should get the same salary

The session of parliament was called to address overexpenditure in the province, shortage of water and labour unrest in the civil service

CAPE

Urgent probe into Lebowa land deal

ARG 18/10/94 (206A) (3)
□ Ministerial inquiry into 'privatisation'

Political Staff

THE government is facing a second land scandal with the disclosure today that tens of thousands of hectares in former Lebowa were "privatised" and handed over to tribal chiefs shortly before the elections.

About 30 percent of former Lebowa's land, controlled by the tribal authorities, was given to chiefs before the April poll.

A R6 million trust was also established two weeks before the elections to enable parties to buy this land from chiefs. Former land affairs minister André Fourie was in charge of Lebowa's finances when the trust was set up.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom confirmed

today his department had launched urgent investigations into the matter. He would not discuss the issue but said it had been brought to his attention recently.

Mr Hanekom said he would take the matter to a special cabinet meeting tomorrow.

It is unclear exactly how much land is involved. But, apart from the urban areas, it is understood that all land in Lebowa was under the control of tribal chiefs and it is estimated just under a third of the former homeland's land was transferred.

The disclosures came after similar reports in May involving the transfer of virtually all rural land in Kwa-Zulu-Natal to the king in terms of the Ingonyama Trust, which was set up with

the authorisation of former President De Klerk. Mr De Klerk signed the proclamation authorising the transfer on April 26, a day before the election.

Government sources said that a further 30 percent of former Lebowa land was to have been transferred to chiefs soon. However, certificates authorising the transfer of title deeds were recently cancelled by the government after details of the deal were uncovered.

The attempt to transfer further land by certain government officials appears to indicate an attempt to disobey a moratorium on the disposal of state land announced on July 1 by Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe.

Lebowa 'scandal' probed

JOHANNESBURG. — Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom has met the Northern Transvaal legislature in connection with the alleged R18m land scandal in the province, a Northern Transvaal Land Affairs spokesman said yesterday (266A)

In what was seen as an attempt to disobey a government moratorium on the disposal of state land, the former Lebowa government was yesterday reported to have "privatised" about

60 000ha of land shortly before the elections

CT 19/10/94
The Northern Transvaal spokesman confirmed that his legislature knew about the "privatisation" of the land, and that provincial minister Mr John Dombo had been meeting Mr Hanekom in Cape Town over the issue

Mr Hanekom was reported to have said his department had launched urgent investigations, and would be taking the matter to the cabinet today

R6-m for land transfers to Lebowa chiefs

Relief proceeds used for trust

BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

In its last days the Lebowa Cabinet appropriated the proceeds of a drought relief programme to set up the R6 million trust which has given deposed homeland politicians a continued hold over land transfers

The assets of the Lebowa Farmers Title to Land Trust, which has funded the controversial mass land transfers, came from the payments which thousands of small-scale farmers made for State-subsidised agricultural inputs

Former Lebowa chief minister Nelson Ramodike, who was ignominiously dropped from the ANC's list of candidates for the National Assembly shortly before the election, is a trustee, along with Lebowa's last minister of agriculture, Chief K P Phasha.

The National Party government's minister of land and regional affairs, Andre Fourie, approved the trust's intention to use these monies to finance the transfer of tribal land.

These facts emerged in the Pretoria Supreme Court earlier this year, when the Northern Regional African Farmers' Union tried unsuccessfully to freeze the trust.

According to evidence, the central government granted Le-

FARMERS' union failed in court bid to block moving Lebowa parastatal's surplus funds to trust

Lebowa more than R11 million to subsidise agricultural inputs, such as fertiliser, insecticides, and seeds, for drought-stricken farmers.

The parastatal Lebowa Agricultural Corporation (LAC) administered this aspect of drought aid, buying supplies and reselling them to farmers at a 50 per cent discount.

Surplus

The former director of agriculture for Lebowa, Jacobus Christiaan Renken, stated in papers before the court that this generated a surplus of more than R5 million.

"There were no guidelines laid down by the central government about what to do with this surplus. Over the years it had been the case that, if grants made by central government to the self-governing territories yielded profits, such profits were used by the self-governing territory in its own budget."

Phao Solomon Ngoepe, chairman of the farmers' union which brought the action, stated in court that there had been a number of twists to the story. According to his founding affidavit:

■ The Lebowa Cabinet issued an instruction on April 7 that more than R6 million should be transferred from the LAC to the trust. The deed of trust was executed on the same day.

■ Two members of the LAC's board were particularly reluctant to comply with the instruction. They were the chairman, a Mr Duba; and Professor M S Burghers, now MEC for Agriculture in Northern Transvaal.

■ Duba approached the Transitional Executive Council — which had assumed overall responsibility for the administration of Lebowa — and the TEC communicated its opposition to the transfer of funds to the trust.

■ Duba and Burghers were fired from the board and a reconstituted board was announced by Ramodike on April 14. The new members were trust member Solomon Mdluli and J C Moloisi, an uncle of Ramodike's wife.

Mr Justice Roos ruled that the farmers had no claim to the R6 million held by the trust, since it did not constitute the initial drought relief allocation made by the central government.

Star 19/10/94

Lebowa's land transfer would enrich ex-politicians only in terms of public support, writes Jo-Anne Collinge

Star 2010194

Buying support through land

It must be every Third World politician's dream to be able to dispense land title whole-sale to the rural poor. And, until this week, it looked as though former Lebowa chief minister Nelson Ramodike and a few associates were all set to fulfil this political Father Christmas role.

The vehicle through which they aimed to achieve this was the Lebowa Farmers Title to Land Trust, which had more than R6 million in the kitty and was funded entirely by the proceeds of a drought relief programme paid for by the South African Government.

The trust's work was interrupted this week when the Government launched an investigation into Lebowa land deals which took place in the dying days of the homeland government in March and April.

In Lebowa — as in most former homeland territory — hundreds of thousands of families perch tenuously on patches of land under the control of tribal authorities. The land is inadequate, but often the improvements on it represent a life's investment and occupants are desperate to secure their hold on this property.

This became technically possible with the extension of the Upgrading of Title Act of 1991 to the area of Lebowa about a year ago. This piece of legislation provided a way for people with inferior forms of land entitlement to upgrade to freehold title.

According to Lebowa's last director of agriculture, Jacobus Christiana Renken, the homeland government did not have sufficient money in the budget to give effect to its policy of promoting private land ownership.

"It was at this stage that the Cabinet decided that the funds (drought relief proceeds) which were invested by the Lebowa Agricultural Corporation on behalf of the government, should be used for this purpose," Renken stated in papers before the Pretoria Supreme Court.

In fact, the actual Lebowa Cabinet resolution to transfer the funds was taken on April 7. On the same day, the deed of title of the trust was registered. Ramodike and his last minister of agriculture, Chief K P Phasha, were among the eight trustees.

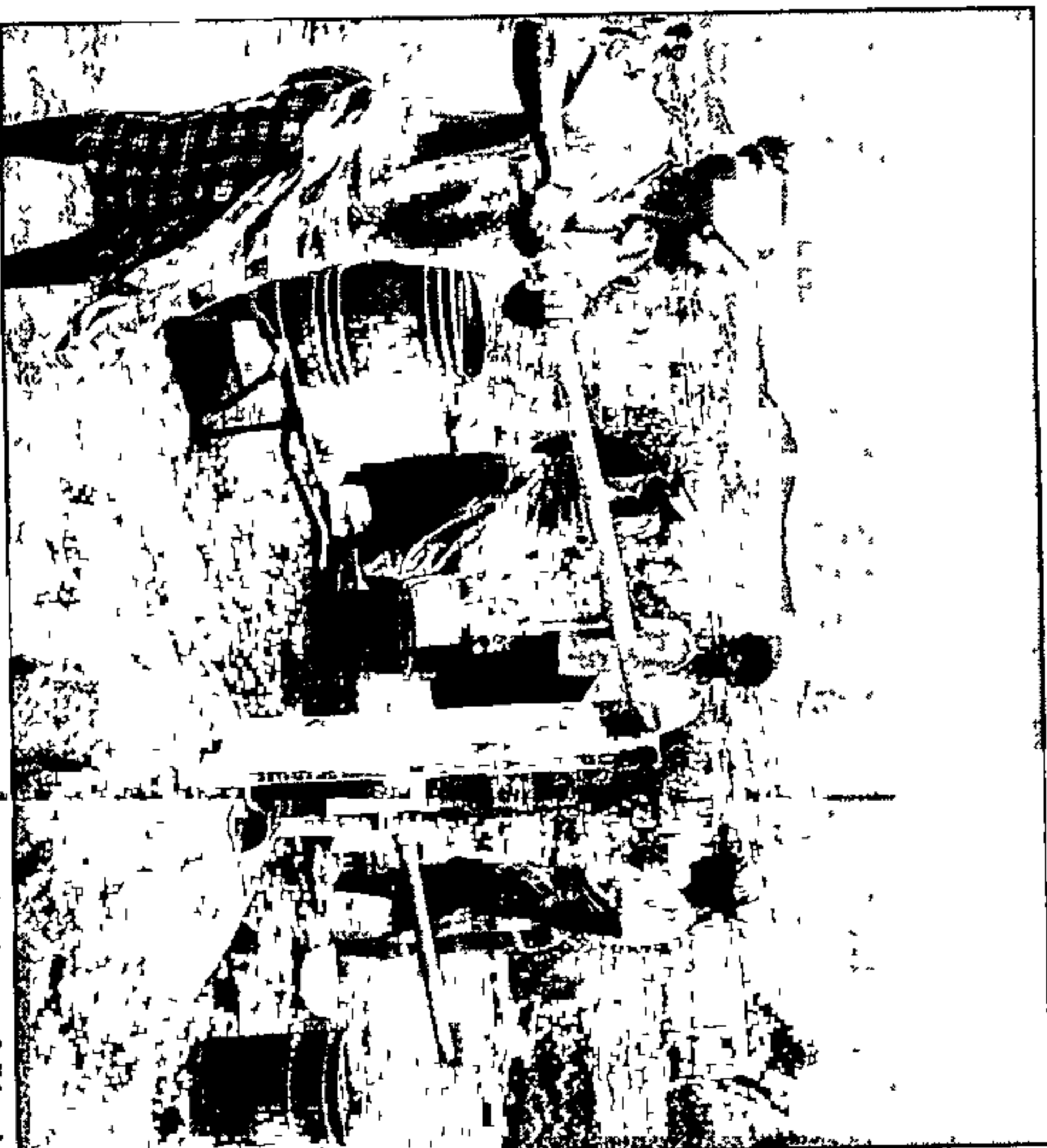
This move took place just 20 days before the elections which would wipe Lebowa off the map. Ramodike was already widely regarded as a liability to the ANC as an electoral candidate — and before the month of April was out, he had been condemned to the political wilderness by being dropped from the ANC list for the National Assembly.

The corruption of Lebowa's administration had been widely exposed. The Lebowa government, teetering under public service strikes, had already been stripped of all financial powers and was under direct supervision of the central government, represented by then minister of land affairs Andre Fourie. And the Transitional Executive Council was monitoring Lebowa.

In these circumstances, the creation of the trust and the diversion of R6 million belonging to the Lebowa government into its hands, cannot escape being interpreted as an attempt by men facing political demise to extend their influence in public affairs well beyond their governmental lifespan.

Ramodike's corrupt and ineffectual government had close to three years to see that the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act was applied in Lebowa. Their last minute scramble is less than convincing, especially as a landslide ANC victory was openly committed to land redistribution and secure title for all.

In the narrow legal sense, as Supreme Court Judge Roos ruled last month, the Lebowa government might have been entitled to put its money (even if that money was generated by a drought relief programme) into a



Hungry for security . . . thousands of rural people living on tribal land want full land rights

body such as the Title to Land Trust. Considerations of good public administration, however, raise a number of additional questions about the matter. For instance, whether it is excusable to use huge amounts of public money to give wanting public figures new images as public benefactors? Not all members of the trust are political figures, but a good portion are.

And, whether it is proper that this huge sum of once-public money will be spent without the checks and transparent procedures that are increasingly demanded of public bodies? A single firm of Pietersburg attorneys has handled all the land transfers to date and R1 million has already been paid into the law-trust account, to be transferred as professional fees when work is completed.

Although the Lebowa case is a "land privatisation scandal", it is quite different from other major land controversies which have erupted this year. The temptation is to lump it with the transfer of 1.2 million hectares of tribal land in Kwazulu/Natal to the Ingonyama Land Trust Act, headed by Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini. This deal was approved by outgoing state president F W de Klerk in the tense days when the Inkatha Freedom Party's participation in the elections was in doubt.

It only became public after the installation of President Mandela and although the ANC was furious about it, the matter was passed over in the interests of national unity. The Ingonyama

Trust was widely interpreted as being part of a "deal" to get the IFP into the polls. And it certainly could not be separated from the concern of central Kwazulu figures to preserve the relationships which were based on tribal jurisdiction over land.

The Lebowa case certainly has none of the circumstantial features which applied to the decision to set up the Ingonyama Trust.

Nor is the Lebowa scandal in the same league as an abortive attempt to privatise some 100 000 ha of state-owned land in Transkei shortly before the election. This was reported as an intended land-grab by the wealthy and powerful. Prospective buyers were said to include Transkei MPs and cabinet ministers, as well as traditional leaders.

Moratorium

The Border Rural Committee appealed to the TEC to step in and enforce its moratorium on the sale of state land. When the TEC opposed the sales, the Transkei government decided to halt the transactions.

Unlike the Transkei ploy, the Lebowa privatisation plan does not appear to aim at putting land directly into the hands of an elite, thereby increasing the general land hunger in the region. On the face of things, it does not seem to promote the "ugly face" of privatisation.

Furthermore, the Lebowa Farmers' Title to Land Trust is not a direct road to material gain by the trustees — although it remains to be seen how well lawyers do out of the trust's work. The pay-off in Lebowa is surely to be calculated in terms of the public support to be won by securing land title for the poor. Political observers speculate that it is part of an attempt to replace the patronage of the chiefs with a new form of patronage, which might seem more viable in the democratic order.

Lebowa land transfers not authorised

AUTHORISATION for the transfer of former Lebowa government lands to tribal leaders has been withdrawn pending an investigation into the matter, Land Affairs Minister Mr Derek Hanekom said yesterday.

A central and provincial government task team had been set up to investigate the transfers, which had apparently infringed on a moratorium on the disposal of state land.

“Due to legal and administrative un-

certainties, the process of transferring further land has been stopped by the Department of Public Works, at the request of my department and the Northern Transvaal Provincial MEC, Mr John Dombos,” he said in a statement.

“(25/6/94) The section 239 certificates, which oblige the Registrar of Deeds to transfer land, have been withdrawn pending the findings of the investigation.” Mr Hanekom said he had briefed the

Cabinet on the Lebowa land transfers yesterday. *CT 20/10/94*

He said the former Lebowa government had apparently set aside state funds to set up a trust to, among others, facilitate the transfer of state lands to different tribes.

The Lebowa Farmers Title to Land Trust was formed on April 7 and registered on April 11 with the Pretoria Supreme Court.

Following this, a number of trans-

fers had taken place before April 27 and since then there had been attempts to transfer further land to tribal authorities in Lebowa.

“It is not clear whether the appropriate resolutions were taken by the concerned tribes as required by law.

“Furthermore, the implementation of the transfer would seem to infringe upon the moratorium on the disposal of land,” Mr Hanekom said — Sapa

Northern Transvaal's budget 'inadequate'

3/Day
JOHANNES NGCOBO

25/11/94

PIETERSBURG — The Northern Transvaal's budget was "grossly inadequate" and did not meet the needs of the province in providing the basic services its residents expected following the election of the new government.

Provincial finance minister Edgar Mushwana said yesterday 95% of the budget went towards paying public servants' salaries, leaving only 5% to deliver services to the people. A casualty of this was that health institutions in the province were not getting medical supplies because of the lack of transport facilities.

Mushwana said the provincial cabinet had appointed people to look into irregularities in the public service, including allegations that staff were drawing salaries without even reporting for work. He said it would be difficult for the government to change the present budget allocation because of the constitution. (266A)

However, the practice of encouraging public servants to take early retirement to cut down numbers had been proposed, he said.

Mushwana said free education, which had been promised, would not be implemented next year because of the lack of funds.

Meanwhile, Northern Transvaal premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi yesterday warned land invaders that he would take tough measures against them if they continued to occupy unused land.

He said at a news briefing his government had tried to implement free health care for pregnant women and children under six.

He said the government was making progress on local government negotiations although some white councillors were resisting changes.

"In the Northern Transvaal we already have in place 14 local government negotiation forums. Seven of these have already been approved by my office and the provincial committee on local government."

Sapa reports he said the seven approved forums were at Messina, Naboomspruit, Nylstroom, Warmbaths, Thabazimbi, Ellisras and Phalaborwa. Messina and Warmbaths had gone a step further, agreeing on the formation of transitional local councils. But not much progress had been made in rural areas.

Ramatlhodi also said the building of houses could in many cases not commence before the province ensured security of tenure, clean water, sanitation, electricity and access to jobs.

However, housing projects had been started at Messina and Tshikota and projects inherited from the previous government would continue.

A provincial housing board would be set up to administer the allocation of subsidies.

Venda chiefs reject plans for entity

PIETERSBURG — Venda traditional leaders had rejected a Northern Transvaal executive council decision on the make-up of a proposed house of traditional leaders, their spokesman said yesterday. (26A)

The decision was taken after traditional leaders failed to reach consensus on the matter. Provincial commissioner for traditional authorities Benny Boshelo confirmed in Pietersburg yesterday that an advisory board of traditional leaders, appointed to assist his commission, had failed to reach consensus on how the 36-member house should be constituted.

A meeting on the issue by the Congress of Traditional Leaders of SA had also ended in dissent. Later, a meeting of all traditional leaders in the province had been deadlocked by disagreement between

Sotho delegates, wanting proportional representation, and Venda and Tsonga delegates, wanting equal representation.

Boshelo said delegates had agreed the matter should be referred to the executive council for a decision.

The executive council decided the 133 Sotho-speaking chiefs would be represented in the new house by 18 members, the 33 Tsonga leaders by 10 members and the minority Venda group by eight members.

However, a spokesman for Venda leaders said they had decided at a weekend meeting to reject the decision. Boshelo remained optimistic the house would be constituted as planned on February 21.

There were similar problems in the Eastern Transvaal, according to a spokesman for that province. — Sapa

Namakwaland land fears

EDWARD WEST

CAPE TOWN — Namakwaland residents fear being left out of the land reform process because they were dispossessed of their land under colonial laws before 1913, the year to which the constitution limits the land restitution process.

This was said last night by Namakwaland land claims co-ordinator Boeboe van Wyk at the launch by the Surplus People's Project of the book Land Claims in Namaqualand.

Van Wyk said the process of dispossession in Namakwaland was started under the British long before 1913.

He said the community's land had been dispossessed by large mining companies, of which De Beers was the biggest. Although De Beers could undoubtedly prove ownership of farms in Namakwaland, "we were the original inhabitants of the land", he said.

Van Wyk said the Namakwalanders did not have the resources to fight protracted legal battles, and that the issue should be settled through negotiation with the companies involved and government.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom promised to visit the area and try to solve the problem.

Fivaz orders probe into use of racist language

PRETORIA — Police commissioner George Fivaz yesterday ordered a comprehensive top-level investigation into the use of racist and abusive language by policemen in Soweto during January 27's incidents at Orlando police station.

Fivaz said he had taken this step after, for the first time, listening to one of eight tapes connected with the incident.

In line with his policy of transparency in policing, Fivaz said he had no objection in principle to making the contents of the tapes public to the fullest extent possible when appropriate.

Once the investigation and any judicial processes arising out of it were completed, the tapes would be made public.

The investigation team had been drawn from the

national inspectorate of the police and would report to him as soon as possible.

Members of the Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union went on strike at Orlando in the last week of January in support of demands that five officers be transferred because of alleged racism. On January 27 members of the internal stability division were moved in and one of the strikers, W/O Jabulani Xaba, was shot dead.

Last week about 200 white and Indian policemen and other whites working for the police in Soweto sent Gauteng safety and security minister Jesse Duarte a petition requesting transfers out of Soweto because of alleged racism and foul language at the hands of black colleagues. — Sapa.

Murder charge withdrawn

CAPE TOWN — A murder charge against a Sea Point man was withdrawn because the investigating officer was too occupied with the station strangler murders, the Cape Town Magistrate's Court was told yesterday.

The state withdrew the charge against Michael Felthun, 42, after the ma-

gistrate refused to grant a further postponement.

Felthun was arrested after Kenilworth businessman Dennis Marock was found dead on October 7.

Defence attorney PJ Choritz said the constitution gave his client the right to a speedy trial — Sapa.

NP criticises 10-year plan

PIETERSBURG — Northern Transvaal premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi's announcement of an ambitious 10-year development plan for the cash-strapped province has sparked criticism from the NP

NP provincial leader Andre Fourie and the party's sole representative in the legislature, Victor Borchers, said they would question Ramatlhodi's ability to achieve the plan's objectives. The premier's chief spokesman, Jack Mokobi, said the plan would probably be debated under the premier's budget vote soon after the opening of the legislature on March 3

The premier aims to revamp the public service, expand water supplies, upgrade colleges and initiate massive housing schemes.

Borehole water would be supplied to all rural communities and water schemes costing a total of R205m would be completed in the medium term.

More than 500 villages have been identified as suffering from critical water shortages. Drilling of boreholes had been completed at 33 villages

The premier has also called for strict controls on expenditure by public servants, a moratorium on the filling of vacant posts and a crackdown on the unauthorised use of government vehicles — Sapa.

30 8/2/95 (266A)

N Tvl govt fires 3 000 strikers

PIETERSBURG

More than 3 000 workers of the former Gazankulu government, who were all out on strike, have been fired, it was reported yesterday

They were all members of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union

A spokesman for Northern Transvaal Premier Mr Ngoako Ramathlodi office said the Nehawu members who had been dismissed, would forfeit their leave pay

A union spokesman said the dismissals were invalid as the outcome of talks held with the labour unit of the premier's office last week, was still being awaited

— Sapa

CT 2/3/95

(266A)

ANC MP and former youth leader Peter Mokaba will take the reins in the Northern Transvaal "if asked to by President Mandela and the people of the region." The offer, he said, had been prompted by the "disastrous" performance of the ANC regional government. During a tour he made of his home province, residents had inundated him with complaints.

Dogged by controversy, hotfoot from the collapse of his National Tourism Forum, Mokaba is not a serious candidate for the job of premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi. But the style of the two men defines divergent tendencies within the ANC.

With due respect to the ANC's Tony Yengeni, who thinks the term "populism" was invented by capitalists to undermine party militants, Mokaba's statement is a piece of classical populist rhetoric. It disguises the desire for a mass following as concern for the masses. By telling people what they want to hear rather than what they ought to hear, it represents dereliction of leadership; it reduces complexity to baby talk for popular appeal.

What are the facts in the Northern Transvaal? For barely a year the youthful Ramatlhodi and the rookies on his executive council have presided over the country's poorest province — nearly half its 5-million inhabitants are unemployed, 91% live in rural areas, three-quarters lack clean water, and only 17% are schooled beyond Standard 7.

Grand apartheid lives on in the North. More than any other province, it is haunted by the partitionist fantasies of yesterday. The only region to vote "no" in the white referendum on the reform process, it was the most solidly pro-ANC in last year's election. Alone of the provinces, it has inherited the decayed rump of three homelands — Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu — which have bequeathed it a nightmare of administrative overlap, a workshop of corrupt and incompetent public service, and combined debts totalling R500m.

From these and elements of the TPA and former state, Ramatlhodi has had to forge a single administration. His service delivery record

Man of action vs a man of words in Northern Transvaal

DREW FORREST

266A

is, as Mokaba indicates, modest. But his priority has been to lay the foundations of a region and government.

Interviewed in Pietersburg this week, Ramatlhodi impressed with what Vic Borchers, the region's lone NP legislator, praises as his "sensible, low-key approach". Ramatlhodi said racial reconciliation had been a key achievement. "Our biggest challenge is peace and stability" we can be proud that there have been no racial or ethnic confrontations here."

Linked to this had been his government's firm line on lawlessness and indiscipline, particularly among public servants, once the pampered power base of homeland leaders and now demoralised and uncertain of their future. "When we took over we had power, but no administrative control," he said.

Strikes which engulfed the province before the election were reined in, first by meeting public servants to agree on mutual obligations, then by imposing a return-to-work deadline, and finally by 2 000 dismissals.

Unauthorised promotions have been reversed, official trips and attendance at conferences restricted and official entertainment stopped. Expenditure control committees now scrutinise all departmental purchases. Departments were told to reduce office machinery by 25% before April and to form their own tea clubs "as those expenses will not be carried by the taxpayer."



RAMATLHODI

In January, 200 government vehicles in private use were impounded at roadblocks.

The new "no work, no pay" policy has been made more difficult by the fact that not all public servants work for the region. Ramatlhodi was forced to petition national Justice Minister Dullah Omar before stopping the cheques of striking Lebowa pensions officials, who fall under the

central state

Reassembling apartheid's scrambled egg has left the North with 116 000 ex-homeland officials, who may not be retrenched because of public service job guarantees in the interim constitution. A full 90% of the provincial budget goes on salaries. Duplication of functions is worst at the top. There are, for example, seven directors-general of education, all of whom draw salaries of R10 000 a month.

Ramatlhodi said that to create an "administrative core", the province was now advertising senior posts. He was confident that many older officials would leave of their own accord if not reappointed; those over 50 could be encouraged to do so by being offered early retirement on generous terms.

But he was careful to stress that he did not foresee a massive shake-out which would fuel unemployment in a region where private sector jobs are few. The plan was to create six subregional administrations, to which officials could be relocated. Others might find a niche in new local government structures, or move to lower levels of management at the same salaries.

Ethnic consciousness, not a factor in homogeneous regions like the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Free State, is another problem that has forced the new government to tread warily.

Such sensitivities were highlighted recently by the outcry from Venda traditionalists over government attempts to remove a public statue of former homeland leader Chief Patrick Mphahlele. To counter accusations that it favours the majority Pedi tribe — Ramatlhodi is Pedit-speaking, but his executive is an ethnic patchwork — the legislature has studiously moved between Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu, Thoboyandou in former Venda, and Pietersburg.

Despite enabling legislation last year, the region's House of Traditional Leaders has yet to sit. Shangan and Venda chiefs cannot agree on a system of representation which they fear will give their Pedi counterparts the whip hand. Borchers says the work of the region's apprentice lawmakers — initially "chaotic", based on "kindergarten" legal draftsmanship — has improved. The government's first task was to create itself. It has passed laws to establish a provincial exchange, a tender board and a public service commission. Bills appointing a public protector and defining the powers and privileges of the provincial legislature are before standing committees.

By his willingness to make unpopular decisions, Ramatlhodi has made political enemies during his short time in office. Disgruntled public servants, says regional government spokesman Jack Mokohe, are "destabilising" the province.

Ramatlhodi has to contend also with wildly unrealistic expectations on the ground. "Our people think there's a lot more happening elsewhere. Our response must be to jack up our communications, to use ANC structures to tell them what is being done."

"What we will not do is promise them manna from heaven. In 10 to 15 years, we can turn things around. We must lay a firm foundation while giving people the means to survive and reason for hope."

Ramatlhodi concluded with a striking anti-populist credo. "It's better if people hate me now and love me later. If we let them do the wrong things, in time to come they will accuse me. 'You should have known, you led us astray.'"

Moosa mediates on towns' control

ARG 23/5/95
The Argus Correspondent

(266A)

JOHANNESBURG — The government has stepped in to mediate in a war of words which has erupted between the Northern Transvaal and Eastern Transvaal provinces over the future of Bushbuckridge, Groblersdal and Marble Hall.

Deputy Constitutional Development and Provincial Affairs Minister Mohammed Valli Moosa has assumed a mediator's role in an effort to resolve the dispute between African National Congress comrades and premiers Ngoako Ramatlhodi (Northern Transvaal) and Mathews Phosa (Eastern Transvaal).

Mr Moosa goes to the Eastern Transvaal on Friday to consult with the local communities and all stakeholders, who he said would have a final say on which province they fell under.

At the heart of the dispute is whether or not there is an agreement that the Northern Transvaal would be given Groblersdal and Marble Hall, in exchange for leaving the administration of Bushbuckridge to the Eastern Transvaal.

The Northern Transvaal insists that the whole issue was an agreed package deal.

Jake Mokobi, a spokesman for Northern Transvaal Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi, said "We have an agreement with the Eastern Transvaal that, after going through the legislative, legal and administrative procedures, we will transfer Bushbuckridge to them."

"As part of the agreement, they would not lay any claims to Groblersdal and Marble Hall."

However, Eastern Transvaal's Mr Phosa has said an agreement reached on September 24 1994 concerned only the future of Bushbuckridge. But, he also has said the will of the people would be the driving force behind the final decision.

Moosa mediates on towns

■ BY JOVIAL RANTAO
POLITICAL REPORTER

The Government has stepped in to mediate in a tug-of-war which has erupted between the Northern Transvaal and Eastern Transvaal provinces over the future of Bushbuckridge, Groblersdal and Marble Hall.

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have an agreement with the Eastern Transvaal that we will, after going through the legislative, legal and administrative procedures, transfer Bushbuckridge to them.

"As part of the agreement, they would not lay any claims to Groblersdal and Marble Hall. Now we are told that the transfer of the two towns to us is a separate issue."

Eastern Transvaal Premier Mathews Phosa urged the Northern Transvaal to stick to an agreement reached on September 24 in which both premiers, acting in their capacities as ANC provincial leaders, agreed that Bushbuckridge would be included in the provincial territory of the Eastern Transvaal.

He gave The Star a copy of the Bushbuckridge agreement. No reference is made in it to Groblersdal or Marble Hall.

(26 DA) Star 23/5/95 (24/5)

Moosa intervenes in Bushbuckridge dispute

(266A)

~~(266B)~~ ~~(266E)~~ WM 19-25/5/95

Stefaans Brümmer

D EPUTY Minister of Constitutional Affairs Mohammed Valli Moosa this week intervened in the border dispute between Eastern Transvaal Premier Mathews Phosa and Northern Transvaal Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi.

It is understood Moosa's move to resolve the dispute over Bushbuckridge — part of the former Lebowa and Gazankulu homelands at present demarcated in the Northern Transvaal — was spurred on by a *Mail & Guardian* article last week highlighting allegations of heavy-handed tactics used against perceived opponents of incorporation in the Eastern Transvaal

African National Congress (ANC) branches in Bushbuckridge were traditionally organised as part of the movement's Eastern Transvaal structures. But Bushbuckridge was made part of the Northern Transvaal under the new Constitution

Phosa's Eastern Transvaal government, aware of the political strength to be derived from the enclave, started negotiating last year to have it transferred. A tentative agreement was reached between the premiers last September, but the process dragged on, spawning recrimination and allegations of intimidation.

Moosa said he had met with Ramatlhodi and Phosa on Monday and that it was decided the earlier agreement on transfer would be honoured. But the future of Bushbuckridge and Groblersdal, an Eastern Transvaal border town claimed by the Northern Transvaal, would be decided "as a package". Phosa earlier insisted Groblersdal was a separate issue.

Moosa's representative, Mpho Mosimane, said the deputy minister "has initiated a process of consultation which should lead to a resolution within the next three weeks", and that a public hearing for all interested parties would be held in Groblersdal on May 26.

War talk in Northern Transvaal

By Khangale Makhado

SUPPORTERS OF DEPOSED King Rhyne Sekhukhune III of Bapedi ba Thulare are threatening to take up arms to defend their kingdom if the Government does not reinstate the king within two weeks.

The message was given to Constitutional Affairs and Development Minister Mr Roelf Meyer and the Northern Transvaal government by a 150-strong delegation at a meeting in Pieter'sburg yesterday.

Sekhukhune III's reign was abruptly

■ KINGSHIP DISPUTE FOLLOWERS

threaten to take up arms for kingdom:

ended late last year by a Supreme Court order. He had only been monarch of Ga-

Sekhukhune for less than eight months. Recent tensions have once again brought to the fore the feud over who should rule the once united and powerful tribe in the Northern Transvaal.

Delegatic spokesman Mr Ndwanbe Mampuru, who is a member of the king's council, accused premier Ngako

Ramathodi and his provincial government of siding with the king's half-brother, Mr Kgagudi Kenneth "KK" Sekhukhune, by recognising him as paramount king.

According to Mampuru the province, by appointing Kgagudi to the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, had clearly taken sides. He produced a letter allegedly written by Commissioner on Tribal Authorities

Mr Benny Boshelo, informing "KK" of his new position.

"What convinces us is that the province has taken a decision on the matter and that the letter was written while negotiations were going on."

"The government has also decided to stop paying the salary of our king. I can assure you that unless something is done soon, we will have no other option but to take up arms in defence of our kingdom," said Mampuru.

There was no way, he said, that the Bapedi would accept court rulings on the question of chieftainship "because our kingdom was established long be-

fore the advent of the courts."

Meyer told a media briefing later that he and his deputy, Mr Valh Moosa, had come to consult with the leaders on the question of representations in the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders.

"The situation is that while chiefs from the former Gazankulu and Venda have proposed equal representation in the house, those in Lebowa would like to see proportional representation."

"We have listened very carefully to both arguments and hope to find an amicable resolution to the impasse once we have met with the premier and President Mandela," said Meyer.

266A source van 31/5/95

Trouble sparked by local poll boundaries

By Russel Molefe

ALARM bells are ringing in certain areas of Northern Province, where the demarcation of boundaries for the November local government elections has been rejected.

The demarcation of boundaries has increased confusion among communities about the forthcoming elections, especially in the northern district where threats of a boycott are being issued.

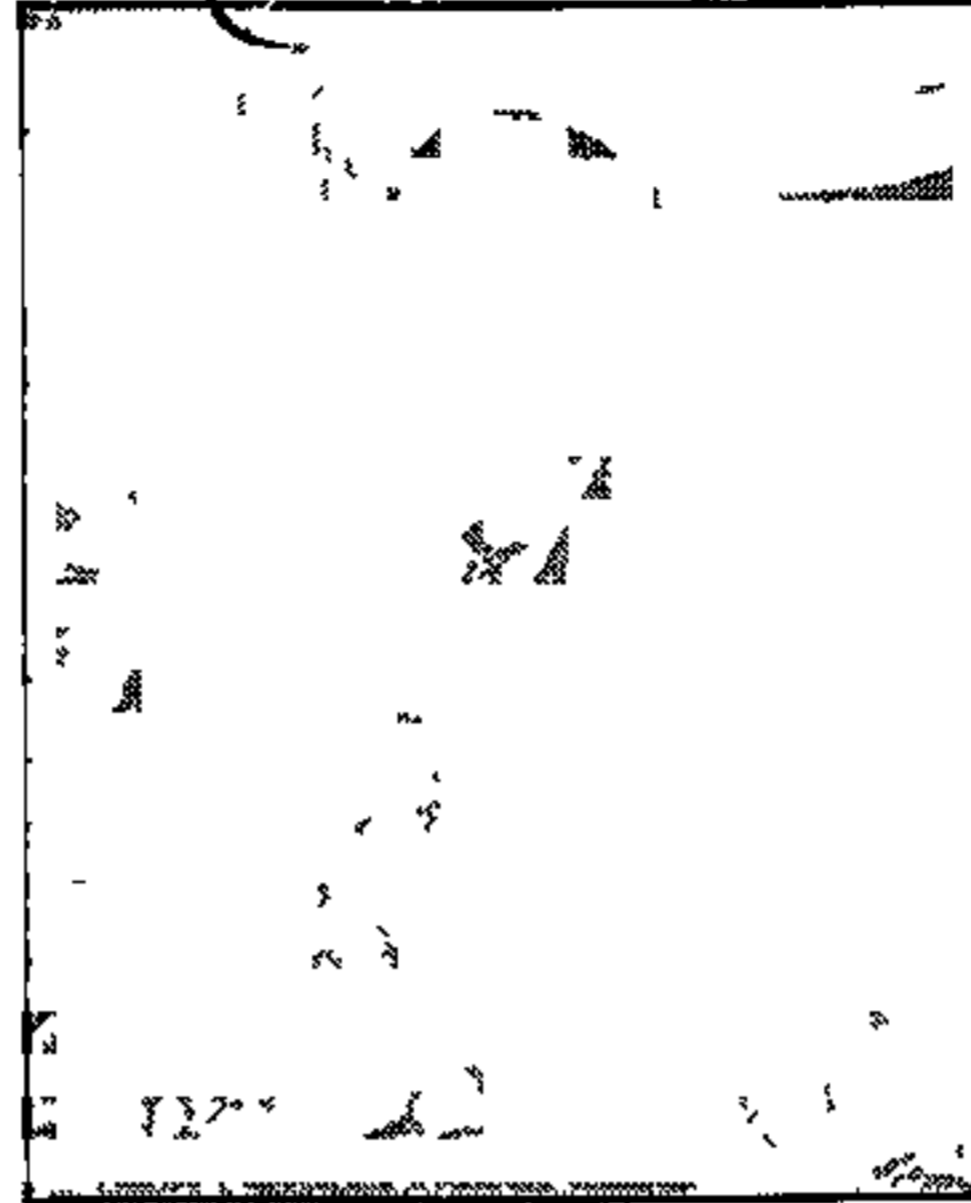
The provincial government is under pressure to review the work of the Demarcation Board and premier Ngoako Ramathlodi's office in Pietersburg has been flooded with demands from communities wanting to be incorporated into certain transitional local councils.

The first to fire a shot in this regard was Vleifontein township, whose residents invaded the premier's office last month to demand inclusion in the Greater Louis Trichardt Transitional Local Council.

The township was initially included in the Greater Elim-Shirley TLC. But when the map of the boundaries was released, the township's residents went wild and demanded the reversal of the decision.

The residents' representatives finally met with MEC for land, housing and local government Mr John Dombó, who bowed to the pressure and reversed the decision.

The residents argued that they were removed in 1982 from Tshikota township, about 5km west of Louis Trichardt, resettled in Vleifontein and later incorporated into the then Venda



Northern Province premier Ngoako Ramathlodi ... his office is flooded with community demands for incorporation in certain councils.

bantustan against their will.

They also argued that more than 95 percent of the township's workforce ply their trade in town, and that they, their fathers and their forefathers have made Louis Trichardt what it is today.

These arguments were accepted by Dombó and the proclamation was drafted incorporating the township into the Greater Louis Trichardt TLC.

The residents' arguments were also preceded by mudslinging in which local businessman Mr Livingstone Phulwana was accused of engineering the Demarcation Board's initial decision. He was threatened and his businesses were boycotted.

But Dombó, through his spokesman Mr Sam Bambo, denied that Phulwana ever held talks with any officials over the demarcation of ar-

east. The Louis Trichardt TLC has now entered the fray and will challenge Dombó's reversal of the decision in court. The council is arguing that this was unconstitutional.

The Conservative Party and the Louis Trichardt Residents Alliance also condemned the move, saying the Louis Trichardt TLC cannot include all the adjoining black areas.

The ANC in the area has already issued a strong warning to the town's mayor, Mr Johan Moolman, that any move to block the inclusion of Vleifontein in the Louis Trichardt TLC would be met with "massive resistance".

The residents of Waterval township, which lies about 15km east of Louis Trichardt, are also up in arms over their exclusion from the Louis Trichardt TLC.

They have threatened to disrupt the forthcoming local government elections in the township and surrounding areas, if their demand is not met.

However, Bambo said the disputed boundaries would be treated as "soft boundaries" until the matter is resolved. He added that the Department of Land, Housing and Local Government does not believe it has set a precedent for other areas to demand inclusion in various TLCs.

Mr Moolman's intention to challenge in court the inclusion of Louis Trichardt in the local TLC was heard through rumours, Bambo said.

He also said all channels were used to resolve the matter and that the final authority lies with the provincial government.

Name change
for N Transvaal

(266A) CT 22/6/98

A CONSTITUTIONAL amendment ratifying the name change of Northern Transvaal province to Northern Province was unanimously approved by the joint portfolio committee on Constitutional Affairs yesterday

Ramodike case settled

Political Staff

ARG 6/7/95 (266A)
FORMER Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and the ANC have reached an out-of-court settlement in terms of which he would work for the Northern Province government or take up a diplomatic post.

Highly placed sources in the Northern Province government said that Mr Ramodike, who is reported to have since defected from the ANC, took the organisation to court in December, arguing that he had been unconstitutionally removed from the ANC national candidates' list, a move that deprived him of an almost certain seat in the national assembly.

Mr Ramodike was removed from the ANC's election list after the organisation discovered he had also registered his United People's Front for the election, in spite of having thrown his weight behind the ANC.

After consultation between his law-

yers, ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa, parliamentarian Peter Mokaba and Northern Province Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi, a deal was struck. Terms of the deal were that Mr Ramodike was given the option of taking up a post in the provincial government or joining the department of foreign affairs.

A source said nearly seven months after Mr Ramodike was given the options, he had not indicated to the ANC or the provincial government where he wanted to go.

"It seems like there's been a breakdown in communication," said the source.

He added that two weeks ago Mr Ramodike was elected chairman of the Pan Africanist Congress's branch in Moime Village in Tzaneen in the former Gazankulu homeland, which is now administered by the Northern Province.

Threat if incorporation refused

(266A) Star 2/8/95

The Pro-Gauteng Co-ordinating Committee (PCC), which is urging incorporation of the former KwaNdebele homeland into Gauteng, has threatened rolling mass action until its demands are met.

No schooling took place in the former homeland yesterday and many residents were unable to go to work as about 1200 protesters blockaded roads leading to Gauteng with buses and rocks.

Protesters presented a memorandum to Eastern Transvaal Safety and Security MEC Steve Mabona calling for the removal of security forces, which they described as a form of repression.

No incidents were reported.

PCC spokesman David Lekalala said they were demanding the inclusion of the Moretele and Moutse areas into Gauteng.

ning an AIDS programme, among other and a programme of action.

Tax boycott threat in reaction to crime

ORGANISED business could withhold tax payments if the government failed to successfully address the crime epidemic, Transportation Crime Committee chairman Kiis Kitshoff said yesterday.

Kitshoff predicted a showdown between business and government at a crime workshop set for August 15 in Kempton Park. Business people and their employees were, in terms of the constitution, guaranteed the right to protection, he said.

Organised business had told him they would take the initiative if the government could not control crime. The Transportation Crime Committee is part of the National Crime Combating Council, founded two years ago by a former police commissioner to link police and business in the fight against crime.

The SA Chamber of Business (Sacob), the country's major representative business organisation, said it

would not be party to "confrontational action" inherent in a tax boycott. Sacob legal affairs director Ken Warren said the chamber had been swamped by letters from businesses demanding it hold tax payments in a trust account until government action produced a turnaround in the crime wave.

"While we are sympathetic to these sentiments, we believe such action to be counter-productive," said Warren, who is also chairman of the chamber's security committee.

Sacob was involved in developing a community-based, multidisciplinary crime prevention strategy in cooperation with the government and community organisations. This strategy was aimed at addressing the roots of crime: socioeconomic conditions, the criminal justice system and community involvement.

Kitshoff said the effect of crime on the economy was illustrated by a sur-

vey which showed the reconstruction and development programme could be funded by half the losses incurred annually because of crime.

Freight truck hijackings had increased by 67,2% from 1991 to last year. More than R169m was lost last year through truck hijackings alone. About 70% of these hijackings happened in Gauteng.

Vehicle theft had increased from 71 097 in 1991 to 94 710 last year. International crime syndicates used stolen vehicles as currency in narcotics deals. The crime triangle was completed by gun-running, which in turn was linked to hijackings.

More than 80% of these crimes were organised by international syndicates, Kitshoff said.

A vehicle theft Bill could be enacted if justified by demand, and subcommittees had been assigned to study possible legislation. — Sapa.

Meeting on border funds

NELSON MANDELA — Growing tension between the Eastern Transvaal and two neighbouring provinces over border disputes will be discussed when three provincial premiers meet in Johannesburg on Monday.

Eastern Transvaal premier Mathews Phosa, Northern Province's Ngoako Ramatlodi and Gauteng's Tokyo Sexwale will have a special meeting.

They had to resolve the explosive situation about KwaNdebele, Bushbuckridge and Groblersdal, to enable local government poll preparations to proceed. Eastern Transvaal local government MEC January Masitela said.

The recently proclaimed provincial borders had split some Eastern Transvaal towns in two, Masitela said.

The Kruger National Park is also split: north of Skukuza under Northern Province, and the rest under the Eastern Transvaal.

Areas classified as having "special circumstances" included all national parks, as well as those tourist towns such as Pilgrim's Rest and Marloth Park, on the Crocodile River. — Sapa.

of software company.

Sexwale-Phosa to hold vital talks

By Joe Mdhlela
Political Reporter

LAST week KwaNdebele residents wanting to be part of Gauteng staged violent stayaways and prevented buses from taking workers to Pretoria and Johannesburg

The former homeland, which is now part of the Eastern Transvaal province, could become a permanent flashpoint of conflict if boundary problems are not resolved

Already, tension in the province has led to violent confrontation between the provincial government, police and the residents

The situation threatens to get out of hand, with the Pro-Gauteng Coordinating Committee insisting that parts of the region must be incorporated into the mineral-rich province

The Eastern Transvaal government argues that there is another side to the argument – the pro-Eastern Transvaal group – which must also be taken into account

With the obnoxious system of homelands gone and replaced by democracy, one would have thought that a political solution could easily be found to the region

Far from it

Since last week, political tensions have heightened in the region, with the Pro-Gauteng Coordinating Committee mobilising residents for support

They are demanding that certain towns and villages in the region be incorporated into Gauteng. These include Moutse, Siyabuswa and Moretele II

In support of these demands for incorporation, a group of demonstrators blockaded roads last Monday, making it impossible for workers to go to work

Demonstrations, including stayaways and consumer boycotts, are scheduled to last until Phosa's meeting with Sexwale today. Despite disruptions to people's lives, organisers of the demonstrations argue that "this is a small price to pay" if the region is to achieve its goal of incorporation into Gauteng

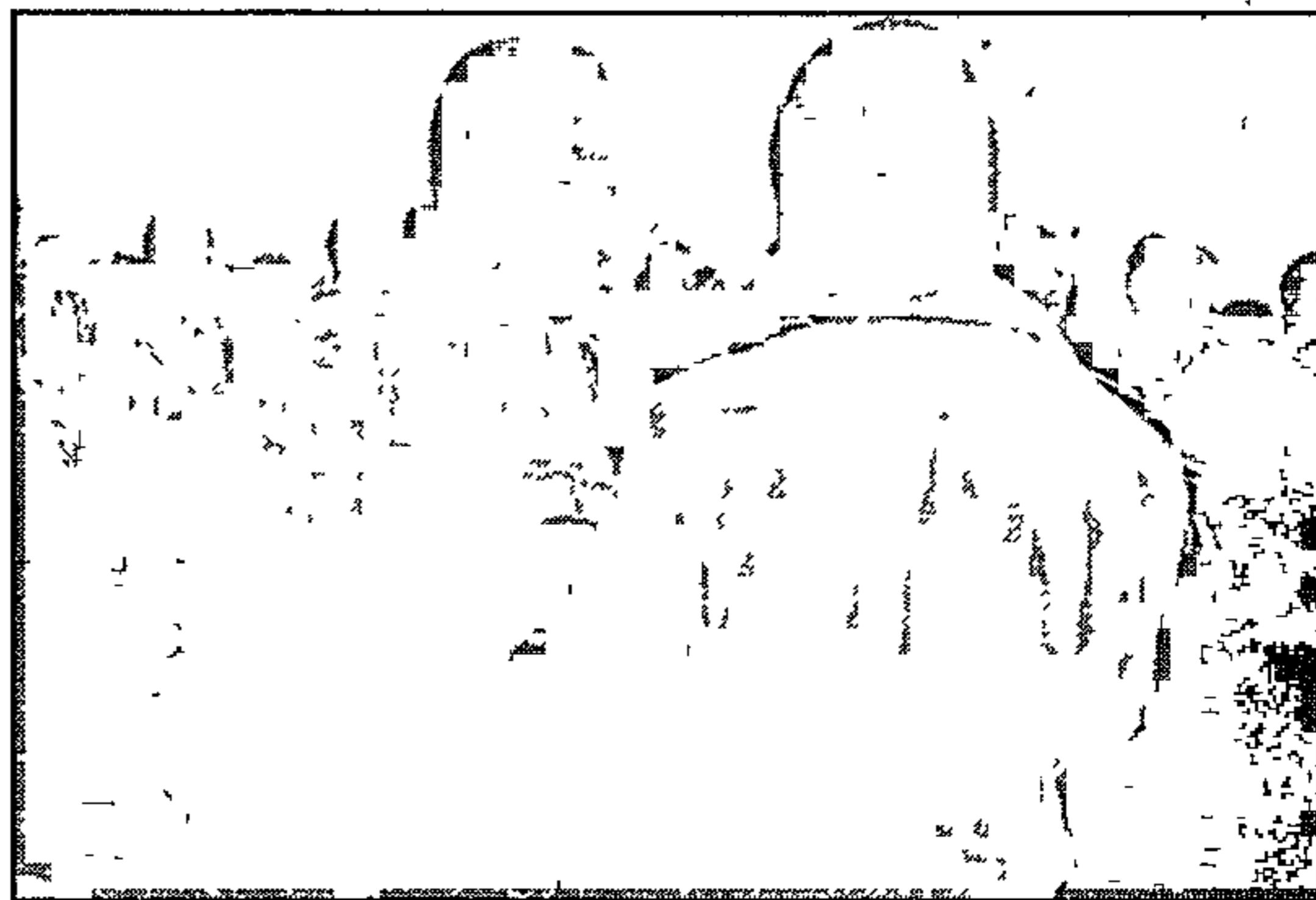
But Eastern Transvaal MEC for safety and security Mr Steve Mabona is emphatic that the objectives of the demonstrators are criminally motivated

"While we accept the principle of allowing people to demonstrate, we are not prepared to condone criminal acts aimed at undermining the safety of our people," he says.

Mabona confirmed that about 19 people had been arrested for, among other things, intimidation, arson, looting and vandalising property

He says people who believe the government acted unconstitutionally by taking action against criminals "can go

(266A) sewer 7/8/95
Eastern Transvaal must solve the Gauteng-KwaNdebele issue soon



Pro-Gauteng Coordinating Committee chairman Mr Viljoen Motsweni handing over their memorandum demanding incorporation into Gauteng to the KwaNdebele police.

PIC LEN KUMALO

jump in the lake" he says the Pro-Gauteng Coordinating Committee should appreciate that there is a democratically elected government and that "it is duty-bound to act in the best interests of people who elected it to power. We cannot let things degenerate into chaos, simply because a few individuals, acting without a mandate, want to have their way"

Mabona says scores of buses in the region were prevented from ferrying people to work in Thembaletu last week. This resulted in thousands of workers failing to make it to work because of fear of intimidation

Exposed to injury

"In Vezabuhle, these so-called comrades blockaded the streets, causing business to come to a complete standstill," Mabona says

"The point I am making is that no government can allow its citizens to be intimidated and exposed to injury and death. When we called in the police, we did so because we wanted to maintain law and order"

Mabona says the government will never stand in the way of people who wish to be incorporated into Gauteng. "But it should also be remembered that there are millions of people who are in favour of remaining in the Eastern Transvaal"

He argues that the national Government is currently working with both Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Mr Roelf Meyer and his deputy Mr Valli Moosa to find a lasting solution to the region's problems

"To say we are not addressing the matter is being dishonest and deliberately distorting the picture," he says. But the ANC-dominated provincial government may be ignoring the rage that is

emerging within its own ranks

"We may have wasted our vote by voting in a government that appears insensitive to the needs of its people," said ANC provincial official Mr Bucks Mahlangu

"Moutse and many villages in this part of the world, have always rejected being part of the former KwaNdebele region," he says. "Now the Eastern Transvaal premier will not listen to the cry of the people who are demanding to be incorporated into Gauteng. His MEC for safety and security is too obstinate to listen to reason"

Mahlangu argues that it was not only the ANC tripartite alliance that is agitating for the incorporation of certain regions into Gauteng. Other liberation movements like the Azanian People's Organisation and the Pan-Africanist Congress also support the initiative

He says it is unreasonable to expect people who spend most of their time in Gauteng to become part of the Eastern Transvaal against their will

A factor that may make the idea of incorporation distasteful to the Gauteng government, argues Mahlangu, is the belief that this may saddle it with the institution of chieftainship in the former KwaNdebele homeland

"We have been given to understand that Gauteng will resist the move because it fears inheriting the chieftainship problems," he says

He concedes that if the national Government fails to resolve the matter, millions of residents may be unwilling to vote in the November local government elections

Mahlangu says he hopes today's meeting between Sexwale and Phosa will yield positive results

Dry Northern Province has a rosy vision

Kevin O'Grady

THE country's most drought-stricken region, Northern Province, has sent a delegation to Belgium and Scotland to investigate establishing a rose-growing industry

Announcing the departure of premier Ngoako Ramathlodi's delegation today, spokesman Jack Mokobi said the project's planners were "working on the promise of early rains"

Ramathlodi, RDP commissioner David Nkoana and RDP project manager Moses Modjadji will fly to Scotland via Brussels,

BO 4/9/95
where a presentation on the viability of the rose-growing project will be presented to the European Union

If approved, the project would result in roses being grown in Northern Province by a Scottish company and exported to African and other international markets from Pietersburg, Mokobi said.

Feasibility studies had been conducted which had shown the province's climate to be ideal for rose growing, he said

"Obviously water, or a lack thereof, is a concern across any potential industry and that aspect is being seriously considered,"

(474) (266A)
he said In the Pietersburg area, for example, plans were afoot to divert water from dams for the rose gardens

The delegation will also meet representatives of large, medium and micro businesses to discuss trade links.

A Belgian company announced at the weekend that it would set up a bamboo farming project in the province at a cost of R11m. Great North marketing spokesman Andre Venter said Oprins Plant planned to divide 2 500ha of the drought resistant plant into viable units for about 500 small-scale farmers.

Mandela ^(266A) ^{sowetan 7/9/95} mediates in N Province

By Khathu Mamaila

PRESIDENTIAL projects in the Northern Province, which were at the centre of the power struggle between premier Mr Ngoako Ramatlhodi and ANC MP Mr Peter Mokaba, will now be under the full control of the provincial government

The decision was taken earlier this week at a meeting convened by President Nelson Mandela to defuse tension between Ramatlhodi and Mokaba

Mokaba, who was in charge of the presidential projects, had been accused of using them to mobilise support to oust Ramatlhodi

An ANC statement released after the meeting of the three leaders said it was agreed that the projects should operate "under the full control of the provincial government"

Asked if the decision meant that Mokaba would no longer head the projects, Ramatlhodi said yesterday the ANC promoted collective governance and not individualism

He said Mokaba had not been removed from coordinating the projects, but said other government leaders would now also be involved in the projects

"We will not try to get Mokaba out of the projects. We do not see why we should do that. The Monday meeting achieved collective running of the presidential projects," said Ramatlhodi

He said it was important that other leaders should be involved as teachers and nurses would be needed after the projects - schools and clinics - had been completed. Mokaba could not be reached for comment yesterday

Persistent drought raises fears of starvation

Kathryn Strachan

THE drought in Northern Province had reached such critical levels that people would start dying by December if it did not rain by then, provincial health and welfare superintendent general Nicolas Crisp said yesterday.

"It is not just cattle, but people who will begin dying," he said

All departments in the province were looking at contingency plans, which included looking at moving people to places where there was water.

The province could provide less than 10 litres a person a day

Chief welfare director Prof Moses

Bopape said the drought was already taking its toll on people's lives. The low crop yield had left many people starving. Those who depended on casual harvesting were left with no work or income this season. People had to queue for hours to get water from the communal boreholes. Others had taken advantage of the situation and were selling water from containers at very high prices to people who could not get to boreholes

Crisp said that while the province was trying to set up a new health system, there were other factors working against its efforts.

Another major concern was the

marked resurgence in traditional practices such as male, and to a lesser extent female, circumcision in the province this year.

This was a matter of concern not only from the perspective of human rights abuses, but also from a health perspective as the practice promoted the spread of AIDS.

While circumcision traditionally had to be done with the consent of the parents, this year had seen an increase in the number of children being kidnapped to be circumcised

The health authorities were working with police to protect the rights and the health of children, he said.

B019/9/95 (496) (266A)

R600-m needed to save drought-stricken region

Star 20/9/95

(2b6A)

■ BY MANDLA MTHEMBU

About R600-million is needed to save more than 300 000 people from starvation as the water crisis continues to plague the Northern Province, the local Water Affairs ministry said yesterday.

Acting director Louis Theron said the money was needed to implement the department's Cloud Seeding Project (CSP) and the construction of four R50-million dams - two in Lebowa and another two near Pietersburg.

Deputy chief engineer for the water project, Neil van Wyk, said the CSP, set up in Tzaneen, was aimed at "stimulating clouds, which in normal circumstances would not make rainfall, to produce much-needed rain".

He said the first phase of the project had been completed and "clouds were beginning to form".

Theron said the drought in the

province had reached "alarming proportions". He said people had to travel long distances and queue for hours to get water from communal boreholes which were now drying up. Those who could not get to boreholes were paying local businessmen R1 for 20 litres, he added.

Not only people were affected, but also animals and crops.

"Cattle are dying because there is no grazing, and crop yields are very low," he said.

He called on the Government to increase the water budget, saying it would be "far cheaper for residents to get water provided by the Government".

Theron said a number of projects were being planned in order to address the crisis, including the development of ground and surface water, the moving of people to areas where there was water, and the transfer of water to areas most affected.

Northern RDP projects progress

PIETERSBURG—Steady progress is being made with the implementation of reconstruction and development projects in the Northern Province, said premier Ngoako Ramatlodi's office yesterday (249)

Ten projects involving an expenditure of R10m had been approved by President Nelson Mandela, and the national RDP steering committee was considering applications for further developments involving R88m, the office said (266A)

It said business plans for provincial programmes valued at R13m were being processed. —

Sapa

BD 27/9/95

Border conflict leads to blockade

Sowetan 3/10/95

THE simmering border dispute between residents who wish to remain in Mpumalanga and Northern Province officials, who have managed to secure a ruling that the area be officially included in their province, resulted in a number of roadblocks and stayaways early yesterday morning

The blockade, which was led by an Action Committee consisting of the Agricultural Union, ANC, Freedom Front, PAC, National Party and Sanco representatives, was erected by the pro-Mpumalanga faction and was only dismantled by police at about 7am. ~~(266B)~~ (266A)

The protracted border dispute has resulted in the delay of local government elections in the region - making it the only area in Mpumalanga that will not be voting on November 1.

No violence, intimidation or other incidents were reported yesterday but a large crowd of sympathetic residents did gather at the roadblocks to show their support for the pro-Mpumalanga campaign

This campaign was described by a spokesman as a last-ditch demonstration of the region's determination to remain within Mpumalanga - *African Eye News*

the council for all... would not exceed the powers vested in use in perpetuity

Northern Province land row brewing

PD 4/10/95

(266A)

PIETERSBURG — The Mmaboi community's land claims in the Northern Province, currently under investigation by the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, have brought the number of farms claimed by individuals and communities in the province to more than 177.

on 126 farms came to light about 10 days ago.

Transvaal Agricultural Union president Dries Bruwer said yesterday the sudden flood of land claims over the past two weeks had to be regarded as a deliberate political ploy to destabilise the farming and rural communities

Details of the land claimed around Pietersburg were published in the Government Gazette on September 8. Farmers had 30 days to respond.

"It is nothing but a deliberate attempt to obtain land unfairly and cheaply to justify and promote the controversial land reform measures which have led to serious dissatisfaction in the ranks of agriculture"—Sapa.

A mass claim by the Manaze community in the former Venda homeland

THE JUPITER DRAWING ROOM CARPETS

YOU CAN JUDGE BY THE COMPANY

Dispute affects two towns

Star 5/10/95 (216A)

■ BY JOVIAL RANTAO
POLITICAL REPORTER

Local government elections will not be held in Groblersdal and Marble Hall - the two towns which for months have been the subject of a political tug-of-war between Mpumalanga and Northern Province

Mpumalanga MEC for Local Government January Masilela told The Star that legal complications in the demarcation dispute prevented the proclamation of these towns for the purposes of the November 1 elections

"We could not proclaim these towns because of a court interdict obtained by the Groblersdal Transitional Local Council. We're doing all we can to ensure that the elections will take place before March 31 1996," Masilela said

He said he had, in terms of local government election regulations, applied to Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer for an exemption from local government elections.

The court interdict by the Groblersdal Transitional Local Council followed an agreement, brokered by the Ministry of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development, that Groblersdal and Marble Hall should be administered by Northern Province

The agreement has, however, been rejected by the mainly white residents of these towns, who have made public their stand against the incorporation into Northern Province. They have been joined by residents from two black townships - Leeuwfontein and Motetema - who currently reside in Northern Province but want to be governed by Mpumalanga.

Northern Province has said that it wants both Marble Hall and Groblersdal in return for its surrender of the Bushbuckridge region to Mpumalanga.

A committee has been formed by the ANC in both regions to look for an expeditious way of dealing with the problem

Premier takes row over chiefs to court

(266A) Sowetan 5/10/95

By Khathu Mamalla

THE Northern Province government will approach the Constitutional Court for a declaratory order to resolve the crisis regarding the establishment of the house of traditional leaders in the province

In a statement released in Pietersburg, premier Mr Ngoako Ramatlhodi said

"The government has decided, in an attempt to break the stalemate, to approach the Constitutional Court for a declaratory order that will in essence provide a correct constitutional interpretation of the Constitution that will enable us to finally establish the house in keeping with the law. We need to seek clarity on

whether the Constitution envisages providing for the representation of cultures in the provinces, a democratically elected body of traditional leaders or a proportional representation of the existing legitimate traditional leaders in the province"

Ramatlhodi's statement is seen by observers as an attempt to prevent a showdown between the government and Venda and Tsonga-Shangaan chiefs who have resolved to boycott the establishment of the house unless the government accepted the concept of equal representation in the house

Last week commissioner for traditional authorities Mr Benny Boshielo had said he would go ahead with the establishment of the house with or without the participation of Venda and Tsonga-Shangaan chiefs

The house was supposed to have been established in February this year. But the process came to a halt when a row erupted between the government and the chiefs in the former Venda and Gazankulu homelands. The chiefs in the two former homelands are demanding that the three main tribes in the province be given equal number of seats in the house

However, the government had allocated 19 seats to Northern Sotho chiefs while Venda and Tsonga-Shangaan were given 10 and 11 respectively

This has led to accusations that the provincial government was favouring the Pedi chiefs. Boshielo however argues that there are 133 chiefs in the Pedi tribe, an assertion that is challenged by the other two

Homelands headache 'inherited'

~~(266A)~~ (266A) ~~(266A)~~
CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

PROBLEMS inherited from former homelands could jeopardise proper financial management in three provinces for years to come

This warning was given today in a report by the parliamentary joint standing committee on public accounts.

"The problems are very serious and larger than the provinces — Eastern Cape, North West and Northern Province — are able to resolve on their own."

Common problems were

- A shortage of expertise, skills and adequately trained staff.
 - Lack of funds and resources
 - A virtual absence of systems and controls to safeguard assets.
 - Low levels of morale, motivation, enthusiasm and commitment among staff at all levels, worsened by job insecurity *ARL 11/10/95*
 - Failure and possible inability to update financial and other records long in arrears.
 - The impact of rationalisation of the provincial public service on administration in the new provinces.
 - An unhealthy tendency to increase the size and cost of former TBVC civil services when cutbacks were made on other spending.
 - A breakdown of governance in some areas
- The committee noted that in the Transkei, audits had been overdue

since 1989, a 1988 attempt at integration of computer systems had failed, and statements of assets and liabilities could not be balanced.

In some cases, records had been destroyed by fire or removed by civic organisations.

In the former Ciskei and Venda, there had been "material" increases in spending on salaries.

In Bophuthatswana, there had been an irregular flow of funds to foreign countries.

The former secretary of finance had refused to answer questions about alleged irregular transfers of funds.

The committee recommended that every effort be made to update all financial records by November 15.

Audits of these records should be done in time to be handed to the provincial legislatures by February.

Those involved in fraud and misconduct should be brought to justice, the committee said.

Training and human resources development should be implemented urgently.

Practical support should be lent to the provinces during the transformation period.

The three provincial directors-general should work with the department of state expenditure and the public service commission to set up a plan of action for financial management.

The unresolved allocation of functions and responsibilities to provinces be finalised as soon as possible, the committee said.

SO-
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Northern Province takes action against fraud, theft

(2663A)
Kevin O'Grady

BD 18/10/95

PROSECUTIONS of a number of people — including former chief minister Nelson Ramodike — on charges which included theft and fraud totalling tens of thousands of rands in the former Venda homeland, have taken place since the Northern Province government came to power

Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi's spokesman Jack Mokobi said yesterday the province would not, however, institute a commission of inquiry similar to the Skweyiya commission which this week recommended former Bophuthatswana leader Lucas Mangope be charged with theft and fraud

The province had instead set up an asset audit committee comprising members of the provincial legislature which had as its task reconciliation of the state asset register, Mokobi said

When committee members were unable to reconcile entries, or found that state property had "disappeared", investigators from the SA Police Service were called in. Although he could not provide details, Mokobi said the process had resulted in the prosecution of "more than 10 people"

Eastern Cape DP leader Eddie Trent strongly supported a suggestion by Northwest premier Popo Molefe, who instituted the Skweyiya commission, that provinces which had incorporated former TBVC states should set up similar commissions

There was "no question" that corruption involving more than R1bn in the former Transkei and Ciskei, that had been referred to publicly by President Nelson Mandela, should be the subject of "intensive investigation"

"Unless we weed out the corruption which took place under Gen Bantu Holomisa's regime, we will never be able to get that civil service running smoothly and honestly," Trent said

"If the ANC is adamant about the truth commission it is just as important to weed out people who embezzled money, who are guilty of massive fraud and who indirectly caused largescale poverty and misery," he said

This should be done without regard for Holomisa's present position as a deputy minister in the government of national unity

Meanwhile, Standard Bank yesterday denied a finding by the Skweyiya commission that it bowed to political pressure when it agreed to finance the R177m Mmamatsuwe power station in Bophuthatswana that has since never been used. Spokesman Erik Larson said the bank "acted within normal business parameters"

"The actions taken were in good faith and with a view to preserving existing client relationships," he said

The bank would co-operate fully with any further investigation

Skweyiya recommended that the building of the station be probed by the Office for Serious Economic Offences

Confidence over trade agreement

John Dlodlu

BD 18/10/95

THE preferential trade agreement granting Zimbabwean textiles better access to the SA market was on track for reinstatement at the end of the month, government said yesterday

The trade and industry department said that despite concerns about the volume of negotiations still to be finalised, it was confident the agreement would be put into operation as scheduled.

Chief director for foreign trade relations Faizel Ismail said government was completing consultations with labour and industry, in talks with the SA Clothing and Textile Workers' Union and the Textile Federation and Clothing Federation. Both labour and business have vehemently opposed the reinstatement of the concessions

The deal's reinstatement has been previously delayed by Zimbabwe's request that the preferential treatment be widened, which prompted SA to study the likely affect on SA jobs

The new agreement is expected to include quotas to act as a safeguard for local industries. Government has also

said it will set up a mechanism to monitor the accord's implementation

A meeting with the Zimbabweans would take place shortly, Ismail said

Labour has said its support for the agreement hinged on SA jobs being safeguarded, and that the agreement included clauses guaranteeing workers a right to strike, as well as a ban on all forms of discrimination

A motion to write the clauses into the agreement was tabled at the previous round of talks with the Zimbabweans, and will come under detailed discussion at the final meeting.

Judging by the state's submission on social clauses to the debate at the National Economic, Development and Labour Council, it appears that government might soften its stance on the inclusion of these clauses in the accord

The government submission at Nedlac says denying market access to developing nations on the grounds of labour standards was inconsistent with a human rights approach

Asked about this, Ismail said: "Our task is to work with our neighbours to develop common positions and to build consensus through persuasion"

Corruption talk hits tender

Star 18/10/95

266A

memo

RECENT REPORTS of irregularities in the Northern Province's Tender Board reflect both the pitfalls of inexperienced rulers and a growing power struggle for financial control of a vast and cash-strapped province, Adam Cooke discovered.

Pietersburg, the seat of the Northern Province government, is a city in flux, where white farmers rumble through the streets in clapped-out bakkies while black politicians cruise in flashy cars and pin-striped suits.

The latest buildings in the city are also a reflection of a new spirit instead of the bland yellow facebrick of the government buildings of the past regime, the premier's offices are ostentatious and classical in structure, the huge gates and Grecian columns projecting an overpowering sense of self-importance.

Allegations made against the provincial tender board in the city last month turned out to be off the mark, but illustrated the growing distrust between government institutions and the province's whites.

What is clear from the tender board allegations is that white farmers and businessmen are losing faith in their new government.

Losing faith

They also show that the old order has changed in the province, and that businessmen used to favouritism from their government are finding that the tables have turned.

"Whites who supported the old regime and automatically won contracts with that government are upset.

"They don't have the over-privileged position they used to have," said one (white) member of the provincial legislature.

On the other hand "People are losing faith in the provincial government. When the tender board doesn't come clean on complaints, people lose confidence in its ability to handle these huge contracts," said director of the Pietersburg Chamber of Business, Corrie Nel.

Complaints from a "large number" of farmers about irregularities in the tender board have been submitted to the South

African Chamber of Business (Sacob)

The list of complaints cover two main areas in the production and delivery of perishable goods at state institutions that well-priced tenders from white farmers have allegedly been ignored in favour of over-priced tenders from black businessmen, and that no word is heard from the board after tenders have been submitted.

The furore began with a press report listing specific complaints. The central case was that of a businessman, Charles Mohlaloga, who lives just outside Pietersburg in the sprawling township of Seshogo.

He won a substantial tender (previously held by a white farmer) to supply dairy products to three state hospitals. Mohlaloga does not own a single cow.

He won the tender at a price of R2 80 per litre, and he pays the white farmer who previously "owned" the tender R1 70 a litre to produce and deliver the milk. Press reports claimed he was pocketing a healthy R18 000 a month for being nothing more than a "black front".

However, Mohlaloga said he had been approached by the farmer after he won the contract and they had struck the deal.

Mohlaloga also delivers milk, which he gets from the same farmer, to two other hospitals. But he has to bear the substantial transport costs.

"I do not make such a great profit as everybody is making out," Mohlaloga claimed.

He explained that the furore was probably the result of jealousy.

"We have an interesting history of suspicion and underhand dealings in the province.

"But under the new government the tables are turned and the established business relationships are changing."

In its turn the tender board claimed the farmer had never submitted an official tender.

The Star was

shown a letter of introduction from the farmer which was not an official tender, as was claimed by the farmer.

No irregularities against the tender board have been proven, but the fact remains that the province is paying more for goods than it should be.

"We have never ruled before. We never even knew what a tender board was before we came to power," was the explanation of Simon Matome, spokesman for Finance MEC Edgar Mushwana.

However, he pointed to the difficulty of combining four separate tender boards of the former Lebowa, Gazankulu, Venda and Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) in a province that has been described as the dumping ground of apartheid's homeland policy.

The province has also undertaken the mammoth task of streamlining 180 000 civil ser-

vice expenditure will cripple our tender economy."

He also denied that it was a case of jealous white farmers.

"These were proper tenders from people who met all the demands of the tender board - you can't enrich a person at the public's expense."

Standing committee chairman Manie Kriel said the furore reflected increasing competition in the province.

"To stimulate our economy we need competition, we need good business practice and new entrants into the market."

Mushwana explained that new business practices were coming into play with the department instituting an affirmative action policy which favoured local business and previously marginalised people for tenders.

"If this principle is distasteful it points to the allegations of the past week - we see smoke but no fire."

Whatever the case, the tender board has had its hands full, and will clearly be monitored more closely in the future as more people submit tenders, aware of the substantial financial benefits of securing state contracts.

vants, many of whom have come under similar allegations of corruption, into a single public service.

This comes on top of coping with a crippling drought that has seen repeated appeals to central government for additional drought relief and thousands of farmworkers being forced off the land.

A source on the parliamentary Standing Committee for Public Finance admitted that inexperience was not a good enough excuse to pay exorbitant prices for state food.

"Those prices are ridiculously high, we cannot use state funds to pay these sorts of prices in the future," said the source.

Nel said it was "not good administration" to use public money to pay for over-priced services.

"This is taxpayers' money, and in the long run this sort of

Elections in Louis Trichardt postponed

severan 2/11/95
(266A)

By Khathu Mamaila

NORTHERN Province premier Mr Ngoako Ramatlhodi yesterday appealed for calm in the conservative town of Louis Trichardt after a court interdict which prevented the elections from going ahead as scheduled.

"We want to urge our people in the area to stay cool. We are saddened that our people were prevented from voting at the last hour.

"We want to assure them we will leave no stone unturned to make sure that they are able to vote at a later date," said Ramatlhodi.

He said some members of the Louis Trichardt town council successfully sought a court interdict that prevented the holding of elections before certain issues were clarified.

Explaining the main issue, MEC for

local government Mr Ratshilumela Dombo said some members of the council were not happy with the allocation of seats in the new town council.

"They are arguing that since the traditional leaders will automatically have seats on the council, at least two whites should have seats on the council.

"The judgment handed down in the Pretoria Supreme Court does not necessarily vindicate their stance but rather gives them more time to present their case," said Dombo.

He said it was clear that there were people who would do anything to prevent the transition to democracy.

The proposed Louis Trichardt town council incorporates Tshikota township and dozens of surrounding villages. The minority white community fears black domination if it is not assured of seats on the council.

266A
CONT

SUNDAY TIMES, November 12 1995 15

'Meester' Meshack

He's a communist and a shack-dweller — and he's the man wearing the gold chain in Terre Blanche's town



HOME IS BEST . . . Ventersdorp's new mayor, Meshack Mbambalala, and his granny, Zanyiwe

Picture: CHRISTINE NESBITT

HOUSE number 1 026 in a squatter camp outside Venterdorp's Tshing township looks no different to its neighbours.

Its three corrugated iron shacks in a 5m² yard have no electricity, running water or sewage, and uncollected refuse lies nearby.

But this week, everything changed.

The house is the home of conservative Venterdorp's new mayor, Mshack Mbambalala.

The 26-year-old local deputy chairman of the South African Communist Party has turned his parents' house into a centre of attraction with the media visiting him nearly every day since his election last week.

Mr Mbambalala's friends and ANC comrades fondly refer to him as *burgermeester*, Afrikaans for mayor, and his new colleagues and employees treat him with the same respect they showed to former mayors.

Anna Pieterse, the mayor's secretary, stands up as we walk in to his new office.

"Is there anything I can do for you sir?" she says.

It is striking to hear a black man being referred to as "sir" in the town which Afrikaaner Weerstandbeweging leader Eugene Terre Blanche made infamous.

The fact that Mr Mbambalala is not only its first black mayor, but a leading SACP member, must have left a bitter taste in many mouths in the town that had been under Conserva-

tive Party control for nearly 15 years.

The soft-spoken and shy Mr Mbambalala smiles in embarrassment as he realises he does not remember his secretary's name.

Later he sits in one of three old chairs in his bedroom, which also contains a single bed, a candle, a battery-operated radio, a washing line and three pictures of his favourite soccer team, Iwisa Kaizer Chiefs.

"I never dreamed of leaving this place," he says when asked if he has plans to move to a home more fitting for a mayor.

"The people who voted for me live here and it would be like betraying them to leave and go to the town."

"I am not used to life in the towns," he adds. "I am used to the noise and many people I will stay here till my term as mayor comes to an end."

For Mr Mbambalala being mayor is more a challenge to make people's lives better than it is a position as number one citizen of the town.

He says the job needs a brave person.

"The township is ANC and the towns CP. My aim is to make this town the home of reconciliation. It's up to us to make sure it happens," he says.

With the co-operation of all councillors — they know the town better, we

know the township better — we can make Venterdorp a better place to live in," he says.

He does not mince his words when it comes to the future success of the town.

He says it lies in the destruction of the culture of non-payment of rates and services by township dwellers and delivery of services by the council.

During his election campaign, his message was that people should begin to pay and make the Masakhane project work.

Born in 1969 to a worker in a farmhouse in Suwertfontein, 15km from Venterdorp, Mr Mbambalala began his schooling on the farm before attending a boarding school for his high school education.

When he was in standard nine his father passed away, two days after his younger sister, Ntombikayise, was born.

After the funeral, his father's employer, a Mr Viviers, wanted Mr Mbambalala or his elder brother to take over from their father or leave his farm.

They chose to leave, taking a long trek with their sickly mother to Modderfontein to live with their grandparents.

He had to travel 30km a day by bicycle to and from school.

A few months later his mother secured a job as a domestic worker in Venterdorp and the family

moved to Tshing, where they rented a backyard room.

Mr Mbambalala successfully completed his matric in 1988 and the following year got a job as a part-time teacher at the local primary school.

With the money he saved as a teacher, he took the bus to Johannesburg.

In 1990 he registered for a BA education degree at the Vista University in Soweto. But he dropped out just before writing his final exams in 1992 because he could not pay his fees.

Dejected, and without a job, he went back to Venterdorp.

He taught at the same primary school until the end of that year.

Although he had been involved in politics at university, his involvement at local level started only in 1993. After joining the local ANC he was soon co-opted on to the regional executive.

He went from strength to strength and, as he says, it came as no surprise when he stood unopposed for Ward 6.

What about the future of the town?

Mr Mbambalala goes back to the story of the crucial farmer and says "I am a very forgiving person. What he did was justified at the time."

But, he insists, it is time to move forward and make Venterdorp a new dorp.

Samwu calls off action

THE SA Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu) has called off its planned mass action campaign in Northern Province for the reinstatement of about 720 dismissed municipal workers.

The campaign was scheduled to start today in support of more than 620 workers dismissed by the Pietersburg town council and 98 fired by the Groblersdal town council.

Samwu regional secretary Walther Theledi was optimistic negotiations with the councils would bring a breakthrough.

(266A) B013/11/95

TUESDAY
★ NOVEMBER 14, 1995

BRIEFS

Officials in R50m probe

(266A)

PIETERSBURG: Three senior officials had been suspended in connection with allegations of corruption and irregular promotions, Northern Province Minister of Health and Welfare Dr Joe Phahla said yesterday. **CT 14/11/95**

Auditors would investigate the promotions, which had cost the province about R50 million, Dr Phahla said. The probe would extend to the former administrations of Lebowa, Venda and Gazankulu.

Pay rises and back-pay were awarded to certain officials, without authorisation by the head of his department, Dr Phahla said.

R70 MILLION DRAINED AWAY

By ELIAS MALULEKE

CP19/11/95

(266A)

THE Northern Province government has launched a top level probe into irregular promotions of civil servants and corruption believed to involve about R70 million.

Civil servants were allegedly promoted to non-existent positions and salaries were back-dated for as much as R100 000.

Premier Ngoako Ramathodi told City Press he was satisfied that no stone would be left unturned to get to the root of the alleged corruption.

Northern Province Director General John Malatu said the findings would be submitted to the provincial Cabinet next Monday.

He said the alleged irregularities were discovered in the normal course of financial management.

"This goes back to May last year and affects all departments, so we have to check the whole system," he said.

Health and Welfare Superintendent Gen-

eral Nicholas Crisp said the government would institute criminal and civil proceedings against the alleged culprits in a bid to recover the money.

The alleged corruption and irregular promotions were picked up last week in the Department of Health and Welfare by authorities after the Health Ministry was alerted by workers.

Three clerks from the former Lebowa government, whose signatures allegedly appear on the promotion forms, have been suspended on full benefits pending the outcome of the investigation by two auditing firms, Deloitte & Touche and Coopers & Lybrand.

Their mandate is to investigate departments in all former homelands - Venda, Gazankulu and Lebowa - which now fall under the Northern Province government.

All promotions have been cancelled.

Crisp said the promotions were made without authorisation after the government had frozen all promotions last year.

He said that all promotions had to be submitted to the Public Service Commission and ministerial approval had to be obtained before they were made valid.

This was not done and people were promoted to non-existent positions with inflated and backdated salaries.

The irregularities could not be picked up because the computer networks of the previous homeland governments were not linked to a mainframe.

"Although the discovery only affects the Health and Welfare Department so far, the probe will involve all 11 departments in the Northern Province as well as those in Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda from May last year," Crisp said.

"Early indications are that the fraud and irregular promotions are just the tip of the iceberg. The auditors have been requested to look at all possible malpractices because we believe that they will find more rot during their investigation," Crisp said.

for Ramathlodi

Southon 24/11/95

'Pietersburg has to be transformed to accommodate diverse cultures'

By Khathu Mammala

SHORTLY AFTER CASTING his vote in the former whites-only suburb of Bendor in Pietersburg on November 1, Northern Province premier Ngoako Ramathlodi was asked whether he believed his vote would free the area of the "swart gevaar" mentality.

In fact, this reporter wanted to know whether Ramathlodi believed the African National Congress would win the elections and eradicate the racism in the area.

"Can we expect the repeal of by-laws that prevent the slaughter of a sheep in one's yard or prevent people from coming together in large numbers as they will disturb the tranquility of the suburbs?" I asked.

Ramathlodi said although most voters in the area were white, he did not believe his vote would be useless. He added that he was confident of racial harmony, adding that culture was dynamic.

The dilemma of blacks who migrate to former white suburbs is that they have to adapt to white values, in order to be accepted in their new neighbourhood.

The commissioner for youth in the province, Mr Cassel Mathale,

'We must not be assimilated. If we are, we will lose our identity and culture'

who has also moved to Bendor, said he believes blacks who move into town should continue to live as they do in their villages and townships.

"We must not be assimilated. If we are, we will lose our identity and culture," Mathale told *Sowetan*.

It is against this background that he and a group of about 200 people, mainly ANC members, recently attended a birthday party at Mr Peter Nchabeleng's home in the former whites-only suburb of Flora Park.

The partygoers enjoyed themselves and the party would have been a normal event - if the venue was in Seshego or any other township.

But white residents, who felt their suburb had been invaded by unruly blacks, requested police to end the party. And the police reacted swiftly. According to Mathale, the police were rude and arrogant and used tear gas on the partygoers. "When I tried to talk to them, they acted against me. I think they knew who I was but that did not matter."

He said the incident proved "we still have a long way to go to remove racism from the hearts of some of our white compatriots."

Mathale said Pietersburg has to be transformed to accommodate diverse cultures, as all people are equal.

However, the transformation might be difficult as all changes in Pietersburg have to be approved by white parties in the city council before they can be implemented.

The ANC has 50 percent of the seats in the newly elected council, while the rest of the seats are shared by the National Party, Freedom Front and Conservative Party. Whether Ramathlodi's vote was a worthwhile exercise remains to be seen.

Northern Province Premier Ngoako Ramathlodi did his vote in Bendor help to transform Pietersburg?



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NEWS FEATURE

A daunting task for Ramathlodi

South African 24/11/95

266A
'Pietersburg has to be transformed
to accommodate diverse cultures'

By Khathu Mamalla

SHORTLY AFTER CASTING his vote in the former whites-only suburb of Bendor in Northern Province premier Nyoako Ramathlodi was asked whether he

White must not be

But white residents, who felt their suburb had been invaded by unruly blacks, requested police to end the party. And the police reacted swiftly



Northern govt in R30-million corruption loss

(266A)

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Star 20/12/95

An investigation into maladministration in the Northern Province has unveiled gross corruption in government departments that had resulted in a loss of R30-million.

The province's MEC for health and welfare, Dr Joe Phaahla, said yesterday his department had engaged consultants to investigate allegations that some senior officials had authorised promotions which had not been budgeted for.

He said the consultants found that the irregularities were more serious and also affected other departments.

The consultants found widespread unauthorised promotions in all departments, overpayment of officials because of computer programming errors, and "very poor" personnel administration, he said.

They reported many ad hoc salary payments could not be investigated because of incomplete documentation.

Phaahla said although it was difficult to give the exact amount involved, it was estimated to be up to R30-million.

Among the cases exposed was that of a senior official who claimed R450 000 for accumulated leave. It was found that the official had never recorded leave in 30 years.

"The reality is that senior officials used to go on leave but never recorded, this and on retirement claimed pay for all these days," Phaahla said.

R30 million pay fiddle uncovered

(266A) Sowetan, 20/12/95

By Khathu Mamalla

AN INVESTIGATION into maladministration in Northern Province has unveiled gross corruption in government departments that has resulted in a loss of up to R30 million.

The province's MEC for health and welfare, Dr Joe Phaahla, said yesterday his department had engaged consultants to investigate allegations of corruption following reports that some senior officials had authorised promotions that had not been budgeted for.

Unauthorised promotions

He said the consultants found that the irregularities were more serious in health and other departments, including education and culture, agriculture and forestry, and finance and expenditure.

Phaahla said the consultants also found that there are many unauthorised promotions being processed in all departments from Lebowakgomo in particu-

lar, but also from Thohoyandou".

Other findings are:

- Computer programming errors had occurred, which had resulted in overpayment of officials;

- The personnel administrative systems in Thohoyandou and Lebowakgomo were very poor;

- File retrieval and completeness of documentation was so bad that many *ad hoc* salary payments could not be properly investigated; and

- *Ad hoc* payment relating to arrears, back pay, leave gratuities and for several other purposes which seemed inappropriate were identified for further investigation.

Phaahla said although it was difficult to give the exact amount of the money lost in the maladministration relating to the irregular promotions, it could be up to R30 million as there were many cases which had not been exposed. He said there was an official who obtained R450 000 for accumulated leave.

"This means that this official worked for about 30 years without recording that he went on leave. The reality is that the senior officials used to go on leave but never recorded this and on retirement claimed pay for all these days."

"Although we are claiming we are forced to pay because there are no records to prove our case," said Phaahla.

He said in cases where the officials were proved to have not paid themselves they would be required to repay the money.

Huge lump sums

Asked what had happened to the commission to investigate the irregular mass promotions of thousands of Lebowa civil servants who obtained huge lump sums of money, Phaahla said:

"There was an underestimation of the problem. The problem is so huge that the commission could not meet its deadline. We hope there will be further investigations in the new year."

PS — LA — N. TVL.

1996 — 1997

40 000 workers face axe

By Khathu Mamalla

MORE than 40 000 public servants in Northern Province face retrenchment when the provincial government begins rationalising the bloated civil service, *Sowetan* has learnt.

While the exact number of the workers to be axed remains the closely guarded secret of senior government officials, sources close to the government said at the weekend the figure was well over 40 000.

A source said acting director Mr TP Chabedi had been sent to the Eastern Cape to learn about how the Eastern Cape government was handling the retrenchment of 18 000 civil servants in that province.

Sowetan has been in contact with the office of director-general Professor John Malatji since December last year in an effort to get the number of those to be retrenched. Malatji has not responded despite several promises to do so.

Government spokesman Mr Jack Mokobi said the cabinet was agreed that the issue was "very sensitive" and should be handled with great care as it affected many public workers.

He said the matter would be dealt with by premier Ngoako Ramatlodi at a media conference scheduled for today.

Ramatlodi and his cabinet went into a two-day *hosberaad* last week to discuss strategies for breaking the news of the rationalisation in such a

way as to cause minimum dispute with the 126 000-strong civil service.

Sources said the matter could spark off negative reaction from civil servants.

While the process of integrating the former administrations — Lebowa, Venda, Gazankulu and the Transvaal Provincial Administration — into one is bad news for thousands of workers, who will be losing their jobs, some senior bureaucrats are smiling all the way to the bank.

Big retirement packages

Dozens of bureaucrats who are over 50 years old have been offered attractive retirement packages. For instance, if the bureaucrat is 55 years old, he can retire as if he was 60. He will be paid all his salary for the five years and still get all his pension.

A government official told *Sowetan* at the weekend that one top official in the former Venda government had received a handshake of more than R1 million.

The official said all the directors-general and other senior officials from the former administration were still receiving their salaries although they were not doing anything as they had not been posted.

He said the process of rationalisation would cost the government hundreds of millions of rand.

Mokobi said it was important to give severance packages to some top officials to ensure the transformation of the civil service.

Sowetan 22/1/96

(266A)

9 000 public servants face axe in N Province

Star 23/1/96

(266A) (S)

Rationalisation process hits employees, but government
— considering how much it will save in the long run —
will help unemployed workers to find alternative jobs

By **KAREN SCHMKE**
Political Staff

Around 9 000 public servants in Northern Province will have to wait until the end of February to find out whether they have been made redundant, but they will then be given a six-month notice period in which to find other employment, a spokesman for the province said yesterday.

In the six months following the February 29 deadline, which was the final date given for government departments had to have completed the rationalisation process, retrenched workers will still be able to draw a salary.

Provincial director-general John Malatu yesterday denied a report that as many as 40 000 workers faced retrenchment, and said the figure was closer to 9 000. This figure can be finalised only at the end of next month, when each de-

partment will have submitted the results of its rationalisation.

Provincial spokesman Jack Mokobi said workers who become unemployed after February 29 will be helped by the provincial government to find alternative employment.

"We are looking at inter-provincial transfers and we will also help by circulating the curricula vitae of retrenched workers to other government departments around the country," he said.

The rationalisation is the culmination of a two-year process which has had several deadlines postponed because of the amount of work involved.

Northern Province is in the unique position of having to incorporate the old Lebowa, Gazankulu, Venda and the Transvaal provincial administrations into one streamlined and effective administration.

The province has often been in

the limelight due to the large amount of money spent on the civil service.

Mokobi said it was generally known that 80% of the provincial budget was spent on salaries. What exactly will be saved by the government with these retrenchments will be known only once the provincial budget speech has been made in March or April.

"This has not been an easy thing to do, but we had to take into consideration the money we could save for the province in the long run," said Mokobi.

There was no need to retrench public servants in Gauteng as the province did not have the complicated job of integrating other administrations, Gauteng MEC for Development Planning, Works and Environment Sicelo Shiceka said yesterday. He said the Eastern Cape could lose up to 80 000 civil servants in the rationalisation process.

Province's job loss report to be finalised

Mduduzi ka Harvey

BD 26/1/96 (266R)

A FINAL report on the retrenchment of between 9 000 and 10 000 government employees in Northern Province would be announced next week, following probes by departmental heads into proposals on how to rationalise the bloated provincial civil service, said spokesman Jack Mokobi.

Mokobi said that, following recommendations made to the province's cabinet executive committee by provincial director-general John Malatji yesterday, formal notification to affected employees would be communicated at the end of next month

with six months' notice

The retrenchments would affect all the province's 10 government departments and would include personnel in both senior and junior positions

(266R)

The Hospital Personnel Trade Union slated the provincial government's "heavy-handed approach" and warned it would go to the Industrial Court if the retrenchments went ahead.

Residents divided over action

(266ft) ~~266ft~~ Sowetan 22/2/96
By Khathu Mamalla

BUSHBUCKRIDGE residents are sharply divided over the mass action aimed at forcing the Northern Province government to transfer the area to Mpumalanga

ANC deputy chairman in Shatali, Mr Krisjan Mokoena, said residents were divided on the mass action as there were some who wanted to remain in Northern Province

The organisers of the protest action, which started last Monday, want everybody, including students, to stay away. However, some residents have ignored the call as they want Bushbuckridge to remain in Northern Province," said Mokoena

He said shops and government offices were forced to close last week by a group of people. Attempts to speak to the organisers of the stayaway proved fruitless yesterday.

Northern Province government spokesman Mr Jack Mokobi said he was aware of the action in Bushbuckridge. He was not aware of the involvement of civil servants in the stayaway.

He warned that action would be taken against anyone who stayed away from work. Mokobi said there was no need for people to march and stay away from work as there was an agreement to transfer Bushbuckridge to Mpumalanga.

A time of transition

ARG 28-3-96 CONT (266A)

“IT’S a bit like a tsotsi trying to become a priest, the process is positive, but it is also very painful, the development worker said”

These telling words, spoken in the remote and barely accessible mountains that make up the Mafefe area of the Northern Province, reflect some of the agonising and at times conflict-ridden forces of transformation at work in the country’s rural areas

At the centre of this process are the local government elections and development organisations, which have brought with them a new rural elite

Suddenly, there is a new source of power and finance

Caught between the known authority of traditional leadership and the uncertainty that has come with the new democratic order, rural communities are undergoing changes so profound that they have brought into question their very make-up ADAM COOKE reports.

in communities which for centuries have operated under the fairly stable rule of the “kgosi”, or chief and his indunas

The weathered faces of the Mafefe villagers in this mountain area, about 100km south-east of Pietersburg, are now beset with anxious frowns. Indeed, the change is so fundamental it makes one look at cities as stagnant, messy pools, dredging out the same old talk of transformation

But the dilemma of the old power structures facing the new

is not restricted to Mafefe alone. Managing director of the Institute for Local Governance and Development, Pelonomi Venson, said Mafefe appeared to be experiencing on a micro-cosmic level the problems of widespread conflict in rural areas

She identified three areas of conflict and change common to rural areas: the land – over which chiefs have traditionally ruled, development – which has caused confusion in terms of whose task it is to oversee and deliver, and power – which has to do with who is ultimately in charge of the community

The new forces at work here in Mafefe are influenced by the principles of democracy. At the same time they are operating in an area previously untouched by Western-style national or even local government

“The change is profound – all our structures of power, all our reference points have been turned upside down,” said Zak Mabiletja. He is the community liaison officer for local NGO, Tsogang Water and Sanitation, which has been involved in development in the area for a decade

The democratic structures and NGOs in Mafefe seem to be both intimidated by and to pose a threat to the kgosi. Many involved in the 10-odd organisations in the area claim to feel threatened by the kgosi’s seemingly arbitrary shows of power

In the most recent display, the kgosi allegedly arrived at the community centre – built by the CBOs with funders’ money at a cost of R23 000 – and demanded the keys. The kgosi came away empty handed. While the issue is still being resolved, it is a sign of the kgosi’s attempts to regain their inherited control

“We pose a threat because we are the ones bringing money into the area and villagers are seeing us as a more valuable and trustworthy structure,” said a member of one of the organisations

But Patekile Holomisa, pres-

ident of the Council of Traditional Leaders in South Africa, accused NGOs of “colluding with local organisations and enticing communities away from their traditional leaders”

He said traditional leaders had never had the resources to properly develop their people and “no chief will ever be content with watching his people suffer”

Responding to this charge, chairman of the Northern Province NGO Coalition, Leah Nchabeleng, said the history of NGOs showed that these organisations had stepped in where government and other structures of authority had failed to deliver

She said in many areas traditional leaders worked hand in hand with community organisations and added “traditional leaders would not turn their backs on the community”

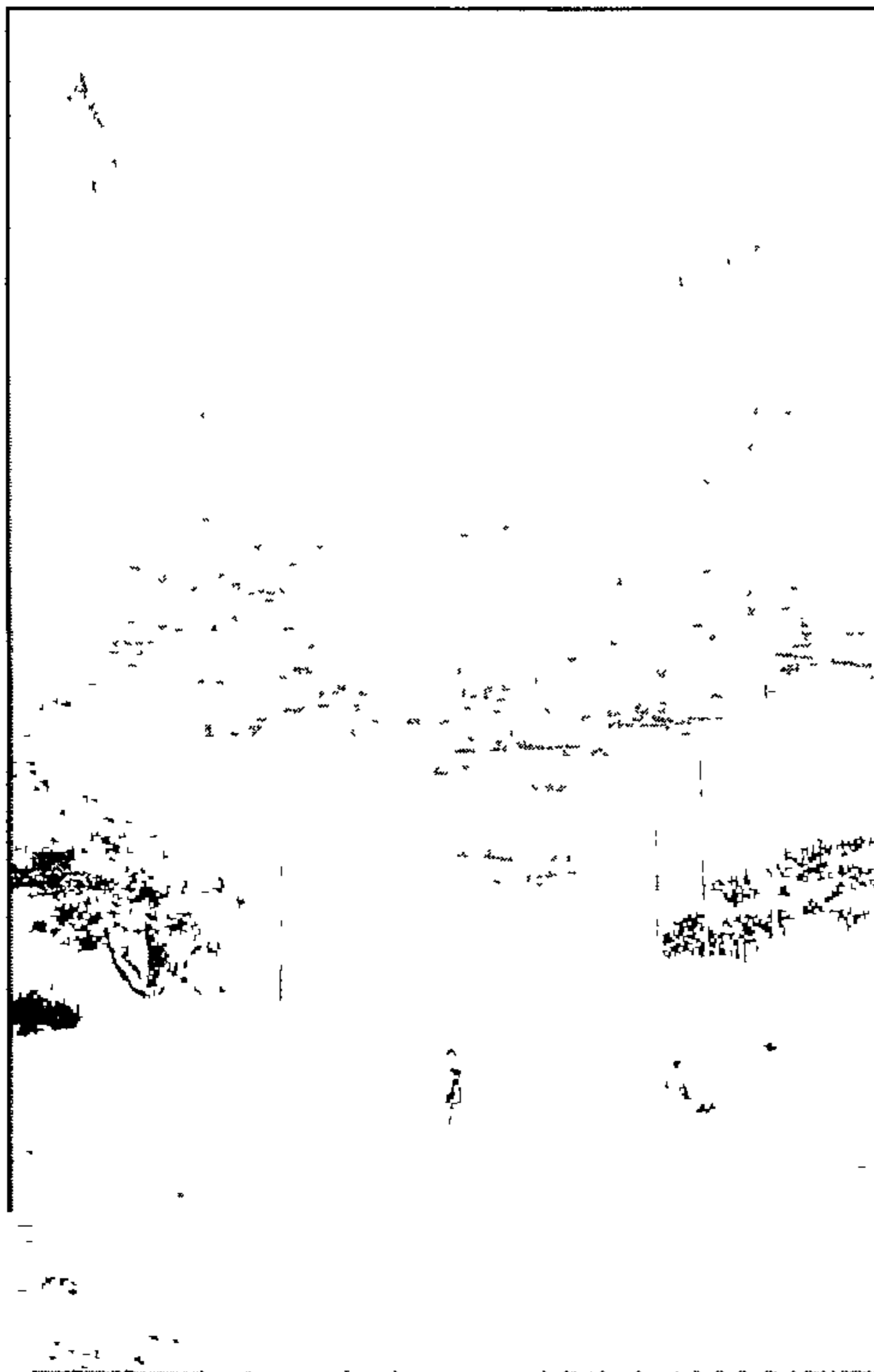
A 1992 paper, *The Rural Development Crisis* by Len Abrams, now chief adviser to Water and Forestry Affairs Minister Kader Asmal, took the issue further. “Tribal institutions have been unable to provide the services which the community aspires to and feel threatened when the community embarks on its own process of provision”

But perhaps the most telling description of change came from an old Mafefe resident. “What must we do? We are tired of the constant struggle out here in the bundu. We respect the chief, but we also wish for the same freedoms you have in the city”

Few living in the area would go on record and pinpoint any faults or problems in their kgosi, preferring to remain anonymous for fear of retribution

Local councillor and ANC member Sam Sefela said traditional leaders throughout the Northern Province were worried, not just by development organisations, but by the emergence of local councils. “They are crying out for their power, hanging on to it as they see their status and their source of income waning”

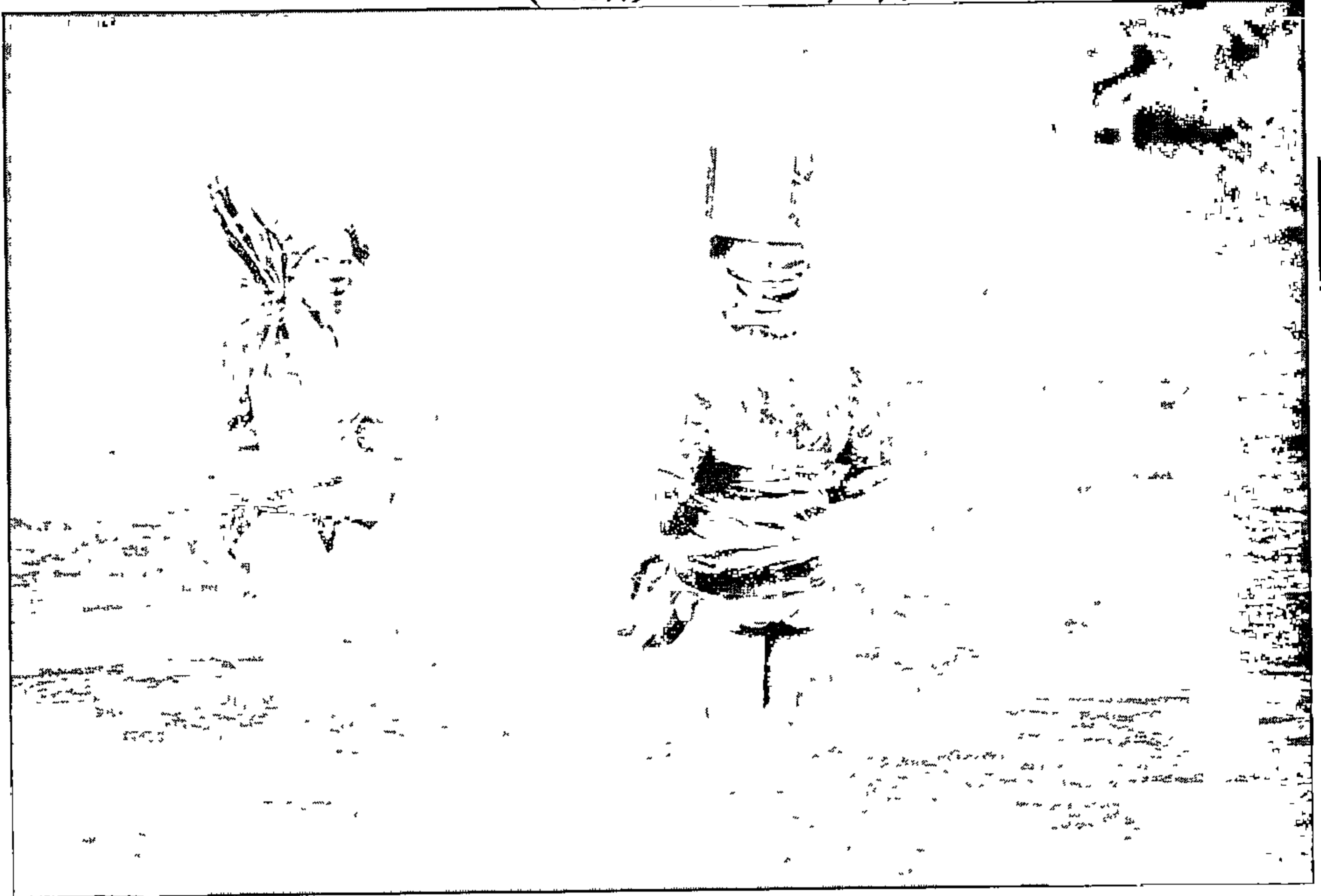
“The essential difference between the councils and the chief is that we are fireable and the chief is not. This forces us to be ever scrupulous in all our actions,” said Mr Sefela



MAFEFE'S MOODY LIGHT A schoolgirl walks home through the shifting light in one of the villages that makes up the rural Mafefe area in the hills of the Northern Province

for Mafefe's Kgos

(266A) ARG 28/3/96



But Mr Holomisa, who is also an ANC MP, said rural communities had not been consulted on how local government elections should be run "The outcome is that there is no definition of the roles to be played by traditional leaders now that councillors have been elected"

In Mafefe though, communication between the two groupings has clearly broken down "We are not yet ready to meet on equal terms," said a councillor who preferred to remain anonymous

Outright rejection of the kgosi is rare An interview with Mafefe deputy kgosi George Thobejane was revealing for its demonstration of the royal house's continuing authority

A woman, who arrived at the royal office after waiting several hours for her hearing, shuffled on her knees to the deputy kgosi's desk and head bowed, produced a letter to be signed

On completion, she turned and shuffled back out in a show of absolute humility and

respect

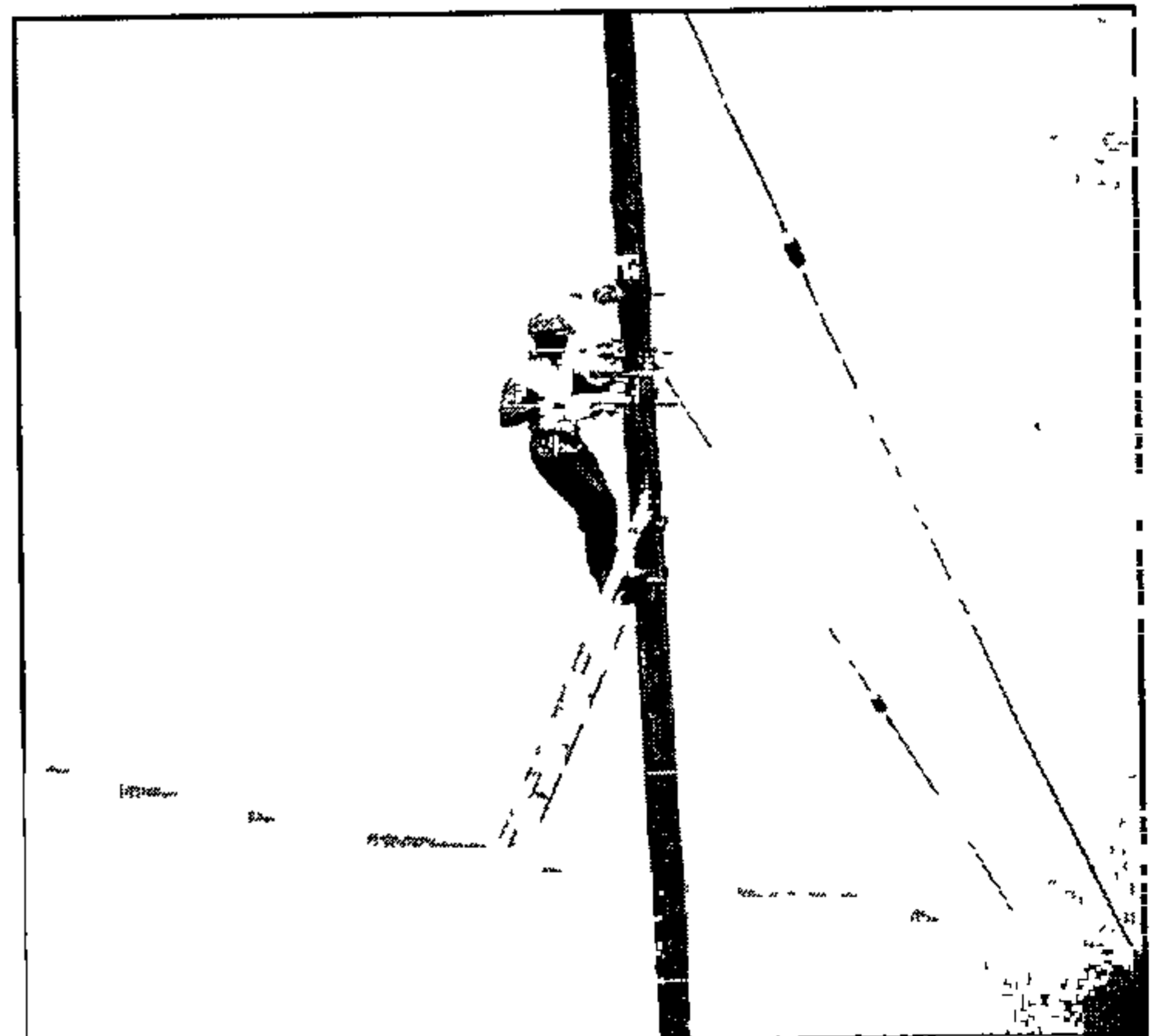
Mr Thobejane painted an ambiguous picture of Mafefe when he said the local councillors worked hand in hand with traditional structures, and then added that rural areas had not experienced the level of change undergone in the metropolitan areas

"Here change is gradual We still have the respect for one another that sees young men helping a drunken man from the ground instead of robbing him," said Mr Thobejane through a translator

But the impact of the local government elections cannot be denied All the kgosi's privileges and sources of power have been brought into question

And yet perhaps no amount of democracy can justify the end to a line of leaders that can be traced back to the great paramount Sekhukhune, who ruled over one of the most powerful independent polities in the region, before its destruction in the 1870s

WASHER WOMEN: No-one in Mafefe has running water in their house, so each day groups of women set off to do their washing in the nearby rivers



BYE BYE PARAFFIN: Eskom has moved into the area and, with the help of local labour, has begun to bring much-needed electricity to the community

Cabinet shake-up in N. Cape

(266A) Star 23/4/96

BY JOVIAL RANTAO

Northern Cape Premier Manne Dipico has become the third provincial leader to reshuffle his cabinet "in the interest of good government"

Nature conservation, environmental affairs and tourism has been created as a new portfolio, with an NP MEC still to be named

The premier has added science and technology to the portfolio of the Freedom Front's Prof Jozef Henning and combined finance and economic affairs under G Akhraway, a new MEC who has replaced Jan Brazelle

Dipico said the changes were geared towards introducing greater efficiency and effectiveness in government

He called for departments and officials to develop integrated business plans that were realistic, achievable and sustainable

"All the plans must fit together in a holistic approach, there must be interlinkages across departments. The plans must emphasise our provincial priorities"

He said the plans should ensure that provincial personnel had the skills to deliver services to the public and support programmes such as affirmative action.

Northern Province premier announces cabinet reshuffle

BD 15/5/96 (266A)

Ingrid Salgado

NORTHERN Province premier Ngoko Ramathlodi announced a shake-up of his provincial cabinet yesterday in a bid to consolidate government as the end of the transitional period in the province approaches.

In another move, Ramathlodi said five commissions addressing traditional affairs, the RDP, women, youth and administration and constitutional affairs would be abolished.

Some of these functions would become cabinet positions, affecting four of the province's nine ANC members of the executive council.

Former environment and tourism regional minister Maris-Stella Mabitje-Sexwale would assume responsibility for housing and water affairs, while economic affairs minister Thaba Mufamadi would head trade, industry and tourism.

John Dombo becomes local government and traditional affairs minister, losing housing to Mabitje-Sexwale and land to Tienie Burgers. The latter would be responsible also for agricul-

ture and environmental affairs. Ramathlodi said the RDP's central planning and co-ordination unit would remain in his office, while RDP projects would be implemented by line departments. His office would be reorganised and empowered to become "a centre of command and control".

The youth and women commissions would be reconstituted in line with national legislation. By July, the province would start winding up transitional arrangements in order to usher in more stable organs of government.

Northern Province's rationalisation process was complete after integration of government services in the former Lebowa and Venda bantustans, which had collapsed at the time of provincial elections two years ago.

Ramathlodi's spokesman, Jack Mokobi, said about 6 000 public servants out of about 125 000 would be made redundant by rationalisation. They would be retrenched over the next three years or could take severance packages. Those made redundant included more than 50 senior managers from previous administrations.

Officials to face charges

sowetan 21/6/96
(266A)

By Khathu Mamalla

CRIMINAL charges will be pressed against government officials in the former Venda administration who were involved in corruption and maladministration between 1993 and 1995 which cost taxpayers more than R200 million

Northern Province spokesman Mr Jack Mokobi said once the investigations into the alleged misappropriation of funds had been completed, the dossier would be sent to the attorney general, who will decide on prosecution

'Massive corruption'

The auditor general's report into the former Venda administration reveals massive corruption which resulted in the state losing hundreds of millions of rands

Some of the findings of the report are

- A blank cheque book was stolen in February 1993 and fraudulent cheques to the value of R1 896 648 were presented to and paid by a bank,

- There is an unexplained difference of R117 million between the cashbook balance as shown in the general ledger and the balance reflected in the bank reconciliation from March 31 1995,

- No supporting documents are available for amounts of R35 510 989 on the bank adjustment account in respect of the paymaster-general account and further

amounts totalling R17 201 327, charged to the government, were referred back to the bank for investigation,

- Amounts received but not yet deposited at the time the account was closed amounted to R9 142 836,

- The bank adjustment account in respect of the revenue account amounted to a net credit of R12 648 132 This represents errors made by the bank or income not accounted for,

- Amounts recorded as payments to the central Government of R9 247 673 did not appear on bank statements, and

- Another cheque book was stolen and cheques to the value of R520 857 were fraudulently cashed

There were also instances where amounts on cheques had been altered and cashed

The auditor's report notes that unreconciled balances of R70 264 081 remained in the suspense accounts

Poor internal control

The report also says that "internal control was poor and the risk of fraudulent transactions was high"

"The issues raised in this report clearly indicate that there were fundamental shortcomings in the system of internal checking and control across the broad financial spectrum of the former Venda"

Groblersdal

Somehan 9/2/1996

Black areas surrounding Groblersdal will remain in Northern Province

By Khathu Mamalia

YOUR ENEMY'S ENEMY IS YOUR friend. This best describes the current dispute between Mpumalanga and Northern Province over Groblersdal and the surrounding black areas.

The Conservative Party town council has teamed up with a forum, consisting of mainly African National Congress supporters, to force the Northern Province government to leave Groblersdal in Mpumalanga and transfer the surrounding areas to Mpumalanga as well.

This alliance was formed when new provincial boundaries were drawn up in 1994. Groblersdal fell under Mpumalanga but all black areas surrounding the town were left in Northern Province.

Primary objective

The ANC in both provinces discussed the issue at several meetings and they agreed that Bushbuckridge, which was in Northern Province, should be incorporated into Mpumalanga in exchange for Groblersdal.

The ANC in Northern Province then passed a motion transferring Bushbuckridge to Mpumalanga, and the ANC in Mpumalanga passed a motion to transfer Groblersdal to Northern Province.

But the matter was complicated by the formation of the Eastern Transvaal Joint Forum Alliance early last year.

The primary objective of the forum was to campaign for the incorporation of Saauplats, Dlaulale, Tafelkop, Motetema, Leeuwfontein, Elandsdraal

Local ANC leaders who want our areas to remain in Northern Province are being marginalised

and Marble Hall into Mpumalanga.

Forum chairman Mr Legogoro Legaba, a prominent ANC member, said the forum passed a resolution that the black areas near Groblersdal should be transferred to Mpumalanga. "There will be no (local government) election in this area if we are not in Mpumalanga," said Legogoro, adding that the forum enjoyed the support of most people in the disputed areas.

He added that although the forum was not politically aligned, most of its members were ANC supporters.

Asked why he felt so passionate about being part of Mpumalanga, Legogoro replied "I am really tired of people asking me what is so special about Mpumalanga."

"They never answer me when I ask them what is so special about Northern Province. Historically, we are from Mpumalanga."

Legogoro denied that forum members were puppets of rightwingers who wanted to have local government elections postponed indefinitely so that Groblersdal could continue to be governed by a whites-only council.

"We are not being used by anybody. We want to be in Mpumalanga



Senator Sam Motsuenyane ... it is too early to say what will happen to the disputed areas.

with Groblersdal, so the question of trying to make the town a *volksstaat* therefore falls away," he said.

These sentiments were echoed by forum general secretary Mr Leonard Malatsi. He said people had resolved to be incorporated into Mpumalanga after the general elections in 1994.

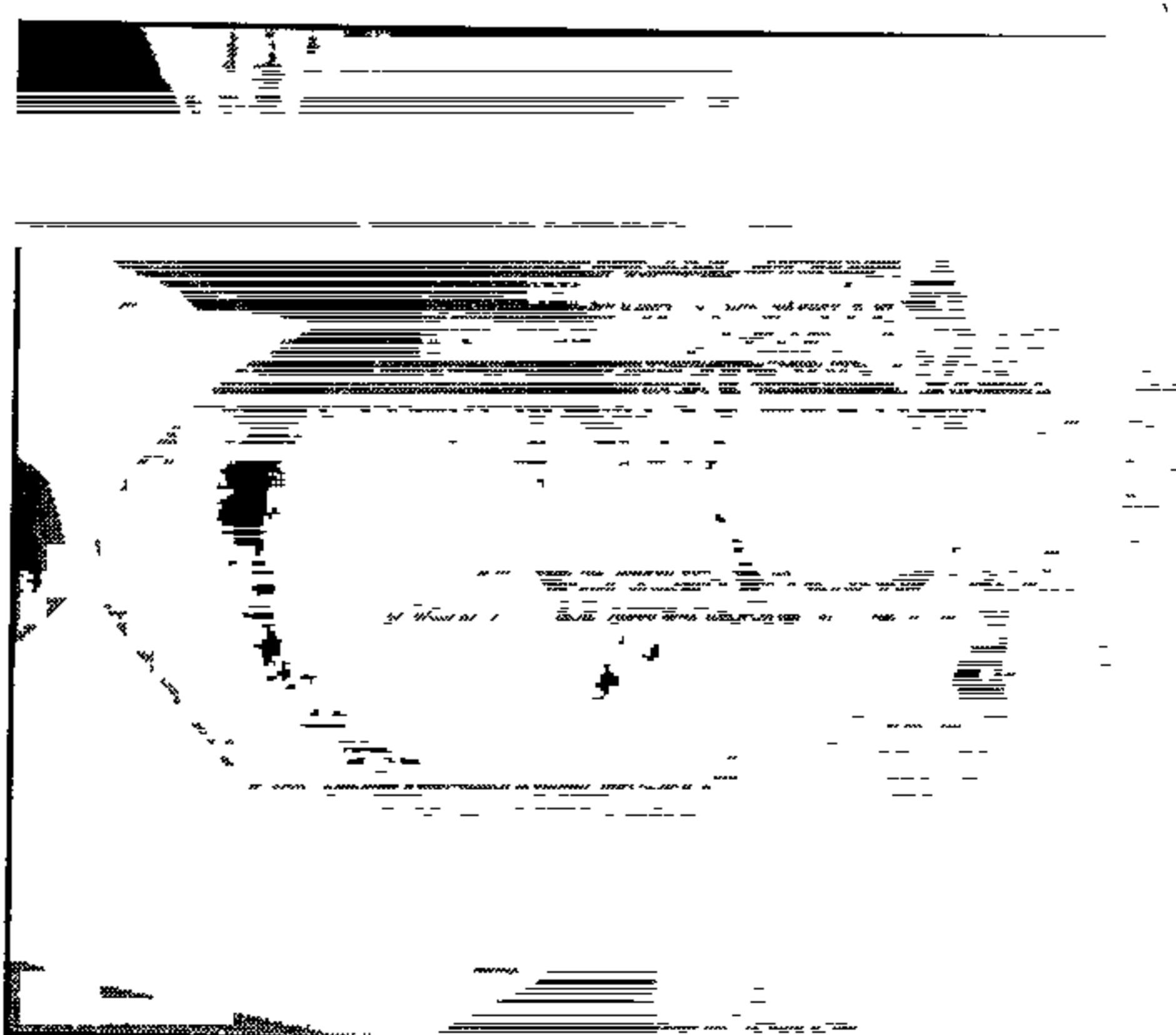
Community guidance

"The bottom line is that we want to be in Mpumalanga," he said, adding that forum members were ready to hold an election as long as it was administered by the Mpumalanga government.

Malatsi said he was a strong supporter of the ANC but on "this matter I am guided by my community."

He said the dispute had brought together different organisations, and that some of those who supported the pro-Mpumalanga forum were members of the National Party.

"It is just a coincidence that the Boers in Groblersdal also want to remain in Mpumalanga. Local ANC leaders who want our areas to remain



Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa ... the Eastern Transvaal Joint Forum Alliance wants several areas incorporated into his province.

in the Northern Province are being marginalised because they are going against the wishes of the community."

He said people were increasingly becoming emotional and that violence could erupt.

"Northern Province has taken a tough line on this matter, saying our case is a non-starter. The Northern Province government should be democratic and listen to the people."

Groblersdal mayor Mr Willem Janse van Rensburg confirmed that his council wanted the town to remain in Mpumalanga.

"We depend on the Loskop Dam in Mpumalanga. Some of our farms are in Mpumalanga and our social lives, churches and sports are linked with Mpumalanga," he said.

"We want to remain in Mpumalanga and should anybody force us into Northern Province, we will fight him in court."

He also supported the forum's demand that surrounding black areas be part of Mpumalanga. "We are not

racists. And we do want elections for a new local government to be held."

However, ANC Eastern Region secretary Mr Patrick Lekgoro believes that the aim of the forum was to confuse people.

Support decision

If there were forum members who claimed to be ANC members, he said, they should support the decision taken by the provincial leadership of the ANC.

"The dispute was about Groblersdal - not the black areas. Those areas are in Northern Province and they will remain in that province," said Lekgoro.

He said forum members did not have any reason to want their areas to be transferred to Mpumalanga - except that their grandparents' graves were in Mpumalanga.

Recently senators, led by Dr Sam Motsuenyane, visited the disputed areas. He said it was too early to give an indication of what would happen to these

R33-m plan 'not authorised'

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Province government is building luxury houses costing R33-million for members of the provincial legislature in a scheme that has not been authorised by either the tender board or the provincial cabinet, according to an investigation conducted by the Sowetan.

The construction of 33 houses, which began in January, has sharply divided the provincial cabinet - with those opposing the

scheme being branded as dissidents - and the tender board is now under increasing pressure to approve the project.

Although Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi has apparently given the go-ahead, the legislature, the ANC parliamentary caucus and ANC provincial executive have been left in the dark.

The ANC was briefed two weeks ago, but shot the project down because it felt that houses could be acquired for the MPLs at more reasonable prices.

(266A) Star 23/8/96

Mokaba as province premier?

By Khathu Mamaila

CONTRARY to popular belief, the appointment of former ANC youth league firebrand Mr Peter Mokaba as deputy minister of environmental affairs and tourism did not bring the power struggle for the premiership of Northern Province to an end.

In fact, said an ANC official, Mokaba was a stabilising factor in the intense and clandestine struggle for power. Almost all senior ANC officials in the province rallied behind premier Mr Ngoako Ramathodi as they believed that Mokaba was not an option.

"It was not that all these officials liked Ramathodi but they disliked Mokaba even more," said the official.

It is an open secret that Mokaba had been organising to become premier of Northern Province. Tension between Ramathodi and Mokaba reached a climax last year when Mokaba wrote to Ramathodi arguing that he was not to blame that there were people who preferred him as the premier.

Now that Mokaba has a job in the national Government, the battle lines for the top position are said to be clearly drawn. According to ANC insiders, three people have been campaigning for the provincial chairmanship of the ANC.

They are Ramathodi, who will obviously want to retain the position, ANC deputy chairman in the province Dr Joe Phaahla and provincial secretary Mr Collins Chabane.

Despite strong speculation that Chabane is still campaigning for the chairmanship of the province, he told *Sowetan* that he would not stand for elections during the ANC provincial congress in December.

"I will not stand for elections at the next congress. I am very busy in Cape Town," said Chabane, who is a member of Parliament.

However, he said it was still too early to talk about elections as the congress would only take place in December.

Sources say Ramathodi is apparently pitched against Phaahla in the fight for the chairmanship of the province.

In an interview with *Sowetan*, Phaahla said every member of the ANC had a right to stand for any office.

"In the past during the times of repression, by being elected into a leadership position you accepted a life of detentions or, even worse, assassination.

Swords drawn in contest for Northern Province ANC chair

(266A)

When a contest for positions gets interpreted to mean a power struggle, then we will start to move closer to autocracy

Rosemary
26/8/96

stability of being appointed into various government positions from mayor to premier and even president of South Africa.

"This change has obviously brought in new tensions in the contest for positions in ANC structures at all levels. It is my belief that it will be dangerous for the ANC to allow these new tensions to derail the principle of democracy within the organisation.

"If we allow perceptions that by contesting elections at whatever level of the organisation, comrades will be challenging individuals who hold such positions either in the ANC or the Government, and if we see that as a power struggle, we run the risk of stifling the ANC and robbing the organisation of exploring all available talent.

Not someone's possession

"When a contest for positions at regular elections gets interpreted to mean a power struggle, then we will start to move closer to autocracy. No position in the ANC or in Government should be seen as someone else's possession," Phaahla said.

However, he said "I do not consider myself to be available for the chairmanship of the province, at least until such time that I am sure the department of health and welfare is on a firm foundation."

He argued that the allegation that he wanted to be premier was just a smokescreen, adding that the real issue was his rejection of the multi-million rand project to build houses for members of the legislature.

According to information at our disposal, the public works department approached a

The developer drew the plan, which has 33 houses at the cost of R33 million, and the department accepted his proposal.

According to the developer, no formal contract had been entered into when construction of the houses started in January this year. The project could be completed within two months.

Only a few top government officials knew about the project which was kept away from the cabinet and the legislature.

The Tender Board has been under increasing pressure to approve an existing project. When the matter was finally discussed in cabinet, sharp division came to the fore with those opposing the project branded as dissidents.

Sowetan has learnt that senior government officials have been given strict instructions to remain tight-lipped about the project.

Although the government has denied that it commissioned the developer to undertake the R33 million project, which is known as parliamentary village, saying the developer started the project at his own risk, sources within government are adamant that he has been given a guarantee that the government will buy the complex.

Reacting to a *Sowetan* report which said Ramathodi apparently approved the project, director general Mr John Malatjie said: "I wish to make a categorical denial that the premier gave the go ahead on this issue." And while ANC officials in the province



Northern Province premier Mr Ngoako Ramathodi.

Province to build and save on rent

Kevin O'Grady

BD 27/8/96
(266A)

THE Northern Province government yesterday hit back at criticism of its handling of the building of a new government complex in Pietersburg by property owners and business, who say they stand to lose R15m a year government is paying in rent

The SA Property Owners' Association and chamber of commerce in the province said on Sunday the cost of the complex had ballooned from R160m at inception to R400m on its completion in two years time, Sapa reported.

Government spokesman Jack Mokobi said yesterday he did not have the figures available to comment on the cost of the project.

"Business has an interest in these matters which sometimes clouds their judgment. At the moment government is occupying and renting offices which belong to members of the SA Property Owners' Association," he said

"They're making a very big killing — about R15m a year — at the moment and it will be more beneficial to the taxpayer to build our own buildings," he said.

The new government complex would include offices, meeting halls and a legislative chamber "so we don't have to go and squat in the city council building any more", Mokobi said.

R400m burden on Gauteng's budget

BD 27/8/96

(266) (266)

Ingrid Salgado

THE Gauteng health department could face a R400m shortfall at the end of the 1996/7 financial year if three neighbouring provinces fail to transfer this amount for health services arising from interprovincial patient flows

Gauteng finance and economic affairs MEC Jabu Moleketi said Mpumalanga, Northwest and Northern Province had not yet paid up despite an agreement at the end of last year.

In terms of the agreement, the provinces were to have paid Gauteng about R200m in both 1995/6 and 1996/7 to compensate for health services rendered. This was because provincial health budgets were based on provincial population figures

A study last year found that Mpumalanga cost Gauteng R58m in referrals in the last fiscal year, Northwest R80m and Northern Province R46m

Gauteng health deputy director-general Eric Buch said yesterday that provincial and national health officials agreed at a recent meeting that Gauteng would be compensated for patients who were formally referred to Gauteng hospitals for secondary level care. The national department would facilitate resolution of the matter.

The delay in transferring the funds had not held up Gauteng spending on provincial programmes since expenditure was based on the assumption that the money would be forthcoming.

Mpumalanga government officials said yesterday the province would not transfer the funds. Gauteng should budget for patients across its borders because SA was one country, Premier Mathews Phosa's spokesman Oupa Pilane said. Mpumalanga, which treated many illegal immigrants from Mozambique, did not request funds from the Mozambican government

Northern Province said it would pay only if Gauteng could produce accounts for patients using Gauteng hospitals. "We can't just transfer an arbitrary amount," Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi's spokesman Jack Mokobi said.

Gauteng finance head Roland Hunter disputed the Mpumalanga government's argument Provincial health budgets were based largely on the population base of provinces and not on the number of patients, he said.

Gauteng was effectively paying for health services that exceeded its population base. Ga Rankuwa Hospital — where 80% of patients were non-Gauteng residents — presented a R300m burden on Gauteng's health budget.

Bank sets aside R93m for province

Pearl Sebolao

BD 30/8/96

(266A) (58)

THE Development Bank of Southern Africa announced yesterday that a minimum of R93m would be disbursed to the Northern Province for, among other things, bulk and connector infrastructure in urban and rural areas this financial year, said the province's premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi.

Bank CEO Ian Goldin discussed the bank's development support, whose investment in the province extends to R1,1bn.

These include a network of spinal roads radiating to the north, south, east and west of the

province such as Witvlag, Marite-Oakley and Dendron-Bochum, amounting to R291m and water projects totalling R192m.

The projects have greatly increased access for the population and also stimulated economic activity in the province. Small farmers have also benefited from bank loans exceeding R200m.

Goldin also stressed the need for a targeted development support programme to reduce severe infrastructure backlogs experienced by the province.

This support programme would, Goldin said, focus on areas which are core bank activities.

Handwritten signature: U. Sebolao

Committee told of 'lost' R452-m

(266ff)

sowetan
14/10/96

By Khathu Mamaila

MORE THAN R452 MILLION was not accounted for by the former Lebowa homeland government, a committee hearing evidence on the maladministration in the former administrations of Northern Province, heard in Lebowakgomo on Friday.

The committee, led by Mr Mannie Kriel, heard startling revelations of gross financial irregularities. An amount of R452 162 463 million was reported as not having been accounted for in the books.

The mismanagement occurred over a long period. Some of the revelations are:

- More than R2,1 million was

Mismanagement led to gross financial irregularities in former administration

spent to purchase 19 cars for politicians of the former homeland without tender board approval,

- The health department exceeded its 1991-92 budget by more than R33 million while it had exceeded the previous financial year's budget by more than R16 million,

- During the 1993-94 financial year, an unauthorised expenditure amounting to R900 000, resulting from an irregular contract entered into by the department of home affairs, was incurred,

- As of March this year, more than

R19 million was owed to the government in unpaid bursary funds,

- Illegal and self-promotions cost the state in the region of R80 million in 1993. Although some of the promotions have been reversed, the government was still trying to recover money paid to the officials resulting from the irregular promotions,

- A total of R341 973 was spent to provide civil servants with free transport between their homes and their places of work during 1991-92, and

- Loans to tribal authorities of more than R5,2 million were outstanding

Development to boost Nelspruit's economy

By CLYDE JOHNSON

The establishment of a R226-million development in Nelspruit represents a major vote of confidence in the growth potential of this rapidly developing Lowveld town and the strategic importance of the Maputo Corridor

That was the message from

Colliers RMS managing director Patrick Flanagan at a leasing launch last week.

The 40 000sq m Riverside Mall, which comprises a shopping centre, office park, industrial development and a residential component, will create direct employment and stimulate local business

The shopping centre will in-

clude retail facilities anchored by national retailers, a major entertainment component, a 120-bed luxury Southern Sun hotel and parking for 2 500 cars

Flanagan said the mall, east of the main Nelspruit/White River road, would form a link between the residents of greater Nelspruit and areas such as Ka Nymazane

Province's R339m bill sparks row

(266A)

By ELIAS MALULEKE

ST 20/10/96

THE Northern Province government intends to press ahead with plans to build new parliamentary offices in Pietersburg to the tune of about R339-million, despite mounting opposition

Opponents of the plan, who claim it is a waste of taxpayers' money, say the government should use three existing parliamentary buildings which belonged to the former Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda governments

The now-unused buildings — in Giyani, Lebowakgomo and Thohoyandou — cost more than R300-million to build

Critics of the plan say the government has been unable to satisfy the needs of the province's people and the RDP has not delivered

One opponent says the province should rather use the money destined for the new building on housing and the delivery of essential services

However, the provincial MEC for finance, Edgar Mushwana, says the government is spending a lot of money on renting premises in Pietersburg, the administrative capital

"To attract business, the government's administrative offices must be near the city and Giyani, Lebowa and Thohoyandou cannot satisfy the needs of the international big business and political figures who are pouring into the province," he says

"The fragmentation of government departments has caused many problems because there is no easy access to records and communication between various departments is terrible

"Our aim is to streamline them into a manageable structure and to save on administrative costs"

Mushwana says the R339-million will be spent at a rate of R110-million a year, but the province stands to benefit in the long term

The former parliamentary buildings will be used by the government's sub-regional offices, as well as by local councils and other government structures, he says

Showdown in Northern Province

CP 20/10/96

(266A)

By ROCKY MOKOENA

SPARKS ARE expected to fly when the African National Congress in the Northern Province elects its new chief at its annual conference on December 5 to 8

A source within the ANC told City Press ANC structures in the province were divided about who should take the leadership.

The contest so far is between current incumbent and provincial premier Ngoako Ramathodi and deputy minister of environmental affairs Peter Mokaba

The ANC Youth League favours Mokaba and is expected to endorse him at their provincial congress on November 29 to 30, while the Women's League supports Ramathodi.

The Youth League's support for Mokaba is said to enjoy the backing of the province's four most powerful regions, Central, West, Eastern and North Eastern

Youth League chairman Joe Maswangam said even if Ramathodi was ousted as provincial leader, he would remain premier until the end of his term.

The source said Mokaba was not favoured by the Women's League because of his militant speeches. He said it was feared that if Mokaba was elected it might bring tension between blacks and rightwingers in the province.

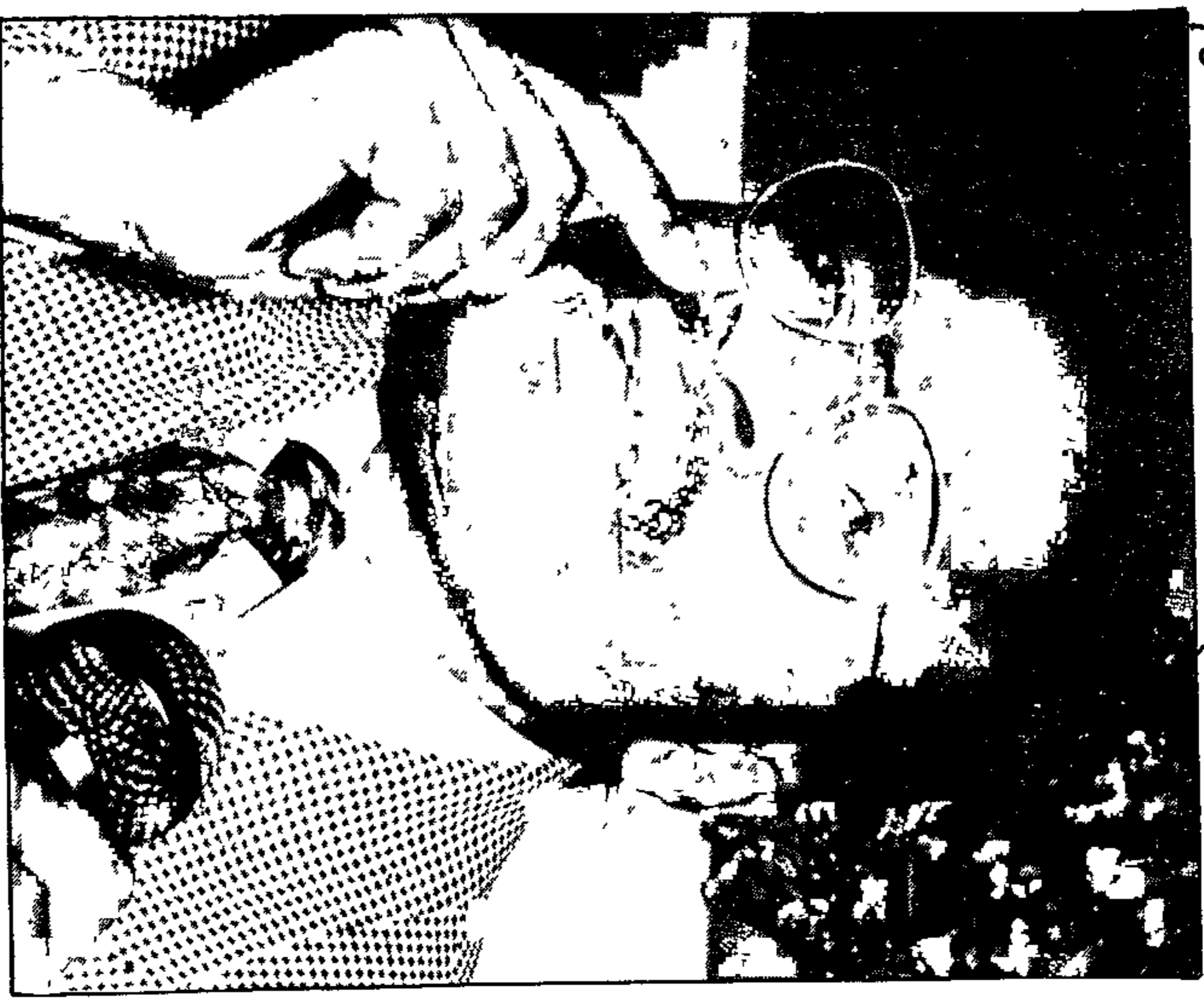
Women's League chairwoman Hunadi Mateme said the league



BACKED BY THE YOUTH. Firebrand Peter Mokaba.

had no problem with the present provincial chairman and would support him

The Women's League would also nominate Dikeledi Magazi as



HOLDING ANC REINS Premier Ngoako Ramathodi

the youth league and some ANC structures and may be replaced by Senator Collins Chabane, while Benny Boshelo is vying for the position of general secretary

ANC spokesman Ian Madikoto said the full list of candidates vying for provincial office would be made available just before the December conference

Probe into misused funds

By ROCKY MOKOENA

Northern Premier to face questions

NORTHERN Province legislature members, including Premier Ngoako Ramathodi, will be questioned by an independent inquiry probing the alleged misappropriation of millions of rands in the province.

The commission was set up by Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Peter Mokaba, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and Premier Ngoako Ramathodi following allegations of corruption in the province.

Mokaba and Mufamadi visited the province after an outcry by members of the government, the private sector and others, of corruption in the province.

The independent inquiry will be led by advocate IAM Semanya, a member of the Johannesburg Bar

Supporting him will be accountant J Sithole and D Moshapalo, the deputy chairperson of the Gauteng Tender Board.

The inquiry is expected to start in the third week of November and is expected to complete its investigation by the end of the year.

The inquiry will investigate all the government departments from May 1994.

MEC for finance Edgar Moshwane said the inquiry would involve all members of the provincial government on their transactions, the buying of properties, use of facilities and how their budget was managed.

"This inquiry was not initiated to target individuals, but to give an account to the taxpayers about what is happening in the government. The inquiry is part of the drive for transparency in government, and for government officials

to be accountable," said Moshwane.

Those to be investigated include MEC for local government and housing John Dombu, who is alleged to have led the misuse of millions of rands during the local government elections.

Dombu is also to be investigated on the allocation for the building of houses in Potgietersrus.

Former commissioner of the Reconstruction and Development Programme David Nkoana is also to be investigated on the projects that allegedly failed to materialise during his heading of the RDP.

Nkoana is alleged to have not initiated a single project since he took office, and on several occasions failed to account for the funds that were budgeted for the projects in the province.

It is said the premier failed to act against him when asked by the members of legislature to do so

More than R5 million is said to be missing from the RDP offices before those offices were shifted to the office of the Premier.

Nkoana is also to account for the management of the Northern District Council.

MEC for education Aaron Moisoledi will also be probed on the purchase of computers that were found in a storeroom — unused, and without the approval of the government.

The computers are alleged to have cost the government more than R15 million.

He is also to be questioned on the alleged missing funds allocated to the building of schools in the province.

MEC for Safety and Security Seth Ntsha is alleged to have paid a developer R18 million for a project that was granted a budget of R9 million.

Others to be probed are MEC for water affairs Marie-Stella Mabuye for the projects that never took place to supply the rural com-

munities with fresh water.

Also to be investigated is commissioner of youth Casel Mahhale on the funds allocated for the June 16 anniversary at Pietersburg stadium.

Ramathodi will also have to account for some projects that were initiated without the approval of the legislature.

This includes the building of a parliamentary village that cost taxpayers more than R33 million.

It is alleged that the project tenders were given to one tender and did not consider the economic empowerment of blacks.

Ramathodi is to be probed on the functions he allegedly funded to fight against his opponents — "MEC for health Joe Phaahla and ANC provincial secretary Collins Chabane.

The premier is alleged to have used funds in canvassing for support, and at one stage negotiated with Chabane, promising him a seat in the provincial legislature if he won at the coming conference



ACCOUNTABLE Premier Ngoako Ramathodi will also be investigated

Defiant ANC chooses outsider

ST 8/12/96 (266A)

By CAROL PATON

THE Premier of the Northern Province, Ngoako Ramatlhodi, has lost his position as chairman of the ANC in the province despite attempts by President Nelson Mandela to ensure he would be unopposed.

Ramatlhodi lost the election to George Mashamba, an ANC senator, who was nominated from the floor shortly before voting began at the party's provincial conference yesterday morning.

However, in the days leading to the conference, both the Deputy Minister of Tourism and the Environment, Peter Mokaba, and provincial minister of health Joe Phaahla were persuaded not to stand for the position of chairman.

Mokaba's eleventh-hour decision yesterday to withdraw from the race followed an intervention by Mandela.

At a meeting called by Mandela in Pretoria on Wednesday it was agreed that, for the sake of ANC unity, it would be preferable if Ramatlhodi's position as provincial chairman went uncontested.

The meeting was attended by Mandela, the top five ANC provincial leaders, the leaders of the youth and women's leagues and Mokaba, the Deputy Minister of Tourism.

Sources in the Northern Province said Mokaba was asked to withdraw his candidacy.

But Collins Chabane, the regional secretary, said no names had been mentioned when the issue of leadership was discussed with the President.

Many delegates at the ANC provincial conference yesterday were unhappy with the decision.

Some said Mandela had underestimated the extent of popular dissatisfaction with Ramatlhodi.

N Province defies party chiefs to oust Ramatlhodi

(266A)

BY JUSTICE MALALA
Provincial Correspondent

Tzaneen - Northern Province premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi has lost his position as ANC provincial chairman by two votes to a little-known senator, in a poll that defied the strategy of the party's national leaders who wanted Ramatlhodi returned unopposed.

One of the last-minute withdrawals was deputy tourism minister Peter Mokaba, apparently after talks with President Mandela. But the surprise winner on Saturday night at the regional conference was 11th-hour entrant George Mashamba, who won by 352 votes to Ramatlhodi's 350.

Ramatlhodi will now become the only ANC premier who is not a provincial chairman, raising concerns of a Free State situation developing in which Patrick Lekota's

Star 9/12/96

National directive disregarded

position as premier was weakened by not being chairman. Lekota and his rivals were finally all asked to resign their portfolios by the ANC leadership.

However, the two top men in the north pledged yesterday to work together with Mashamba warning "silly people out there" that the organisation would speak with one voice.

The leaders of the 10 Northern Province regions had agreed with three ANC national leaders on Thursday night that, for the sake of party unity, no one would be nominated to oppose Ramatlhodi.

The three leaders, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, MP Mavivi Manzini and SACP secretary-general Charles Nqakula, had apparently stressed that although anyone could stand for the position, "in the interest of party unity the other contestants should step down".

But after the regional leaders agreed to withdraw initial nomi-

Extent of opposition misjudged

nees - Deputy Environment and Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba, Health MEC Dr Joe Phaahla and MP Collins Chabane - branch members warned that they would not accept the decision.

On Friday night, the regional leaders met again and agreed to nominate Mashamba. Only two of the 10 regions decided that they would adhere to the national directive and nominate Ramatlhodi.

"The national leadership did not take into account the extent of opposition to Ngoako Ramatlhodi, they thought it would be easy to impose their will on the delegates," a provincial executive committee member said.

"But the membership spoke in the most definite way possible. There was no way they could play around with democracy like that."

The close race follows weeks of tensions which saw the President meeting Mokaba, Ramatlhodi, Chabane and Phaahla on Wednesday night to try to resolve the issue.

► New E Cape leadership

Heads to roll in Northern Province

ELIAS MALULEKE and DIRK NEL

Tycoon

fails to

answer

charges of

suspect

deals

A BUILDING for which the Northern Province government paid more than twice its value might have to be demolished because alterations made to it do not meet council specifications

Pietersburg city engineer Bertus Bierman said that plans submitted to the council by the developer, Greek tycoon Dimitri Kouroumbelides, were for a three-storey building, but another floor was added without approval

The provincial department of public works bought the building, which houses the provincial safety and security department, from Kouroumbelides last year for R18,6-million its true value is R8,1-million

The province also gave him a R40-million professional consulting fee for architectural work and planning for a new parliamentary complex, and bought a block of flats from him for R2-million more than its market value

On Thursday and Friday, Kouroumbelides failed to show up to give evidence to the Semeya commission, which is probing financial irregularities in the province

Instead he sent a letter to the commission chairman, Ishael Semeya, saying he would appear tomorrow

The Northern Province government has run up debts of millions of rands in unpaid rent

It is also providing free housing to employees on government property and in luxurious hotels at the

expense of taxpayers

But, despite its financial problems, the provincial government is going ahead with the parliamentary complex, which will eventually cost taxpayers more than R400-million

The complex will be built in Pietersburg — despite the fact that three parliamentary buildings which belonged to the former homeland governments of Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda are standing empty less than 250km away

The financial woes of Premier Ngako Ramathodi's government run far deeper than mere fiscal irresponsibility

It is, in fact, close to bankruptcy

Investigations have found that the government has been unable to pay the rent on its administrative offices and personnel accommodation since October

It owes the Moolman Group of property developers R1-million and has been unable to pay property owners Ellis Stroh Limited close to R800 000 in rent dating back to January

A leasing agent and property owner, Barry Stracher, said he was handed a cheque for R100 000 on Thursday after phoning Ramathodi, but was not sure the cheque would be honoured by the bank

A spokesman for the Moolman Group, Freda Maloney, said the provincial government had promised to settle its debt next week

She said her company had considered taking legal action, but had been assured the debt would be settled

The provincial director general, John Malati, confirmed that the government was experiencing "cash-flow" problems

He said it relied on monthly grants from the national government

He said the province had started experiencing financial problems last October, but other problems, such as a lack of manpower and the inter-

gration of a new computer network, had also delayed payments

This week the Semeya commission ploughed through a mountain of evidence in its probe into alleged improper land and property development deals in the Northern Province's public works, finance and expenditure, treasury and tender board departments

One thing was clear however — several heads are sure to roll

Malati said as much in his testimony before the commission — and he may decide not to wait for the commission's official findings before firing some senior officials

As well as uncovering the discrepancy between the value of the safety and security building and the price the government paid for it, the commission heard the following

● The R40-million payment to Kouroumbelides was made without a check being done on his legal status,

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WHAT A WASTE: The building the province paid more than double its value for may be demolished. Picture: NICKY DE BLOIS

(266A) ST 16/3/97

● The tender board's approval was obtained only after the payments had been made,

● Processes in respect of the complex continued, despite a provincial cabinet directive to halt all operations, and

● There was still no written agreement between the provincial government and a certain contractor when the first phase of a residential village for officials was completed

The project was halted, at the insistence of the premier and his cabinet

Meanwhile, National Party legislature member Burger Lategan claimed that he was refused access to any information regarding the parliamentary complex when he began to ask questions about it last year

He said he had raised the matter in the provincial legislature, but was given unsatisfactory answers by the MEC for public works, Dikledi Magadzzi

As a final resort, he had obtained an order in the High Court in Pretoria in-structing Ramathodi to supply the information

The premier had then appointed the Semeya commission to investigate all procedures followed in respect of the complex and other construction projects

The commission adjourned for two days this week to sift through documents and statements submitted by senior provincial officials

The hearings are scheduled to resume tomorrow morning

Both Malati and the head of the province's finance department, Arrie Badenhorst, are to be recalled for further questioning.

'You will misspend money'

Province rocked by new SA's biggest financial scandal

(266A)

RAY HARTLEY
Political Correspondent

THE Northern Province government of Premier Ngoako Ramatlodi is reeling after officials disclosed this week they had been ordered to misspend more than R100-million in the biggest financial scandal to rock the new South Africa.

Now knives are out for Ramatlodi, who was deposed as chairman of the ANC in the province late last year by George Mashamba.

This week's testimony before the Semanya commission in Pietersburg has revealed the true extent of the financial crisis in the province.

At the centre of the scandal has been a cabinet committee on accommodation appointed by Ramatlodi and chaired by the provincial finance MEC Edgar Mushwana.

It emerged in testimony before the commission this week that:

- The cabinet committee ordered Solly Nkuna, the chief director of the provincial treasury, to "shift" about R97-million intended for salaries to another budget item to fund a R348-million government complex not budgeted for.

- The finance department's computer system was unable to keep track of expenditure in the province and was "unable to do basic arithmetic", according to the public works finance director, Maleho Nkomo.

- Two cheques of R20-million each were paid to a consortium headed by Greek developer Dimitri Kourtoumbellides before the provincial tender board had approved the project.

- One of the cheques was ordered by the public works department on the same day Kourtoumbellides submitted his invoice in October and the other just 10 days later.

- A building was bought from Kourtoumbellides for twice its market value and without proper tender procedures being followed, and

- The provincial government earlier signed a lease for the same building at a rate higher than that paid for prime office space in the exclusive Sandton area.

R18-million deal probed

Property irregularities investigated in Northern Province

By Khathu Mamala

A BUILDING which was bought for R18,6 million to accommodate the Northern Province department of health and curry was investigated irregularities in the acquisition of property in the province heard yesterday.

Commission chairman M Semanya said the commission had employed an evaluator to determine the value of the building and they concluded that the building was worth only R8,1 million.

In his evidence, Northern Province director-general Mr John Malatji confirmed that no evaluation had been done before the building was bought. Malatji also admitted that the tender had not been approved by the purchase committee.

Asked where the money to pay for the building had come from, Malatji said MEC for finance Mr Edgar Mushwana, who is also head of the treasury, authorised that part of the R36 million sinking fund from the former Gazankulu homeland's administration be used to pay for the building.

The safety and security building was bought from developer Mr Dumetrios Kouroumbelides. The commission also found that R41 million was paid to Kouroumbelides and associates for the construction of a proposed government complex.

Malatji, who earlier denied that any money had been paid to Kouroumbelides, was shown an invoice detailing the payment of R41 million.

"I am seeing this invoice for the first time. If payment was made to Dumetrios that is news to me," Malatji said under cross-examination.

He said the tender board had refused to grant payment for any work done by Kouroumbelides and associates. He could not explain why a payment of R41 million had indeed been made to Kouroumbelides.

Comments on the payment, Semanya said, "Our difficulty is that we are in the position where the first back has not been paid but a vast amount of professional fees were paid."

The commission's hearing continues today.

(266A)

Semanya 5/3/97

Civil service ghost-busting taken in the right spirit

By HOPEWELL RADEBE

Provincial Reporter

(258) Star 20/3/97
(266A)

Public servants in Northern Province were standing in line in the corridors of their departments yesterday, holding identity documents in their hands to be physically counted

Provincial director-general John Malatji told The Star his department was counting the heads of all government employees to identify "ghost employees" believed to be drawing salaries from the Finance Department.

Malatji said it had taken them one-and-a-half years to file all public servants' particulars into the computer system

Now the department wanted to know those people who were still working

He said the last employee - a member of the Education Department - was filed on Tuesday

"Every staff member is now on the computer records of the system linked to the Pretoria Government file," Malatji said

They would no longer have the headache of going through the files physically when dealing with salary adjustments and leave and pension applications

He said they had contracted a computer company to install a system with a bigger capacity to handle payment of salaries because the existing one could not handle it

"We needed a new system to handle the records of pensioners and civil servants together," he added

Malatji said they would also be introducing an internal auditing system to help various departments identify maladministration, corruption and mismanaging of government funds

"We have heard people accused of corruption and it takes us a long time to get evidence because we lack an internal auditing system," said Malatji

This problem had resulted from a lack of trained personnel, especially on financial matters.

Malatji said most public servants, who were drawn from the former homelands of Venda, Gazankulu and Lebowa, did not have these skills

In order to address the problem they had commissioned a group of academics to draw up a curriculum that would empower people on personnel-management and other urgently needed skills, he said

Computer will help trace pay cheats

Disinfect

Building obsession denies citizens

(266A) Star 24/4/97

BY HOPEWELL RADEBE
Provincial Matters

Northern Province residents are still to taste the fruits of our young democracy

The provincial government is spending R372-million to construct a new parliamentary complex despite having inherited at least three complexes capable of housing the provincial legislature's 10 departments in the former homelands of Gazankulu, Lebowa and Venda

But instead of putting the existing buildings to use, the Northern Province government turned them into white elephants and moved the legislature to Pietersburg

Having chosen Pietersburg as its capital, it moved its legislature, officials and parliamentarians from Lebokwago, the capital of the former self-governing territory of Lebowa.

The government is spending R339-million on a new parliamentary complex and R33-million on a legislative village of 33 houses in Pietersburg

The Northern Province believed that by moving the legislature it was displaying its confidence in the city, and that that would entice potential investors to settle their headquarters there. But the city has no proper complex to host the government.

The city of Pietersburg jumped on the bandwagon, building office blocks that are in demand. The government pays R800 000 rent a month for departmental office blocks

At the moment, the government is going through the tendering procedure to appoint a construction company for its new complex

Members of the provincial legislature argue that the legislature and provincial administration departments should be situated where the economic machinery of the province is active, and that district administrations can use old homeland complexes. They overlook the fact that the homeland complexes are too large to be fully utilised by a district. For instance, legislative chambers will now stand empty. Ironically, this would seem to project the Northern Province as a rich province

If three districts have officials operating in buildings worthy of housing a provincial parliament, one wonders whether that means the province will lobby for the construction of more office buildings in the remaining districts

Before the 1994 elections, the ANC in the Northern Province promised to reduce the province's large army of civil servants. The creation of these districts goes against the ANC-led government's intention to do so.

The Northern Province is not the only one that has had to choose facilities to accommodate its legislature — the North West preferred to remain in Mafikeng. It uses the facilities built by former Bophuthatswana president Lucas Mangope, even though it also has towns with lucrative economic potential, like Rustenburg and Potchefstroom.

The Eastern Cape inherited the Transkei and Ciskei. It chose to unite King William's Town and Bisho to be twin capitals and settled the legislature in Bisho. The bottom line is that they are using what they have

The Northern Province's sacrifice, therefore, undermines the Reconstruction and Development Programme's spirit and denies its citizens a sense of belonging in the new South Africa. The new complex will do little to improve lives

The way in which other provinces have forgone parliamentary complexes in favour of attempts to improve basic service delivery to the people should be embarrassing to the Northern Province.

While its citizens are forced to survive more years in the developmental wilderness, the Northern Province's obsession with moving parliament leaves a bad taste

N Province moves legislature to Pietersburg

By HOPEWELL RADEBE
Provincial Reporter

The Northern Province government had decided to move the legislature to Pietersburg to avoid any tribal conflict if any of the three parliamentary complexes of former homelands had been chosen, Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi said in Johannesburg yesterday.

He added that tribalism was a sad reality his government could not ignore. Whenever the legislature tried to decide in which of the parliamentary complexes of the former Gazankulu, Venda and Lebowa homelands a provincial capital and legislature should be sited, the people of the "left-out" homelands accused it of being biased towards the tribe of that area, he said.

Star 1/5/97 (266A)
He said the government was planning to twin Pietersburg and Lebowakgomo, capital of the former Lebowa. Although Lebowakgomo was 40km away from Pietersburg, its facilities could accommodate many departmental offices. Twinning would also help cut the R372-million already set aside to build a new parliamentary complex and village for members of the legislature in Pietersburg.

"Our decision to move the legislature is seen as an unsound financial decision considering the level of poverty in our province, but it was a political necessity to avoid an potentially explosive situation," Ramatlhodi said.

He also said the province was fighting a losing battle against people hunting "witches". Campaigns to discourage this had had little success.

ANC councillor, 3 rioters shot by police

Star 2/5/97

(266A)

Bushbuckridge - At least four pro-Mpumalanga demonstrators, including an ANC councillor, were shot by police after a patrol vehicle was burnt by rioting residents in Bushbuckridge in Northern Province yesterday.

Bushbuckridge South councillor Doctor Sibuyi and three members of the crowd were taken to Matikwane Hospital and then transferred to a private hospital.

Sibuyi, who was shot in the head while addressing a crowd of about 2 000 demonstrators, was discharged after receiving treatment for a flesh wound. The three others were reportedly in serious

but stable condition.

Violence broke out when more than 10 000 protesters at Paulianah Stadium in Bushbuckridge's business district spilt into the streets after Constitutional Affairs Minister Mohammed Valli Moosa failed to arrive at a scheduled Workers' Day rally. Demonstrators had hoped Moosa would address their demands that the area be transferred from Northern Province to Mpumalanga.

Almost 40 000 residents supporting the transfer took part in scattered demonstrations in the area during the past week, police said. Yesterday they fired teargas

into Paulianah Stadium, sparking a militant response from youths in the crowd.

Chanting "Moosa, Moosa - liar, liar", the protesters left the stadium and began re-erecting barricades on the R40 linking Bushbuckridge with Nelspruit to the south and Mante to the north. Police dismantled the barricades on Wednesday. The Bushbuckridge border committee said residents had completely lost confidence in Moosa because of his "sloppy handling of the issue".

Police and army reinforcements were flown to Bushbuckridge on Wednesday. - Sapa.

Protest disrupts towns

(266A)

Sowetan 2/5/97

By Khathu Mamaila

POLICE and soldiers have been deployed in Bushbuckridge to restore law and order after angry protesters barricaded roads to pressure the Government into transferring their area from Northern Province to Mpumalanga.

The decision to embark on rolling mass action was taken at a meeting at Thulamahashe on Tuesday.

The protest has disrupted schooling, while shops in the towns have been closed. Workers have not been going to work since Tuesday.

Regional president of the South African National Civics Organisation Mr Krisjan Mokwena confirmed yesterday that police and soldiers were patrolling the area.

He said most of the roads had been opened, but the protesters, led by the border committee, had vowed to make the area ungovernable for the next two weeks.

Border committee

"The border committee wants Bushbuckridge to be incorporated into Mpumalanga.

"The community is sharply divided on the issue as some want to remain in Northern Province while others want to be part of Mpumalanga.

"Even members of the ANC are divided on the matter," said Mokwena, who is an executive member of the local branch of the African National Congress.

Members of the border committee have called for the withdrawal of police and soldiers from the area.

Mokwena said Sanco felt there was no need for people to fight over borders as both provinces were in the same country.

He said people had free movement to any of the provinces.

Mpumalanga government spokesman Mr Oupa Pilane said the dispute had been referred to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

Northern Province government spokesman Mr Kenny Mathivha said the matter was being dealt with by the national Government.

The Semenya commission recommends senior Northern Province officials should go. **Marion Edmunds** reports

Purge threat in Pietersburg

P. T. O

MTG 2-8/5/97

(266A)

THE initial report by the Semenya commission into financial irregularities in the Northern Province recommends a purge of senior officials — many of them close associates of Premier Ngoako Ramathodi. Senior African National Congress members in the province say the report — which Ramathodi this week decided to keep under wraps — “is heavy on senior officials” who may be fired as a result of the irregularities it exposes.

It is understood that one senior official in the firing line is the province’s principal accounting officer, Director General John Malapi. He was unavailable for comment at the time of going to press.

Several MECs also come in for criticism although it is thought unlikely that Ramathodi — mindful of his support base — will fire them.

The commission’s findings include dubious property deals, tender board irregularities and local landlords charging inflated rents to provincial government tenants.

The report also questions decisions taken by senior Public Works Department officials whose behaviour includes trying to allocate R95-million for a new government complex without budgeting for the expenditure. The expenditure was blocked by the legislature — a fact not immediately presented to the commission — but it also emerged



Ngoako Ramathodi: Keeping the Semenya report under wraps

or stuck by them and stand to be identified with corruption and incompetence.

Either way, Ramathodi would play into the hands of his opponents, who include ANC provincial chair George Mashamba, ANC dissident Barutu



George Mashamba: 'Publish the findings'

PHOTOGRAPHS RUTHMOTAU

Mandela has issued strict instructions that the ANC will not tolerate a repeat of the dissension which tore apart the organisation in the Free State last year.

amathodi has been coy about

Semenya is currently abroad. Ramathodi’s representative said the premier had sought legal advice on the meaning of the word “interim” to establish whether or not he had to make it public. Ramathodi’s hesitation may be in

“balkansation of the province” unless they were tactfully managed. The Semenya report will also have an impact on Ramathodi’s credibility as a “clean” leader in a poverty-stricken province, where expectations of delivery are extremely high.

pat to the prospective developer. Ramathodi will discuss the report with President Nelson Mandela this weekend. The final version of advocate Ismail Semanya's findings is due to be submitted at the end of the month.

The choice that Ramathodi faces is grim. He must either axe the guilty and so erode his own support base,

public servants in the province last week, and political parties such as the Azanian People's Organisation and the Pan Africanist Congress.

While Ramathodi and Mashamba profess to having good relations, political observers say the province's ANC is divided between the two and tensions between factions are building.

I stood to have been kept even from some of his MECs. At a midweek briefing he justified his stand, saying: "There are two sorts of interim reports: those that are published and those that are not."

He said that evidence may still be put before the commission which could alter its "tentative" findings.

the province's deep and entwined political and ethnic divisions. He has been accused of unfairly favouring the Pedis by appointing a Pedis-speaking director general, and subsequently of favouring Vendas in appointing senior public servants.

Ramathodi has said that such dynamics could lead to the possible

for the ANC in 1994, hoping for food, schools, clinics, water and houses. Ramathodi has already come under pressure after he lost his chairmanship of the provincial ANC to Mashamba last year — despite intervention by ANC headquarters.

Mashamba believes Semanya's findings so far should be published

Northern Province: Paradise for consultants

(266A) 114G 2-8/5/97

DESPITE employing 125 000 public servants, the Northern Province wants to set aside R790-million this year to pay for consultants and "special services".

The province's Premier, Ngoaka Ramathodi, said this week that its army of public officials had been "mostly trained to clerical level" and that the consultants were vital to ensure its administration works.

The province is burdened with public servants inherited from the former homeland administrations in Lebowa, Gazankulu and Venda and the old Transvaal Provincial Administration, and new, inexperienced officials.

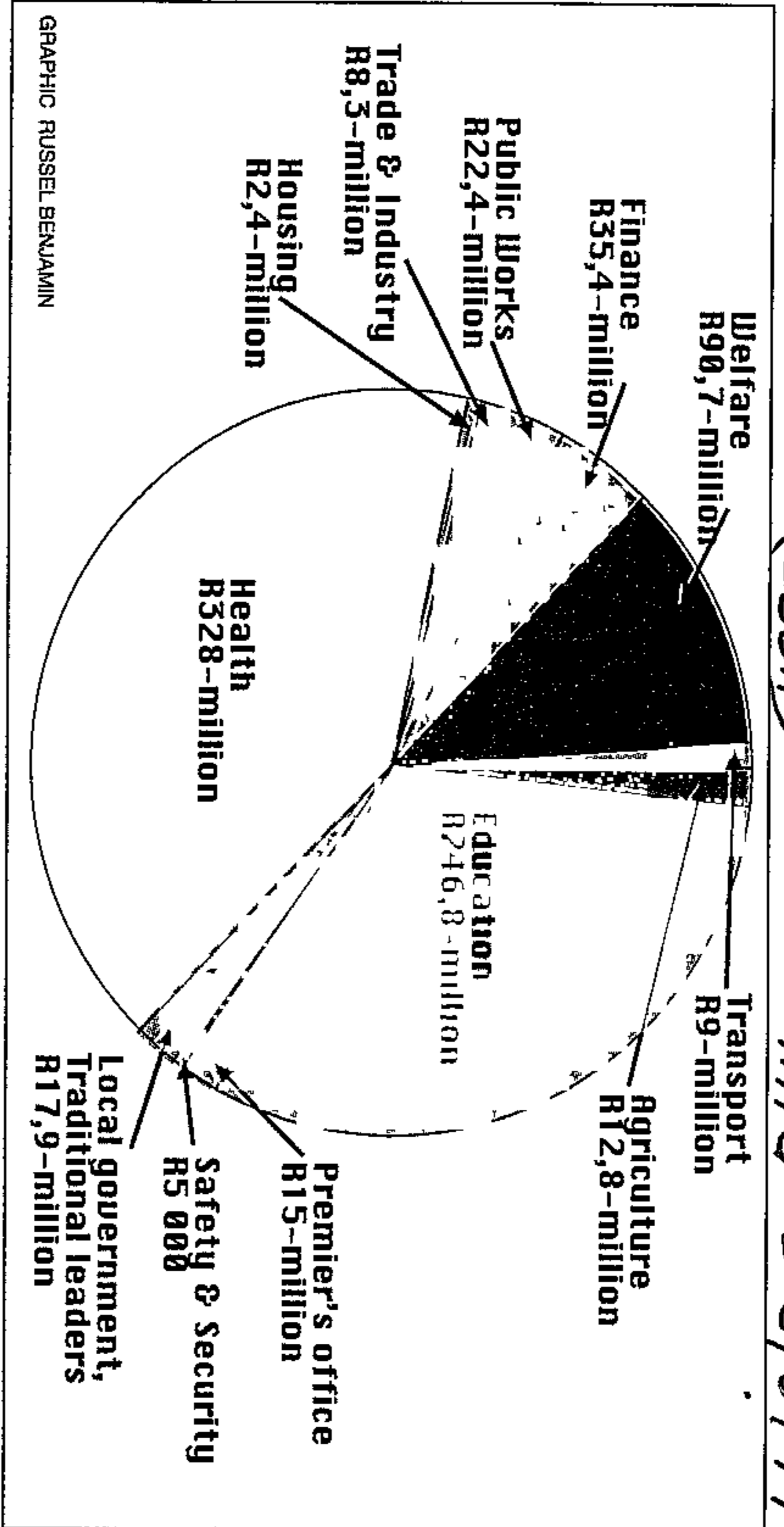
The total salary bill budgeted for 1997/98 is more than R6-billion. The Northern Province legislature still has to debate it.

Many of the officials have been housed in Pietersburg hotels and government flats for the past three years — at the taxpayers' expense.

The Northern Province has a population of five million, 90% of whom live in abject poverty. A public service job is highly prized.

Provisions in the interim Constitution, which still stand, make it impossible for the government to dismiss those they do not need.

"The first job you have to do is get your administration going because that is how you create yourself and for us, this act of creation is far more difficult and complex than in any of the other provinces," says Ramathodi.



GRAPHIC: RUSSEL BENJAMIN

"We are starting at the back of the queue and we are going to have to work doubly hard just to make up the difference between ourselves and other provinces."

There has been growing concern about the national government's use of consultants: the fears were underlined by Auditor General Henri Kluever in his annual report on government finances released in March.

Northern Province plans suggest Kluever may have merely scratched the surface. Kluever said this week he knew nothing about the province's

consultancy budget. The province's own auditor refused to comment.

The consultancy budget includes R15-million for Ramathodi's office, while the provincial Health Department has been allocated R328-million to spend on external advisers and special services. The Education Department has been assigned R246,8-million, the Welfare Department R90,7-million and the Agriculture Department R12,8-million.

Finance MEC Edgar Mushwana says the departments do not necessarily spend every cent on consultants.

"Education, I know, spends some of that money on books," he adds.

The consultants are needed, he says, because the public service is not up to the job. His own department has only just reconciled the accounts of the previous homelands' administrations — three years after officials began pawing through the books. External consultants had to be hired to complete the job.

Instead, the public service's main achievements appear to have been to over-run Pietersburg and push up property prices.

Mushwana divides the 125 000 public servants into four groups: the old guard, who complain about the government not sticking to its own rules; former homeland public servants, who are unproductive, malcontents, who want to pull everybody down with them; and "comrades", who are inexperienced but who want to get things done.

"We have no shortage of people who are prepared to work late hours and through the weekend without demanding overtime pay," he says. Ramathodi says the province also has to manage ethnic differences between Pedis, Tshongas, Vendas and Afrikaners within the service.

The province is unable to quantify the expense of housing its officials. But a double room at Pietersburg's Holiday Inn Garden Court — a favoured public servant's residence — costs anything from R240 a day.

Mushwana says most of the second-hand public servants have now been appointed permanently, and the government is obliged to house them for only another six months.

However, soaring property prices — the result of the migration — are making it difficult for public servants to buy or rent accommodation. Rent for a two-bedroom flat can be R1 700 a month, while a three-bedroom house is selling for R300 000. In the officials' home towns, meanwhile, their exodus has seen prices plummet, leaving them unable to sell.

11 Floor, York House, Carruthers Street, Johannesburg

Premier pleads for calm in border row

Journalist 5/5/97
(256A)

By Khathu Mamalla

NORTHERN Province premier Mr Ngoako Ramathodi has pleaded for calm in the troubled area of Bushbuckridge where residents have embarked on rolling mass action aimed at forcing the government to transfer their area from Northern Province to Mpumalanga.

In a statement this weekend, Ramathodi said: "We would like to appeal for calm and cool heads to prevail in this situation. The national government is managing this boundary dispute and others of a similar nature around the country

"The situation must be resolved peacefully and calmly through proper political and community struc-

tures, where people can make their views known in an open, lawful way.

"People have a right to express their views but we live in a single country with one president in which internal boundaries should not make a significant difference to us."

The area has been on the boil since last Tuesday when residents resolved to embark on mass action in a bid to put pressure on the Government to accede to their demand. Schooling has been brought to a standstill while local shops and businesses were closed.

The Bushbuckridge Border Committee is expected to meet today to plan a way forward. The regional president of the South African National Civic Organisation who is

also an executive member of the local branch of the African National Congress, Mr Krisjan Mokwena, has appealed to the Government to resolve the matter urgently.

He warned that if the matter was not resolved soon, the ANC would lose control as some ANC members were active in the Committee.

"Some people feel strong about this issue. We just hope that the matter is resolved before the situation deteriorates further," said Mokwena.

Police spokesman Senior Superintendent Phuti Setati has warned that police will act sternly against any form of criminality such as barricading public roads, damaging property through arson and instigating violence.

N Province bus set alight during Bushbuckridge border protest

A Northern Province-owned commuter bus was set alight and workers were allegedly harassed in a continuing border dispute in the Bushbuckridge district yesterday.

Charley Nkadimeng, spokesman for Safety and Security MEC Seth Nthai, said it was unfortunate that residents were being forcefully in-

involved in a tug-of-war by local politicians, whose positions are threatened if the area is incorporated into Mpumalanga.

Some residents are refusing to be incorporated into Northern Province while others object to their townships being part of Mpumalanga.

Nkadimeng said Nthai believed

a criminal element was taking advantage of the situation and victimising tourists passing through the area. Police had been ordered to protect businesses and tourists -
Provincial Reporter

► **Boundary issues**

Page 1

(266A) Mar 8/5/97

R.I.O.T.S
OVER

border dispute blamed on the

M+G 9-15/5/97

ANC

(266M)

Jim Day

An African National Congress decision to back away from efforts to put Bushbuckridge in the Northern Province under the control of neighbouring Mpumalanga sparked the rioting that is rocking the area.

The ANC decision, according to local residents, was taken at a meeting in the middle of last month attended by representatives of Mpumalanga and Northern Province Deputy President Thabo Mbeki chaired the meeting at the start, but left before the Bushbuckridge discussion: the ANC's acting secretary general, Cheryl Carolus, took over the chair from him.

ANC officials in Bushbuckridge say the meeting agreed to scrap negotiations, under way since 1994, to shift the border. The decision was subsequently leaked to local ANC leaders, some of whom then called for a three-week work stayaway and blockades of roads through the area.

Those protests turned violent last week, when Bushbuckridge residents torched government buildings, destroyed lorries and clashed with police sent from Pietersburg to quell the unrest.

The violence subsided but heated up again late this week, when residents burnt a bus. Riot police and army troops are in the area.

"It became very clear to us that people had decided the border would not



Rocky road: A passing motorist runs the gauntlet at a barricade at Marite village near Bushbuckridge



PHOTOS: KENNETH MULLER

be shifted," said Azaph Nxumalo, representative of the Bushbuckridge Border Committee, about the ANC's decision that led to the protests.

In the wake of the rioting, representatives of the two provinces met on Wednesday in Nelspruit at a meeting also attended by Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi.

In that meeting the provincial and regional executive committees accepted the decision that the boundary would not be shifted, said Minister of Constitutional Affairs Mohammed Valli Moosa.

Earlier this week, Bushbuckridge local leaders were vowing to continue their struggle. "Come wind, come rain, come hurricane or tornado, they want to go to Mpumalanga," said Freddy Machebula, regional chair of the ANC in Bushbuckridge. "The people of Bushbuckridge have spoken."

The dispute has been simmering since provincial boundaries were drawn up in 1994. The parliaments of Mpumalanga and Northern Province have approved resolutions to transfer Bushbuckridge to Mpumalanga, but it would involve a quid-pro-quo trade with the town of Groblersdal, which would shift to Northern Province.

The National Party opposes the transfer of Groblersdal, saying its residents are content to stay in Mpumalanga. Without the NP's support it will not be possible to gain the two-thirds

majority in Parliament required to alter provincial borders. The ANC has not approached the NP's leaders about gaining support for the border shift.

ANC leaders in Northern Province have also said they would not consider a transfer of Bushbuckridge without receiving Groblersdal. They say they do not see the Bushbuckridge issue as a border dispute at all: it is a political and security problem.

'Come wind, come rain, come hurricane or tornado, they want to go to Mpumalanga'

"We are part of a single country, with one president, in which internal boundaries should not make a significant difference to us," said Kenny Mathibha, a representative of Northern Province Premier Ngako Ramathodi.

During the protests, black smoke poured into the sky from burning lorries along roads through Bushbuckridge. Teenagers shattered the windows of cars and bakkies trying to drive past the blockades. Crowds surrounded lorries that failed to get through, smashing them with rocks, pouring petrol into the cabs and setting them alight.

Women pulled vegetables from the back of one smouldering lorry while

young children looked on. Police leapt from Casspirs with shotguns aimed at the scattering crowds.

Helicopters circled overhead with riot police leaning out with weapons, people dived for cover into nearby shops. They said police in helicopters had fired rubber bullets and teargas into the crowd.

Hunkering under the shelter of an overhanging roof, residents in the village of Marite near Bushbuckridge explained why they want so desperately to fall under the administration of Mpumalanga.

The Northern Province, they said, is incapable of providing the development projects needed in the area. At night, the village goes dark because it lacks electricity; water is only available from the occasional public tap; schools lack textbooks, the roads are badly deteriorated.

If you look across the provincial border into Mpumalanga, where many of the residents of Bushbuckridge work and do their shopping, these problems are not so pronounced, they said.

Driving to the top of a hill, you can see how heavily populated the area is, as small homes dot the countryside all the way to the horizon. Bushbuckridge is populated by 750 000 people by one estimate, others put the number at more than a million. It is a region of rolling hillsides and

thick bush, bordered by the Kruger National Park to the east and the Drakensberg escarpment on the west. Its history is marked by ethnic battles and poverty, partly because of its former division between the Lebowa and Gazankulu homelands.

One recent study showed that parts of the region have an average monthly household income of about R500, much of which is generated by residents working in Gauteng or on white-owned farms to the north and south of the region.

"We've suffered a long time under Northern Province," said one man as he enjoyed a beer across the street from a burnt-out bakkie.

The barricades put up by residents were peaceful until the afternoon of May 1, when Valli Moosa failed to show up at a Worker's Day rally. Locals took this as a sign that the government is not taking their demands seriously. Shortly after the rally, people burnt the government offices in the village of Shatale and clashed with police.

Valli Moosa has explained that he did not know that he had been invited to a Worker's Day rally.

If the violence does not convince ANC leaders to renew efforts to shift the border, those manning the Marite barricade talk of another threat: that the people of Bushbuckridge will not go to the polls in 1999.

Minister lashes out at Bushbuckridge violence

(266A) Star 19/5/97

By Jovial Rantao
Political Correspondent

Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Mohammed Valli Moosa has condemned the violent protests that broke out in Bushbuckridge after residents demanded the community be moved from the Northern Province to Mpumalanga.

"The resort to violence in Bushbuckridge is not only unjustified, but also illegal and simply wrong," Moosa told the National Council of Provinces in an introduction to a debate on his department's budget.

He said the argument that residents would be better off if Bushbuckridge was incorporated into Mpumalanga was misleading and reckless.

He said the per capita spending on essentials like health care, housing, education and social welfare was the same for all South Africans, regardless of the province they lived in.

"This is constitutionally protected. While some of the arguments in favour of provincial boundary alterations are understandable, the emotions and aggressiveness of some people are without justification.

"The struggle for freedom in this country has also been a struggle to establish a single, united South Africa, as opposed to the balkanisation of apartheid.

The struggle was about building a new South African

identity and a South African patriotism. Let us not fall into the trap of elevating our provincial or regional identity above our common South Africanism," Moosa said.

He said the Government would not pander to those, regardless of the party they belonged to, who wished to cause divisions along provincial lines. He criticised the Western Cape for wanting more than its fair share of the national budget. He said the province had budgeted for a deficit but had no means to fund it.

"The province has incurred deficits for two years running, and has been bailed out by the national Government. Now they expect the central Government to accept an officially planned deficit of R247-million.

"Such attempts to grab extra resources that other provinces do not have is unfair, immoral and undermines the very principles of co-operative governance enshrined in the constitution," Moosa said.

He said that although only 9% of the population lived in the Western Cape, the province was allocated 10,9% of the total provincial allocation in the 1997/98 financial year. Gauteng, home to 18% of the population, was only allocated 16%.

Moosa said the Cabinet had set up an inter-ministerial committee to lead a national disaster management structure. Disaster management required concerted inter-governmental action and co-operation, he said.

Desire to be part of Mpumalanga burns strongly

Sowetan 20/5/97 (266A)

By Khathu Mamaila

THE burning down of an African National Congress office, the barricading of roads and the rolling mass action in Bushbuckridge, Tafelkop and other areas indicate how determined people in these areas are to become part of Mpumalanga

In Bushbuckridge, the root of the protests can be traced to a meeting at Mapulaneng College on April 20

Delegates from the ANC, Pan Africanist Congress, taxi associations, civic bodies and the business community converged to talk about the transfer of Bushbuckridge and the surrounding areas from Northern Province to Mathews Phosa-led Mpumalanga

The gathering, attended by about 400 people, resolved to call a mass meeting at Thulamashe Stadium to explain to the public that Bushbuckridge would remain in Northern Province as the ANC had failed to secure a two-thirds majority to change the boundaries

The rally on April 23 attracted a huge crowd. As expected, the crowd reaffirmed that they wanted to become part of Mpumalanga and resolved to embark on mass action until this was achieved

Stayaway

It was agreed that schools would close, workers would stay away from work and government offices would remain closed. The call was heeded and learning came to a standstill

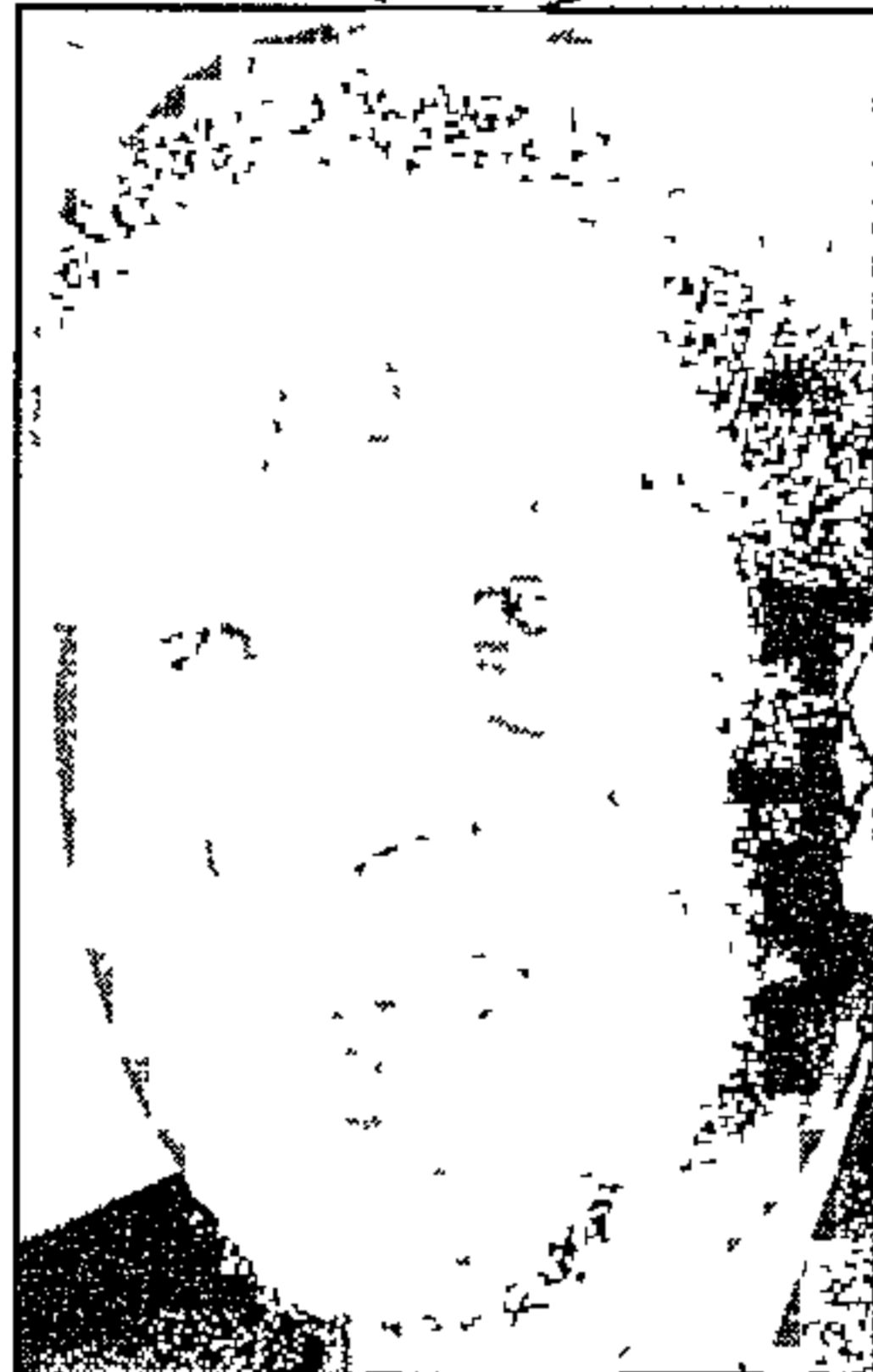
Shops were closed and roads were barricaded to prevent trucks from making deliveries. Businessman Jan Koekemoer told *Sowetan* that he closed his shop because he supported the call

"I was not intimidated by anybody to close but did so because I believe this area is supposed to be in Mpumalanga," said Koekemoer. He added "We do all our business in Mpumalanga. We buy things from Nelspruit"

"We have a social connection with Mpumalanga. Pietersburg is too far. Quite frankly, I do not see how the Government can continue to force people to accept belonging to a province they do not want to be part of"

These sentiments were echoed by a shop employee, Rachael Madonsela. "We want to go to Mpumalanga. We don't want anything to do with Northern Province"

"In the past we marched to Northern Province government offices demanding water and were told that they could not assist us as we would eventually go to Mpumalanga"



Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa ... residents of Bushbuckridge, Tafelkop and other areas are determined to become part of his province.

'What can be worse'

"And if we ask Mpumalanga government officials to help us, they tell us that officially we are still under Northern Province. We want to be officially under Mpumalanga"

Fruit and vegetable seller Esther Sambo also said she wanted to be in Phosa's province. "I believe it is better than here. What can be worse than this (Northern) province?"

Radio Bushbuckridge presenter Sello Manyama said people needed delivery on election promises. "I think what is happening is that people are expressing their frustration because the government has not delivered"

"It is three years now but nothing has happened. People want to go to Mpumalanga because they believe things will be different and, hopefully, better"

"Look at this town - you cannot tell whether it is a town or a shopping complex. There is no infrastructure. If you go to the magistrate's court, the magistrate sits on a bench because there are no facilities"

"Of course people are unhappy about such things and they want to be part of another administration," Manyama said

The situation was serious because there was also no schooling in the area. He added that criminals were exploiting the situation and starting to hijack trucks and loot

Border committee spokesman Sizile Ndlovu deplored the criminal acts and said people had agreed to embark on rolling-mass action to highlight their demand

Won't stop fighting

Ndlovu, who is also an ANC regional spokesman, said "People feel very passionate about going to Mpumalanga. Our social fabric is linked to Mpumalanga. We are linked to Nelspruit in almost every way"

"Our trade unions are controlled from Nelspruit. Our sport, political parties and economic lives are linked to Nelspruit. It is exactly 275km from here to Pietersburg but less than 100km to Nelspruit," Ndlovu said

He said people would only change their strategy but would never abandon the battle to be incorporated into Mpumalanga. He said people were collecting money to go to court in a bid to force the Government to transfer the area to Mpumalanga

Chairman of the ANC in Northern Province George Mashamba said the ANC lacked a two-thirds majority to effect the changes demanded by people in Bushbuckridge

While the ANC is not opposed to incorporating Bushbuckridge into Mpumalanga, the organisation wants Tafelkop and Monsterlos to remain in Northern Province

However, residents in these areas want to be part of Groblersdal, which is in Mpumalanga

"An ANC office in Monsterlos was burnt down recently, allegedly by a pro-Mpumalanga faction, as the ANC was seen to be a stumbling block in the process of transferring the area to Mpumalanga"

While the politicians continue to offer explanations, Bushbuckridge, Tafelkop, Monsterlos and the surrounding areas continue to boil

Metered taxis appeal to minister for regulation

Bonnie Ngqiyaza

BD 21/5/97

A DOCUMENT focusing on the fragmented and deteriorating metered taxi industry, and aimed at raising the profile of the industry with government and users, was handed to Transport Minister Mac Maharaj yesterday.

The document, which carries specific proposals relating to the regulation and registration of the metered taxi industry, is meant to supplement last year's national taxi task team's final recommendations to the minister.

The document proposes setting up a national metered taxi working group and "effective" government-industry forums which would include other major players such as the Airports Company, Portnet and Satour.

It recommends the inclusion of metered taxis within the ambit of provincial taxi offices and further proposes more prominent and standardised physical identification and municipal numbering to help raise its profile and

improve its quality of service.

It recommends the industry strive towards one national association, with official recognition and support.

On labour relations, it suggests the terms of reference by the interdepartmental working group set up by the labour and transport departments to deal with the issue in the minibuses taxi industry, be extended to metered taxis.

The document recommends government economic assistance to metered taxis on the grounds that it plays a "highly visible" role in the tourism sector and complements the public transport system. It also expresses the view that the majority of businesses should qualify for assistance targeted at small medium and microenterprises.

On insurance, it proposes that foreign tourists be required to acquire personal accident cover to top up potential claims against the Road Accident Fund, formerly the Multilateral Motor Vehicle Fund, as such claims were likely to be capped in future.

Michael Hartnack

HARARE — The mysterious appearance of armed men on an island claimed by Zimbabwe, upstream from Victoria Falls, led to discreet meetings between Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organisation agents and their Zambian counterparts in the Zambian border town of Livingstone yesterday.

Zimbabwean tour operators in Victoria Falls believed the armed men, who appeared at the weekend on disputed Tongavesi Island, were from the Zambian security forces. However, a Zimbabwese national parks department official said: "In Zambia there are armed people who are not necessarily the authorities."

He drew attention to the prevalence of poachers in Zambia, and the employment by many tourist operators of their

Discreet meetings

Over disputed island

BD 21/5/97

own security guards.

A Zimbabwe boat cruise manager said: "We are not really concerned about the ownership of the island, which attracts a lot of tourists, but we are worried about the presence of armed people which can easily intimidate customers."

Tourist industry sources say the problem stems from frequent changes of course by the deep channel in the 2km wide Zambezi above Victoria Falls. The channel, which differs from season to season, is supposed to constitute the international boundary.

Zimbabwean maps show Tongavesi in its territory, while the latest Zambian maps claim it for President Frederick

Chiluba. With its riverine vegetation heavily frequented by elephant, buffalo, and other game, the island could be an ideal site for a hotel.

A conference in Livingstone last year on the ecological problems caused by pressure of tourist numbers at Victoria Falls reported that Zimbabwean boats had been shot at by resentful competitors on the northern bank.

No progress has been made yet on a recommendation by the conference for the establishment of an international authority to administer the area, which has been declared a world heritage site by the United Nations.

Bushbuckridge to remain in Northern Province

BD 21/5/97 (26bA)

THE African National Congress (ANC) has decided that Bushbuckridge should remain part of Northern Province, a decision likely to raise the ire of residents demonstrating for the area's transfer to Mpumalanga.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the ANC's national working committee in Johannesburg on Monday which was attended by Deputy President

Thabo Mbeki among others

Referring to the recent violent demonstrations by Bushbuckridge residents, the ANC said that nobody had the right to resort to force and violence to achieve the resolution of problems.

The ANC said the new constitution had finalised the issue of boundaries, and on that basis the status quo had to be maintained. — Sapa.

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ANC ruling on border row could spark violence

Star 21/5/97

Committee tells delegates that Bushbuckridge will stay in Northern Province, and Groblersdal in Mpumalanga

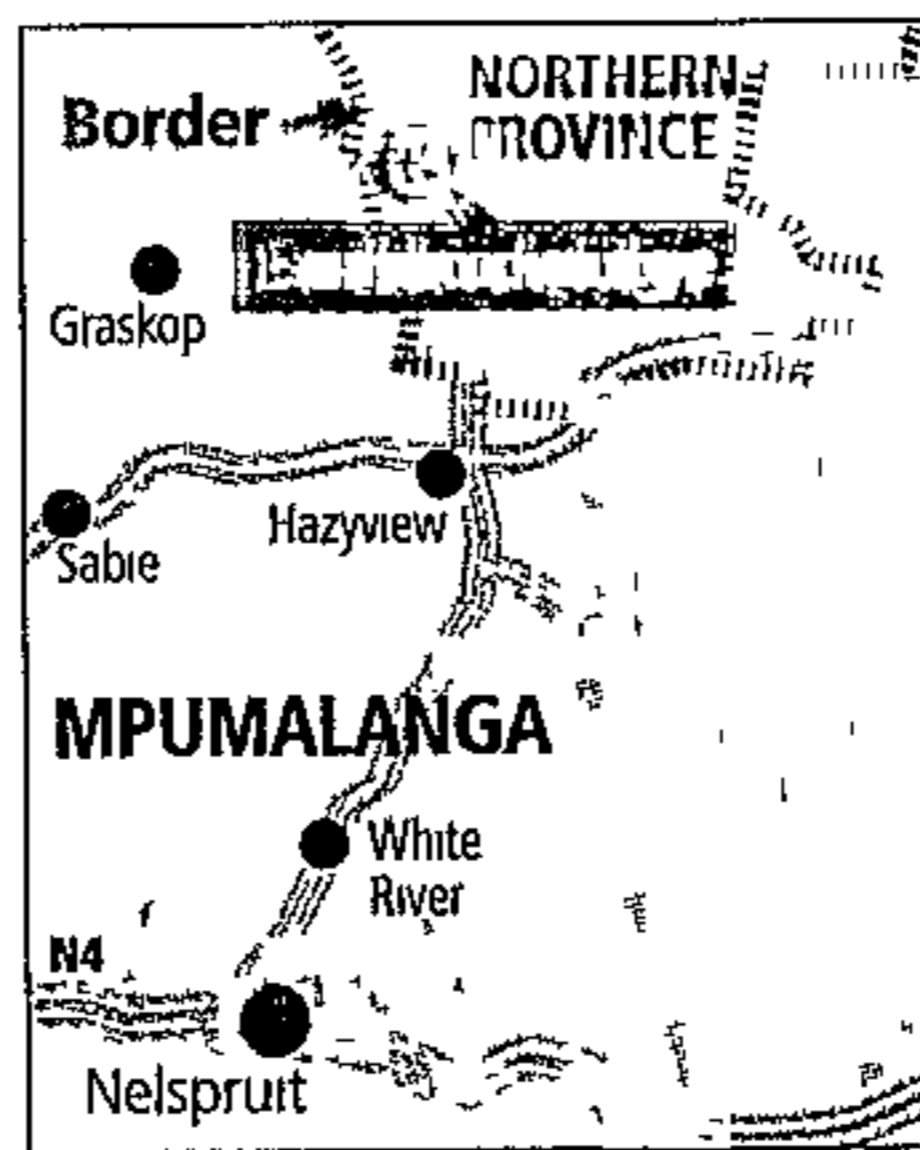
By HOPEWELL RADEBE
Provincial Reporter

In a move likely to create tensions that could spill into violence, the ANC's national working committee (NWC) ruled yesterday that the Bushbuckridge area will not be moved to Mpumalanga but will stay in Northern Province

The NWC informed delegates from Bushbuckridge and Groblersdal that Groblersdal would also remain part of Mpumalanga

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, leaders of the ANC's provincial executive committees in Northern Province and Mpumalanga, the ANC regional executive committee in Bushbuckridge, as well as ANC representatives in Groblersdal and Burgersfort attended the meeting held in Johannesburg on Monday

ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the community delegations eventually agreed that "the status quo must be



maintained because the new South African constitution had long finalised the issue of boundaries"

The NWC and all provincial ANC structures would embark on a programme of action to inform people and mobilise for the acceptance of the organisation's decision by the affected communities

This, however, is unlikely to appease residents in Groblersdal and Bushbuckridge, who have in recent weeks embarked

on violent campaigns to express their desire to belong to Mpumalanga

Angry residents have vowed to make the town ungovernable if their request is not heeded

Already the Bushbuckridge Border Crisis Committee (BBCC) has accused the Government and the ANC of sidelining and excluding them in the negotiations

It vowed to stage more protest marches this week, beginning today, to continue demanding that the area be incorporated into Mpumalanga

Government vehicles have been stoned and set alight while roads have been blockaded in recent protest actions in an effort to influence the Government to decide in favour of the protesters

The BBCC said protesters would march to police stations today and on Friday in Bushbuckridge, Thulamahasli, Acornhoek and Mukhuhlu to present memoranda of demands

(266A)

Bushbuckridge residents furious

(266A)

Army and police sent to monitor town after violence by residents angered at government

BY MIKE MASIPA
AND RAMOTENA MABOTE
Bushbuckridge

The ANC national leadership has been warned to steer clear of volatile Bushbuckridge unless they come to apologise for their decision that the area remain under Northern Province's jurisdiction

Themba Godi, a spokesman for the Bushbuckridge Border Crisis Committee, said they would not be held responsible if there was a repeat of the violence that broke out this week after the decision of the ANC national working committee that Bushbuckridge would not be incorporated into Mpumalanga

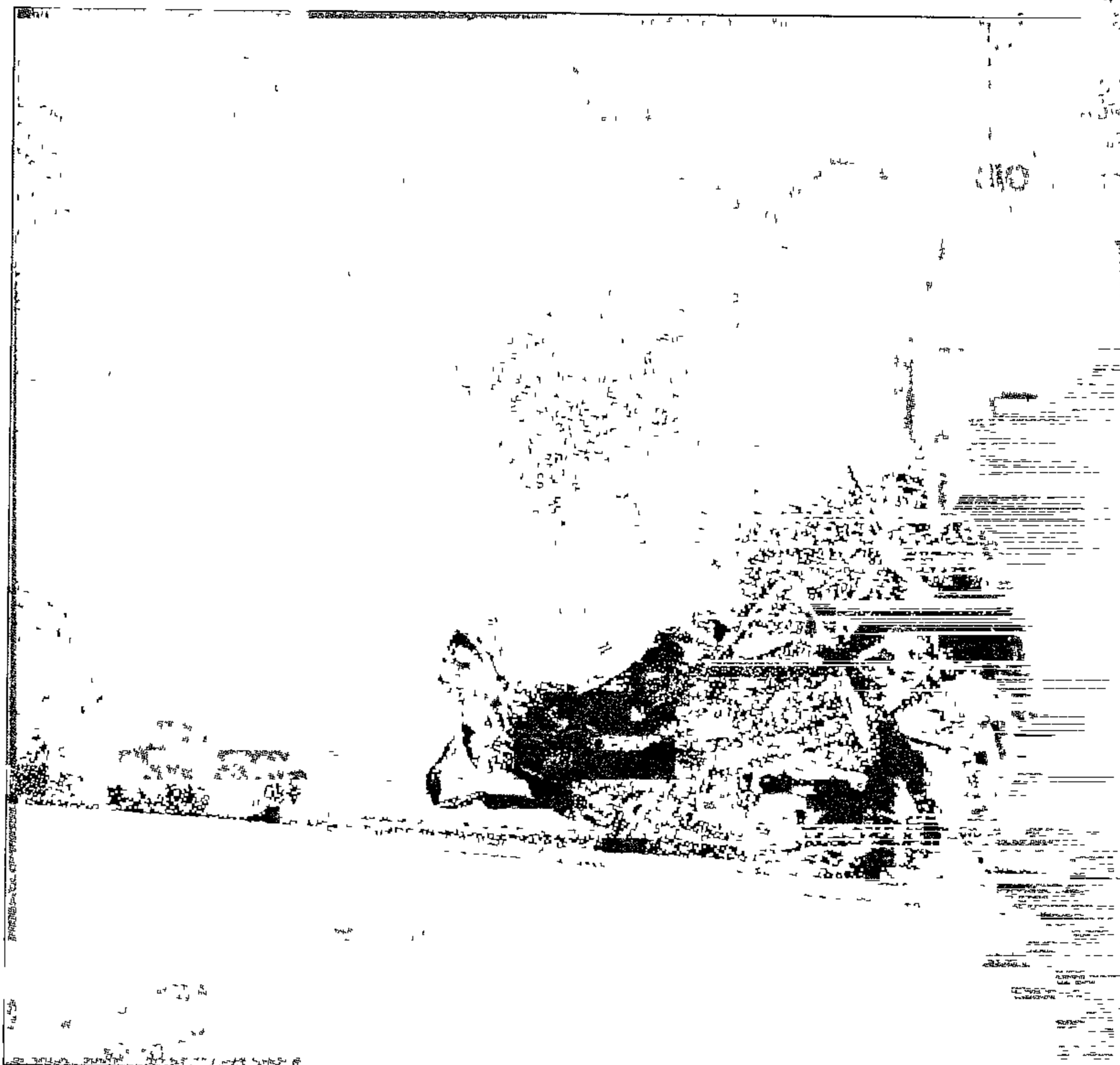
The situation was tense last night after the police and the army sent forces to monitor the town, which erupted into violence on Tuesday evening shortly after the ANC made its announcement

The warning to the leadership flies in the face of Northern Province Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi, who announced yesterday that a high level ANC delegation would visit Bushbuckridge to try to educate people about the importance of the latest move. This is expected to happen as soon as tomorrow

Ramatlhodi asked the affected communities to help restore "normality". He also expressed his appreciation of the police for their "sterling performance in dealing firmly with the criminal elements seeking the destabilisation of the country"

In an attempt to resolve the two-year-long border disputes in the region, the ANC decided on Tuesday that Bushbuckridge would remain part of Northern Province and that Groblersdal would remain in Mpumalanga

The decision was taken on Monday at a meeting of the ANC's national working committee attended by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and senior party leaders from both Mpumalanga and Northern Province



Law and disorder .. a policeman removes a barricade while a colleague covers him in the Martie Trust area

Yesterday, angry youths placed burning debris, tyres, scrap metal and stones across various points on the main road running through villages 100km north of Nelspruit. This was after a rally at the Bushbuckridge stadium where marchers from Thulamashu, Acornhoek and Mkhuhlu, also demanding to be under Mpumalanga, converged on the stadium

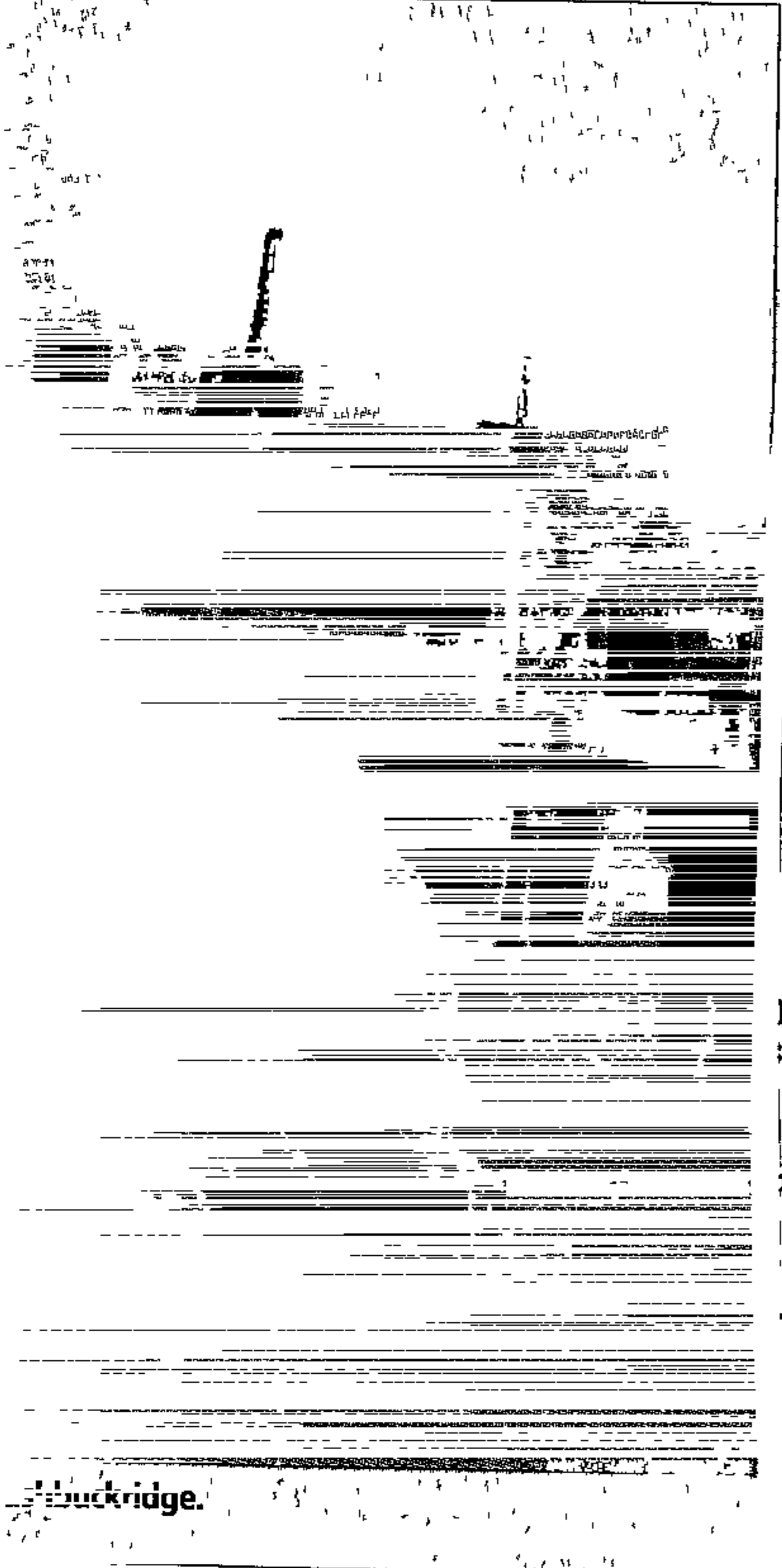
The National Parks Board advises all travellers to the Kruger Park to use the Numbi and Malelane entrances

with ANC

Star 22/5/97

decision on provincial boundaries

GARY BERNARD



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(10)

(10)

Call for status quo for disputed northern area

0023/5/97 (266A)

PIETERSBURG — Northern Province local government MEC John Dombo announced yesterday that the provincial executive committee would recommend the status quo be maintained in respect of the disputed Bushbuckridge and Groblersdal areas

This means that, if the proposal is accepted by the provincial legislature, Bushbuckridge will remain in Northern Province and Groblersdal will be part of Mpumalanga

The decision is, in effect, a reversal of an agreement concluded between the two provinces last year

Dombo said talks between government officials and community leaders in both areas indicated the majority of residents would accept the decision

"They want to talk development and the provision of services, and are anxious to get on with their lives," he said

Referring to recent protest action in the areas, Dombo said the agitators were minority groups. The constitution made no provision for local referendums on the matter, he pointed out

The question of majority sentiment had not influenced the government's move. It was a political decision made

in terms of the constitution

He conceded that the earlier agreement between the two provinces had been concluded without sufficient consultation with local communities

Local government elections in the Groblersdal district would be administered by the Northern Province government. The demarcation process had already begun and the elections would probably be held in October this year

The provincial government would rely on security forces to keep law and order in the Bushbuckridge area. Dombo praised them for "sterling work"

Asked what his government was going to do about protesters insisting on the incorporation of Bushbuckridge into Mpumalanga, Dombo said it was the democratic right of citizens to protest. They were also free to go and live in the province of their choice

"Criminal elements will not have their day. We are determined to restore stability to that region," he said

The Bushbuckridge Border Crisis Committee confirmed it will go ahead with today's planned march to the local police station to demand the transfer of the district to Mpumalanga — Sapa.

(266A)
**More violence
expected over
border dispute**

Star 23/5/97
By Mike Masipa

Bushbuckridge - At least 500 police and army officers were on standby to prevent any outbreak of violence in Bushbuckridge in the Northern Province this morning.

However, most of the barricades which had been set up overnight had been removed by the police and army by this morning.

Police said they were expecting trouble at Marite village, a few kilometres outside Bushbuckridge, where two trucks were set alight on Wednesday. Most of the barricades were set up around this village overnight.

Groups of people were gathering to take part in a march at 10am today. Most people were arriving on foot as there was no transport available. Police expect at least 5 000 people to be bussed in from outlying villages.

There are fears of more violence erupting today as residents are expected to march to show their displeasure at the ANC's decision that the area be administered by Northern Province.

Border fight still on

By VICTOR MOHLALA

(266A) (266B)
IT WAS not quite the 'Million People March' called for by the Bushbuckridge Border Committee, but 100 000 people marched to the Bushbuckridge police station this week to hand over a memorandum rejecting the ANC National Working Committee's announcement that Bushbuckridge would remain in the Northern Province.

Slamming the ANC's announcement, Border Committee secretary Themba Godi said: "It is not for the ANC to respond to this matter. Our demand is addressed to the central government and not the ANC as a political party."

CP 25/5/97
□ Meanwhile, residents had collected R12 000 by Friday to take the border issue to the constitutional court. The Border Committee treasurer, Prince Ndlovu, said they were expecting more money as people were still collecting.

Residents argued that the Bushbuckridge border issue had been on the table even before the start of constitutional negotiations.

The Border Committee charged that the ANC had broken signed agreements between Mpumalanga and the Northern Province that the region would be transferred to Mpumalanga.

Bushbuckridge: a sense of betrayal

MIKE MASIPA
Bushbuckridge

Elijah Matsaane has lived in Marite, one of Bushbuckridge's numerous villages, about 100km from Mpumalanga's capital, Nelspruit, all his 73 years

He has always known the village to be in the "East" and cannot understand why residents were divided and placed under the jurisdiction of ethnic homelands on the basis of the languages they spoke.

North-Sotho speaking, Matsaane and many others were administered by the Lebowa government before the 1994 election.

Fellow residents in neighbouring villages were controlled by Gazankulu solely because they were Tsonga-speaking.

People protested against the division but had no alternative because the "Boer government was not democratic and would not care a hoot", said Matsaane.

When the election ushered in democracy in 1994, the people thought they would finally be heard.

When he voted for the ANC in 1994, Matsaane hoped the "madness" would stop.

After all, this was the government of the people, and Nelson Mandela's party had promised that Bushbuckridge would eventually be returned to the "East", Mpumalanga.

But during negotiations to define provincial borders, Bushbuckridge residents found themselves embroiled in a familiar argument.

They wanted the area to be incorporated into Mpumalanga because they have always considered Nelspruit their economic centre.

Instead, they were incorporated into Northern Province, whose capital Pietersburg is about 300km away.

Last week, when the ANC

national working committee announced it would not accede to residents' demands, the Bushbuckridge community vented its frustrations at a protest which turned violent

Then on Friday, Matsaane joined 20 000 fellow villagers at the local Pauliana stadium to protest against the "ANC's betrayal".

"I never thought I would one day cheer at derogatory statements made about the ANC. But now they are messing things up."

A speaker was booed and jeered off the stage when, in an involuntary action, he shouted "Viva ANC" as he began his address.

To many who took part in the march, the ANC had done the unforgivable.

As Themba Godi, leader of the Bushbuckridge border crisis committee, said. "The ruling party will reap what they are sowing come the 1999 elections."

~~(266B)~~ (266A)

Star 26/5/97

Committee vows to defy govt threat

some from 26/5/97
(26/5) (26/5)

N Province says public servants must return to work today or be disciplined

By Khathu Mamaila

THE BUSHBUCKRIDGE Border Committee, which is spearheading the mass campaign to have Bushbuckridge transferred to Mpumalanga has vowed to defy the Northern Province government's warning that public servants who do not report for work today will be penalised.

Committee spokesman Mr Azaph Nxumalo said, "The government is obviously trying to use intimidation tactics to break the four weeks stand-off in the area. Our people will never bow to intimidation.

"In actual fact, if there are people who should not be paid, it is the politicians. They are clearly not doing their work. If they were, this area would be incorporated to Mpumalanga and life here would be smooth," Nxumalo said.

Northern Province director general Mr John Malatji issued a circular instructing all public servants to report for work today or face disciplinary action.

Malatji issued the warning after he was

instructed by the provincial cabinet to bring the situation back to normal.

There has been no schooling for the past four weeks and government employees have not been working, following a call for rolling mass action aimed at forcing the Government to incorporate the area into Mpumalanga.

On Friday, thousands of residents marched on the Bushbuckridge police station where they faxed an open letter to President Nelson Mandela, requesting him to intervene and resolve the matter.

Residents have been collecting R10 per household following a call by the Border Committee to raise funds to take the Government to the Constitutional Court. More than R107 000 was raised within a week.

Meanwhile, the Trade Union of South African Authorities said in a statement that the crisis in Bushbuckridge was a political crisis which should be solved by the politicians.

The union called on the Government to ensure the safety of workers before making threats of disciplinary action.

Residents urged to

AUDITOR SLAMS NORTH WEST GOVT

R367m spent without authority

JOHANNESBURG: Serious shortcomings have been found in the financial management and internal finance control systems of North West province.

LI North West government departments have been slammed in an auditor-general's report for lacking efficient financial control systems and says this has made auditing impossible and inconclusive

Addressing a media conference in Mafikeng about the North West government's 1995/96 financial year audit of expenditure yesterday, provincial auditor-general Mr Bryant Madiwa reported an unauthorised expenditure of about R367,29 million. He said this included the purchase of two-way radio equipment by the Public Works and Roads department

for about R11,7m

He said he detected serious shortcomings in the financial management and internal finance control systems of the province, where vouchers for up to 60% of some departments' total expenditure could not be produced for auditing

Madiwa expressed disappointment with the "poor record-keeping" of expenditure by almost all government departments

"I was unable to carry out all the audit procedures and obtain all the information and explanations I consider necessary to satisfy myself that proper accounting

records have been kept.

"There is nothing to ensure efficient disclosure of all the relevant financial information"

The transport and civil aviation department was seen to be the worst culprit for failing to account for R135m, which represented about 60% of the department's total budget

The education and culture department was second, with unauthorised expenditure of R62,6m and for failing to give details of the quantity of books bought and in stock in 1996.

The health and social welfare department could not account for about R19m. Madiwa said there was also a questionable expenditure of about R14m in this department "on just photocopies of invoices"

He said the department also

bought about R34,5m worth of vehicles with the approval of the provincial treasury authority. But a vehicle inspection done after the purchase of these vehicles on July 18, 1996 had revealed that this expenditure was unnecessary and had been done without proper consultation, because 49 vehicles parked at Khippan Military base and 25 others parked at the Medical Stores which had belonged to the former homeland government were not used

"No proper planning prior to the acquisition of these vehicles was done, resulting in monetary loss to the state," said Madiwa

Local government, housing, planning and development could not provide supporting documents for R1,9m spent, and premier Mr Popo Molefe's office had failed to account appropriately

for about R3,53m

The provincial Speaker's office showed that house rentals of most members of the provincial legislature (MPs) were in arrears

Travelling claim forms ranging between R9 000 and R13 000 were not properly completed and signed by the claimants at the office of the Provincial Service Commission. The treasury and the tender board could not submit payment authorisation for student bursaries amounting to R2,6m in various institutions around the country

The finance department had not complied with treasury instructions and the North West Exchequer Act affecting a fair presentation in the financial statements and the appropriation account — Own Correspondent

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Widespread 'irregularities' uncovered in North-West

(2bbc)

Problems will be addressed, says Premier Molefe, adding some should be seen in context of transition to democratic rule

Star 30/5/97

SAPA
Mmabatho

The Motimele Commission has uncovered widespread financial irregularities involving about R60,6-million in North-West local government structures during 1994/95, premier Popo Molefe announced

"These alleged irregularities have to be placed in a broader context of transition to democratic rule in the country and the resistance to change that accompanied it," Molefe told reporters in Mmabatho

He said the commission also found out that the then Mmabatho Transitional Council aided and abetted the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging when AWB members entered the then Bophuthatswana in March 1994 to

help president Lucas Mangope put down a popular uprising.

Cases of maladministration were also uncovered, including the allocation of land to Mangope's United Christian Democratic Party and the non-payment of rates and tariffs

The commission found that the Mmabatho council failed to collect more than R41,5 million in services and rates arrears

Irregularities uncovered included fraud, negligence, overpayment, theft and unnecessary expenditure

"The provincial government views the allegations in a very serious light and will institute steps to ensure the matters are addressed," Molefe said

The government would hold discussions with the various local governments to institute re-

medial action.

Molefe said his government aimed to ensure sound and effective governance at municipal level, and enforce accountable government as demanded in the constitution

"In instances where the people responsible are still with respective municipalities, steps will be taken to recover the money

"Councils will be urged to take full responsibility for this process with the government providing the necessary assistance and monitoring"

Molefe appointed the Motimele Commission in May two years ago following numerous complaints about alleged maladministration and mismanagement of funds by various local councils - Sapa

North-West slammed over financial chaos

Star 30/5/97

(2b6c)

Auditor-general says he was unable to obtain necessary information to carry out normal audit procedures

By HOPEWELL RADEBE
Provincial Reporter

The North-West provincial government has been strongly criticised by the auditor-general for inefficient financial control systems which resulted in about R367,29-million not being accounted for in the 1995/96 financial year.

Bryant Madliwa said this at yesterday's briefing in Mafikeng on his audit report of the government's expenditure.

The unauthorised expenditure he found included two-way-radio equipment bought by the public works and roads department for about R11,7-million.

He detected serious shortcomings in the financial management and internal finance control systems of the province, where up to 60% of some departments' voucher expenditure could not be produced for auditing purposes.

"I was unable to carry out all the audit procedures and obtain all the information and explanations I consider necessary to satisfy myself that proper accounting records have been kept. There is nothing to ensure efficient disclosure of all the relevant financial information," Madliwa said.

The transport and civil aviation department was the worst culprit, in failing to account for R135-million, which represented about 60% of the de-

partment's budget.

The education and culture department was second, with unauthorised expenditure of R62,6-million. It failed to give details of the quantity of books bought and those in stock in 1996.

The health and social welfare department could not account for about R19-million. Madliwa said there was also the questionable expenditure of about R14-million in this department "just on photocopies of invoices".

He said the department had bought vehicles worth about R34,5-million with the approval of the provincial treasury authority. A vehicle inspection done after the purchase of the vehicles on July 18 1996 revealed that this expenditure was unnecessary and had been performed without proper consultation, because 49 vehicles parked at a military base and 25 others parked at medical stores had not been used.

The local government, housing, planning and development department couldn't provide supporting documents for R1,9-million of expenditure, and Premier Popo Molefe's office had failed to account for about R3,53-million.

The treasury could not submit payment authorisation for student bursaries totalling R2,6-million.

► Irregularities uncovered

GRAPHIC LIZ WARDER

MILLIONS UNACCOUNTED FOR

Unauthorised and unnecessary spending in North-West Province

- R3,53-m** Popo Molefe unable to produce backup documents
- R135-m** 60% of total spending on transport and civil aviation where no vouchers could be produced
- R11,7-m** Two-way radio equipment
- R19-m** Dept of Health, no vouchers for audit
- R14-m** Photocopies
- R2,6-m** Unexplained difference for bursary payments
- R34,5-m** Unnecessary purchase of vehicles



North West spends unapproved R367m

Linda Ensor

THE North West province notched up unauthorised expenditure of R367m in 1995/96, bringing the accumulated amount to nearly R1bn, an auditor-general's report tabled in the provincial legislature yesterday showed.

It said shortcomings in the province's financial management and internal control systems meant provincial auditor Bryant Madilwa was unable to express an unqualified opinion on accounts and operations.

Irregularities involved missing vouchers, expense claims, poor record-keeping and inadequate bank reconciliations. In the transport and civil aviation department, for example, vouchers amounting to R135m (60% of total expenditure) could not be produced for audit purposes, while in the office of premier Popo Molefe vouchers worth R3,5m were unavailable.

In his 1995/96 report, Madilwa said unauthorised expenditure of R367m was notched up, R275m by the education and culture department, R62m by

BD 30/5/97 (266C)
finance and provincial expenditure, R18,4m by transport and civil aviation and R12m by public works and roads. This was in addition to the R603,5m in unauthorised expenditure accumulated in 1994/95 in the paymaster-general's account, which was not carried over but written off without provincial legislation authorising this.

Madilwa said most departments had "major inadequacies" in their internal control systems and record-keeping. The finance department's audit tests uncovered cases where there was no or minimal compliance with treasury instructions and the North West Exchequer Act.

The revenue, paymaster-general, salaries and exchequer bank accounts were not reconciled at the end of each month. Health and social welfare could not produce expenditure vouchers amounting to about R19m, while payments totalling about R14m were made on photocopied invoices.

In education and culture, there

Continued on Page 2

North West

Continued from Page 1

BD 30/5/97
were no reconciliations for the purchase and issue of school textbooks amounting to R62,6m. About 155 vehicles bought by the transport and civil aviation department were found parked with no shelter at an air force base. There were no proper records to show the correct number of vehicles and parts were missing from some of

BD 30/5/97 (266C)
them. Madilwa was told they were parked there "due to pilfering which took place at the Mmabatho workshop, costing the government about R250 000 a month".

No tender board approval for a reconstruction and development project worth R18m could be found. Under the reconstruction and development programme vote, Madilwa noted that two cases of irregularities had been handed to the police. A commission of inquiry concluded that one tenderer had been awarded projects worth R49m.

arises is that we need strong political commitment to enforce such a concept, such a programme, but we find that for various reasons we do not have the machinery to ensure that we can provide the drugs and monitoring that are necessary for these patients. We do have a revitalised tuberculosis control programme in the country [Time expired]

Mr A ALLY Mr Chairman, I would like to thank the hon the Minister for a very positive response to my interpellation, but what I believe is that the causes of TB are many and varied, and one of them that the Minister has mentioned is overcrowding, and I would like to suggest to the Minister that, in getting a very strong commitment from Government, there should be an interaction between the Minister of Housing, the Minister of Education and the Minister for Welfare and Population Development

I know that there is now a hue and cry throughout the country that the reduction of the maintenance for children to R75 will further affect the poverty of the people of our country. I think that because the Western Cape has the highest average, which some people estimate to be 559 per 100 000 of the population and with our bid for the Olympics for the year 2004, it is imperative that we do something. I am very happy to read, in the document the Minister handed to us, that the Government is on the offensive, but I think time is against us. There are many factors that are tying our hands. We have a high incidence of HIV [Interjections] [Time expired]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH The hon member has just referred to the R75 per child that is being proposed. May I remind the hon member that African children get zero rands, so R75 will be a very great improvement. It certainly will improve their access to food and their nutritional status, and that should be a point scored against TB, not for increasing TB in the country.

Secondly, this country is spending R500 million on TB, but because it had not adopted the correct strategy and programmes, we have little to show for that R500 million that we have been spending. With the programme that we are embarking upon, we will manage to contain TB.

However, let me warn hon members that there is no magic. One has to improve the socio-economic

H. M. Sand

conditions of the people in order to deal with TB. One has to have both Dots and drugs in order to contain TB. The sooner national consensus is reached on feeding, housing, education and health, the sooner we will be able to deal with TB.

Debate concluded

Bushbuckridge border dispute referred to Parliament/Parliamentary committee

4 Mrs P DE LILLE asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development

Whether he intends referring the issue of the Bushbuckridge border dispute to Parliament or a parliamentary committee for consideration as a matter of national concern, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

NI1490E INT

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT Mr Chairperson, I would like to thank the hon De Lille for raising what is an important matter of public concern.

Border issues tend to be very emotional issues, no matter whether they concern international, provincial, municipal, magisterial or even school area boundaries. It is therefore not difficult to activate such issues in order to promote particular political, commercial, personal or other interests. Nations have been taken to war on artificially activated border disputes. These are some of the reasons that our own provincial boundary disputes are so difficult to resolve and that, in spite of the most delicate approaches, there are from time to time flare-ups in and around affected areas. As far as this issue is concerned, I am currently in discussion with the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces about the possibility of this matter being referred to the National Council of Provinces for its attention.

However, may I say that the South African Constitution very fundamentally declares South Africa to be a united country. It creates a single South African economy and national economic policy. As far as economic policy is concerned, that is purely a national competence. The reason for this is to ensure equity across the country. Revenue, in

the form of all of the main taxes, personal income tax, company tax and sales tax, is collected by central Government and then it is ensured, through the mechanism of the Financial and Fiscal Commission, that the per capita expenditure on all South Africans, regardless of the province in which a person may live, is the same. This is to ensure that a person living in a province with a smaller GDP is not prejudiced as a result of that fact alone. Therefore, regardless of which side of a provincial boundary one lives on, the national expenditure on the individual remains the same.

A thread running through the entire Constitution is the concept of nation-building. It promotes the idea of a South African identity, a South Africanism and a new South African nation over and above any other identity, be it linguistic or cultural, that people may have. It certainly requires that a provincial identity should be secondary to the national South African identity.

In dealing with border disputes, it may be wise to remind the House that the interim Constitution, which was repealed a few months ago, left a number of border areas [Time expired]

Mrs P DE LILLE Mr Chairperson, I want to welcome the talks between the Minister and the border dispute committee, although it is a bit late—six weeks after the violence erupted in the province. If the dispute had been addressed earlier, violence would have been avoided. Therefore, it is wrong to blame the violence for the border situation in Bushbuckridge. We should rather blame the way in which the situation was addressed at the outset.

I just want to put the problem in context. In 1994, according to the interim Constitution, provision was made for a referendum. In addition, an undertaking was given by the Government that this provision would be put into effect. Taking advantage of this provision, the people of Bushbuckridge established a referendum-facilitating committee which collected over 500 signatures. Thereafter these signatures, in the form of a petition, were delivered to Parliament.

So it cannot be said that the people of Bushbuckridge did not try the constitutional option. The promised constitutional amendment raised expectations for the people of Bushbuckridge.

Instead, the response they got from the ANC was that it was too expensive to hold a referendum and also that the provincial governments rejected a referendum. What happened thereafter was the formation of the Bushbuckridge border committee to further attempt to find a solution for a peaceful settlement.

Violence has not really been part of the approach of the people of Bushbuckridge. After the refusal to recognise the border committee the uprisings started. The department refused to deal with this committee and referred the matter to the ANC National Working Committee, further increasing the frustration of the campaigners in that area. A constitutional matter was then based on an ANC decision and there was no separation between Government and ANC. This is unacceptable, and we also regret the loss of life in the area.

I want to agree with the Minister that our approach should be one of "one nation, one country" and "South Africa comes first and then loyalty to provinces". At the World Trade Centre the PAC warned against hard borders. We did not support the creation of many provinces. We now have economic migration from the poor to the rich provinces and this dispute is fuelled by non-delivery in the Northern Province.

A further problem was created when the provincial government said that a referendum was not necessary and that Parliament, through constitutional amendment, could deal with the problem. The issue of Bushbuckridge was then linked to Groblersdal which is another grey area, and therefore the two-thirds majority was not achieved by the portfolio committee. Groblersdal is still controlled by a CP council and local government elections have never been held there. This is unacceptable. The African people's right to have a council elected by democratic vote has been violated in this instance. We must separate the Bushbuckridge dispute from the Groblersdal dispute, and both problems need to be addressed through constitutional means.

I would also like the Minister to investigate the role of four MECs in the Mpumalanga provincial government in this whole problem. All four MECs come from Bushbuckridge and therefore had a direct interest in the dispute. In preparation for the

1999 elections, they want to maintain their constituencies in those provinces. This is an issue that is not being raised, but which has a bearing on the resolution of the dispute.

As far as the task teams are concerned, we want to commend the Minister for the fact that we are now finally moving to a situation where the legitimate border committee, elected by the people of Bushbuckridge, can engage with members of the department to find a solution to this dispute. We as the PAC want to tell the Minister that if there is anything that we can do to help find a solution to this dispute, we are ready to talk to him, because some members of our party are involved in the border committee [Interjections].

THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Mr Charperson, I would like to thank the hon De Lille for the constructive manner in which she is approaching this matter. I think it is a matter in which all political parties should certainly show an interest.

Before I go into dealing with some of the matters which she has raised, may I just say that for the past three years this Government, and also the majority party, has attempted to do everything in its power to resolve numerous border disputes in different parts of the country without any success whatsoever. This is an extremely vexed problem.

At the end of the day we have decided to take the approach of, rather than promoting a change in the boundaries, asking the question: What are the actual real material problems that people may want to have addressed when they ask for a boundary change? What are the root causes?

That is the question we had to ask in the boundary dispute between KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, when the Trengove Commission's recommendations were completely unimplementable as a result of the two legislatures differing on those recommendations. We were able to get an agreement on the part of both provinces that that boundary dispute should be put on ice and that, in the meantime, the two provinces would co-operate in such a manner as to facilitate good administration and good governance in that area. We think that this is a possible way for us to look for a solution to some of the other problems.

I held a meeting with the Bushbuckridge border committee on Friday last week, and the President also had one with them yesterday afternoon. In our discussions, we were able to agree with the committee [Time expired].

Mrs P DE LILLE Charperson, the developments in Bushbuckridge have now truly degenerated into a national crisis. As the PAC said yesterday, it is unacceptable for our children to stay out of school, even for one day, at a time in our country when we are at pains to re-establish and engender a positive culture of education. Also, at a time when the economy and, in particular, jobs are trying to come out of a deep hole, it is unacceptable that, by our own delays, the economy in Bushbuckridge is being weakened by absences from work, sabotage, arson, and the wanton destruction of property. We must condemn the destruction of property in the strongest terms possible.

Addressing the problems there, as a matter of urgency, will stop the violence and disruption of normal life in Bushbuckridge. But the fact of the matter is that the broken promises by politicians are a bad reflection on the integrity and honesty of our Government. This is just one of the many promises made and not fulfilled by the Government.

THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Charperson, the hon member is less than correct when she refers to broken promises in that manner. Nobody can deny that the Government, the Deputy President and I personally, as well as the majority party for that matter, have tried everything in our power, over the past three years, to address this problem. This has involved a great deal of time and energy and numerous meetings which all of us have been involved in.

I do not think it is correct to simply say, willy-nilly, that there have been broken promises. The Cabinet even went as far as tabling a constitutional amendment Bill with the portfolio committee last year, in an attempt to change the boundary. But that is behind us. What I would like to do is to join the hon De Lille in condemning the destruction of property in the area and the illegal action that has been taken.

I am quite happy to report to Parliament this afternoon that a joint task team has been established

between the Bushbuckridge border committee and my department, after an agreement reached by all sides that it is more than possible to arrive at a solution acceptable to everybody through a process of discussion. That task team is at work already this week, and I am more than certain that this will lead to a cessation of some of the activities that have been taking place in the area, and that we will be able to find an equitable solution to this problem.

What we really need to do is to ask ourselves: What is it that needs to be done in order to uplift the conditions of people in Bushbuckridge? We also need to be honest about the fact that, at the end of the day, provincial boundaries really do not matter all that much.

Debate concluded

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For oral reply

President of the Republic

Question standing over from Wednesday, 4 June 1997

Cabinet Ministers: gifts kept as personal property

*2 Mr J A JORDAAN asked the President of the Republic

- (1) Whether Cabinet Ministers are permitted to keep and use as personal property gifts given to them in their official capacity as Ministers (a) while in office and (b) once they cease to be Ministers, if not, what is the policy in this regard, if so,
- (2) whether they are required to pay tax on the value of the gifts they keep, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details,
- (3) whether he intends changing the policy in respect of such gifts, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what changes does he intend making? N1237E

THE EXECUTIVE DEPUTY PRESIDENT (for the President of the Republic)

- (1) (a) and (b) Yes
- (2) No As gifts normally encompass the

gratuitous disposal of property, they are not related to services rendered and therefore not regarded as income for tax purposes.

- (3) No In terms of the Code of Conduct applicable to Ministers, only small gifts may be accepted, provided that Ministers have satisfied themselves that the gifts are not being presented to influence them in any improper manner. Ministers shall register any gift received which in their estimate exceeds the value of R350. At their discretion, Ministers may use gifts received for motivational purposes in their respective Departments. Gifts that are seen to be of a tradition/customary nature, need not be registered. The parliamentary Code of Conduct in regard to Financial Interests provides for gifts and hospitality to be disclosed by its members and that includes Cabinet Ministers who are bound in similar terms.

Executive Deputy President

Question standing over from Wednesday, 21 May 1997 (transferred for oral reply in terms of Rule 202)

*1 Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF - Executive Deputy President [Written Question No 164] [Withdrawn]

New questions

Registered NGOs collapsing

*1 Dr M S MOGOBA asked the Executive Deputy President

- (1) Whether any registered nongovernmental organisations have collapsed since 1994, if so, how many,
- (2) (a) what are the prospects of the National Development Agency (NDA) being fully established and (b) how will the NDA coordinate and monitor development? N1347E

THE EXECUTIVE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

- (1) Nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) in South Africa are not required to register with any Government entity. Only those nongovernmental organisations which seek a fund-

Troops sent to Bushbuckridge

(266A) (2113) 60 6/6/97

PIETERSBURG — Police and troops were deployed in areas of Bushbuckridge in the Northern Province yesterday morning in a bid to prevent further violence following more unrest on Wednesday, police said.

Northern Province police spokesman Senior Superintendent Phuti Setati said the funeral of a woman killed in a recent road accident had been scheduled to take place at Marietjie in the Bushbuckridge area yesterday morning.

A low-profile security force presence was being maintained to ensure what Setati termed criminal elements did not take advantage of the funeral to commit further acts of violence.

He said that on Wednesday a truck was gutted, a paraffin tanker set alight and slightly damaged and a truck driver was slightly burnt when he was petrol-bombed.

Elements among residents of Bushbuckridge had over the past several weeks engaged in acts of violence. These elements were agitating for the incorporation of Bushbuckridge into Mpumalanga.

Both the Northern Province government and the African National Congress have said Bushbuckridge will remain in the Northern Province.

Similar unrest has occurred recently in Balfour and Delmas in Mpumalanga. — Sapa.

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(266A) (2153) BD 6/6/97

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DD 9/6/97

Bushbuckridge violence brings protest from premier

(266A) (266B)

PIETERSBURG — Northern Province premier Ngoako Ramathlodi has condemned violence in the Bushbuckridge area, where a border dispute has sparked unrest.

"We cannot afford instability such as experienced in the Bushbuckridge area. We recognise the right to protest peacefully, but the constitution also provides protection to the lives and property of people," Ramathlodi told the provincial legislature, joining other provincial MPs who have expressed concern about the unrest.

Residents in the Bushbuckridge area have been campaigning for the area to be part of Mpumalanga instead of the Northern Province.

Other border disputes are raging in the Groblersdal/Tafelkop areas of Mpumalanga, where residents are refusing to be part of the Northern Province.

Ramathlodi called on all political parties to condemn those elements "bent on destabilisation and destruction".

Education MEC Aaron Motsoaledi said his department had put measures in place to ensure that teachers who did not return to their schools today would not receive their salaries.

Motsoaledi said his department was aware that many teachers in various schools had not reported for work since the beginning of the year. — Sapa.

Mandela says Bushbuckridge will stay in N Province

Star 11/6/99

(266A)

Committee's new confidence in Moosa and its acceptance of Madiba's magical final word should stop ongoing violence in the area

By **RANOTHEA MASOTE**
Political Reporter

The battle to move the Bushbuckridge boundaries seems dead and buried after President Nelson Mandela told members of the Bushbuckridge Border Crisis Committee (BBCC) yesterday the Government had no intention of changing its decision to keep the town in the Northern Province.

After a brief meeting between about 14 members of the BBCC, Constitutional Affairs Minister Valli Moosa and Mandela at his official residence in Pretoria, Mandela said the Government had no intention of transferring Bushbuckridge to Mpumalanga.

In another of the many cases of Madiba magic, Mandela said the point had been made clear to the BBCC that "there is no question of changing the borders at all", which the committee accepted.

"That is the firm policy of the Government and we are not going to review it," he said.

The committee has been leading a number of violent demonstrations in recent weeks to demand Bushbuckridge's incorporation into Mpumalanga. This decision is likely to bring to the end the ongoing violence in the area.

The violence has brought a halt to services such as schooling and has caused a lot of damage to property over the past two months.

Mandela, however, acceded to a demand to establish a task team to find another solution to the border dispute between the Northern Province and Mpumalanga.

He said Moosa had approved the establishment of the task team, comprising members of his office and the committee, to thrash out a settlement.

"As you know Mr Moosa is a man who has got enormous experience in negotiating and he has brought that experience into these discussions, and I am convinced that the task team is going to bring about a solution that is going to be satisfactory

both to Government, the leadership and people of Bushbuckridge," Mandela said.

BBCC chairman Enos Maunye said they were happy about having been able to put their case to Mandela and had confidence

in Moosa. Ironically, the committee had previously refused to cooperate with Moosa.

"We hope that at the end of the day these problems will find a solution," said Maunye.

The outcome of the discussion would soon be passed on to the community at a rally.

Committee member Elvis Nkwenyane denied the committee had been adamant that Bushbuckridge would not remain in the Northern Province.

"Maybe that's what the media and press could have interpreted but that's never been the case," said Nkwenyane.

Task team will find a satisfactory solution



Take it or leave it... President Nelson Mandela, flanked by Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Valli Moosa (left) and Bushbuckridge Border Crisis Committee chairman Enos Maunye, at a press conference in Pretoria yesterday.

CHRIS ADLAI

Two provinces plunge into dire financial straits

NETSPRUIT — Mpumalanga's provincial government cannot pass most of its departmental budgets for the 1997/98 fiscal year and is in a budgetary crisis after discovering that it will have a deficit of more than R900m unless the national government provides additional funds.

And in Pieterstburg yesterday the Northern Province legislature was told that its R10,9bn 1997/98 budget would be insufficient to meet the province's needs.

Although Mpumalanga officials declined to speak about the province's crisis yesterday, National Party (NP) members of a number of legislative select standing committees confirmed they would be attending an emergency meeting of all committee chairmen tomorrow to address the funding problem.

In March, Mpumalanga tabled a R5bn total budget for 1997/98, which is an effective 8,5% cut on last year's allocation.

Select standing committees review and pass departmental budgets before they are ratified by the legislature.

(266A) ~~_____~~ BD 11/6/97

"In just one department (education), for example, we are R400m under-budgeted. If the province is forced to cut back to conform to national expectations, then not one road, school, clinic or other facility will be built in Mpumalanga during 1997," said NP leader Lucas Nel.

Nel said, however, that national government appeared "sincere" when it insisted that it did not have the additional necessary funds.

For every R1 of this year's budget, 92c is spent on salary and other recurrent expenditure. Capital expenditure such as the building of schools and roads, has already been cut 36%, but will have to be cut almost completely if the additional R900m deficit cannot be covered by national government.

Meanwhile, in Pieterstburg yesterday, public expenditure standing committee chairman Mame Kriel told the legislature that despite the shortfall no additional funding was expected from central government, except for instances of dedicated funds or funding of the National Council of Provinces and the House of Traditional Leaders.

Kriel's committee identified numerous areas of concern. Education was declared in crisis, with the education department experiencing a shortfall of millions of rands. Textbooks were not being bought and exams might not be properly administered. Roads annually needed hundreds of millions of rands in rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Kriel said the rise in current expenditure would eventually diminish capital expenditure, needed for sustained economic growth and development.

Some senior state officials were reluctant to resume responsibility for matters that were their prime duty. Continuous complaints from the private sector about unpaid bills were adverse publicity for the province. Kriel said a master economic and development plan for the province would be addressed — African Eye News Service, Sapa

Mandela says Bushbuckridge will stay in N Province

After 11/6/99

266A

Committee's new confidence in Moosa and its acceptance of Madiba's magical final word should stop ongoing violence in the area

CHRIS ADLAN

BY RAMOTENA MAHOTA
Political Reporter

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Task team will find a satisfactory solution

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Take it or leave it... President Nelson Mandela, flanked by Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Valli Moosa (left) and Bushbuckridge Border Crisis Committee chairman Enos Maunye, at a press conference in Pretoria yesterday

Change to (26/11) border 'is not negotiable' (26/11)

PRETORIA — Government had no intention of transferring Bushbuckridge from Northern Province to Mpumalanga, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

"There is no question of changing the borders at all," he told reporters after meeting the Bushbuckridge border committee in Pretoria.

The committee has led violent demonstrations in recent weeks to demand the incorporation of Bushbuckridge into Mpumalanga.

Mandela said a task team had been set up to discuss a settlement.

A review of existing borders would not form part of such talks. "That is the firm policy of the government," he said.

Mandela said he was confident the task team would find a solution which would satisfy all the parties concerned.

Details about efforts to resolve the issue could not be given because the matter was sensitive.

Committee chairman Enos Maunye said residents hoped a solution would be found. "Let us try and have confidence in the minister responsible in this matter."

At least 42 people have been arrested in Bushbuckridge on charges of arson, intimidation, assault, and property damage. — Sapa

DD 11/6/97

All they want is freedom

to choose their 'home'

— And the Bushbuckridge community is willing to fight to the bitter end for their 'right to choose'

community is willing to fight to the bitter end for their 'right to choose'

THE BUSHBUCKRIDGE community is reeling from its collision with the will of the government, and neither side seems willing to bend. PHALANE MOTALE visited the little town at the centre of a storm which has already cost some lives.



15/6/97

(266A)

PRINCE NDLLOVU is a history teacher and community leader in Bushbuckridge, Northern Province, and he believes the border dispute is based on geographical logistics rather than political bargaining.

Bushbuckridge is not an idyllic village sporting bushes and free-roaming buck. It is a peri-rural area with shacks, kraals and potholed roads. Driving through the area to Ndllovu's office, one has to manoeuvre through several police and army roadblocks, blockades of tree trunks, burnt tyres, rocks and flying stones from protesters.

There are barricades nearly every kilometre and at every intersection between Hazyview and Bushbuckridge, with goats and cattle roaming about unattended.

Asking the way to his office is like asking the locals about the whereabouts of a drug dealer — they are hostile and suspicious towards every stranger in the area.

In Ndllovu's spacious and well-furnished office — the headquarters of the Bushbuckridge Border Crisis Committee — he spreads out a map on the table, and points out that Bushbuckridge is about 90 km from Nelspruit, the capital of Mpumalanga and about 400 km from Pieterburg, the capital of the Northern Province.

Ndllovu explains that the residents of Greater Mapulaneng/Bushbuckridge do their shopping in Hazyview, Nelspruit and White River in Mpumalanga, where they also work and pay their taxes.

Bushbuckridge has only two shopping centres and no industries, while Nelspruit, Hazyview and White River have the lion's share of commerce emanating from tourism, trout fishing and industries.

"To prove that we belong to Mpumalanga, only businesses from these areas are affected by the protests. If we are in the Northern Province, why don't the businesses in this area get affected?"

"A circular sent by the education department in Pieterburg is expected to take longer to reach Bushbuckridge than one from Nelspruit. And His explanation is interrupted by the deafening sound of sirens from four armoured police Nyalas which speed past the shopping complex where their offices are situated in the Mapulaneng area, and an army helicopter which is hovering above the busy centre.

"You cannot solve this issue by calling in the police and the army. Let democracy rather than bureaucracy prevail," says Ndllovu as he goes to a window and closes it. Ndllovu is a busy man. Besides being a teacher, he is also the treasurer of the Border Committee. It is Saturday morning, and he is counting thousands of rands donated by the people of the area. It is going into a fund to pay lawyers in an application for a court order to instruct the government to transfer the area to Mpumalanga.

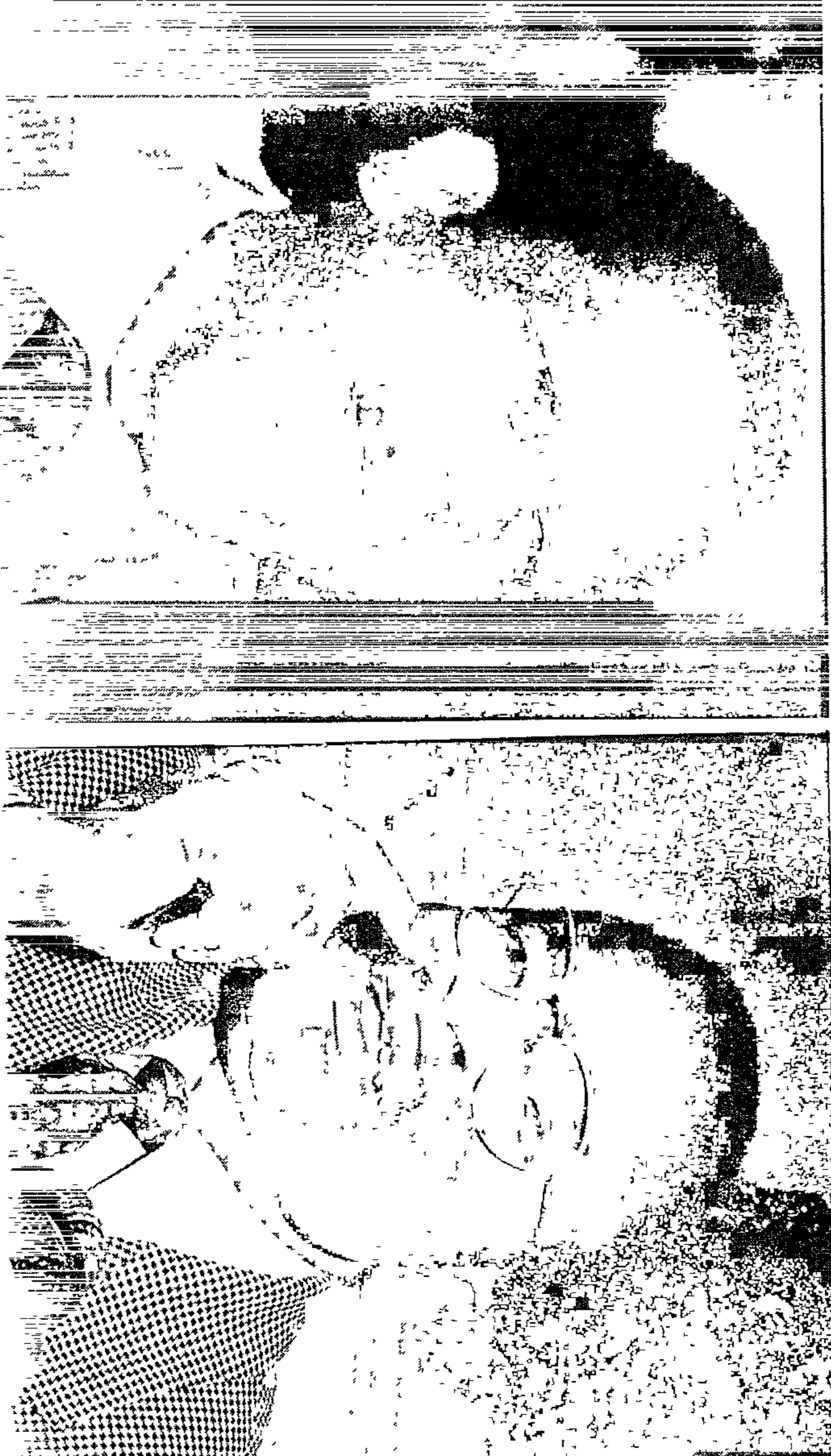
He takes the money out of a drawer and asks some of the office bearers to rush to the bank before they close.

"We have already collected more than R250 000. This is a sign that the people in this area are serious about being incorporated into Mpumalanga."

"We have the right to choose where we want to belong and the Constitution guarantees us freedom of choice," he says.

After a moment of silence, Ndllovu explains that their problems in the area started in the 1960s when they were forced to be governed by the former homelands of Lebowa and Gazankulu.

"We were under the Pilgrims Rest region before the government implemented the Group Areas Act and classified the Mapulana tribe under Lebowa and the Tsongas under Gazankulu."



"We are one country under one flag. Provincial borders do not infringe on the political or economical rights of any person," he said.

Daily, the area has been marred by protest marches, boycotts, the barricading of roads, arson to vehicles and buildings and the arrest of several people.

In recent weeks, a German tourist had to be treated for burns suffered in a petrol-bomb attack on a tourist bus, and several delivery trucks and police vehicles have been set alight or stoned.

The residents were angered last month when the ANC's national committee ruled that the status of Bushbuckridge and Groblersdal would remain unchanged.

The decision came as a blow to the taxi operators who objected to paying licence fees to Pieterburg. But the situation has also brought people from different political parties together. Bushbuckridge is now a place to call "home", even for old rivals.

People come together wearing all sorts of colours, but none match those of the ANC, PAC or NP. If these are worn, it is underneath, next to the heart. Residents do not ask what party you belong to.

With the 1999 general elections around the corner, different political parties are taking advantage of the situation and have expressed their concern over the ANC's handling of the dispute and have urged the government to stop imposing its will on the people.

The PAC's secretary-general, Michael Mtenandane, issued a statement that the issue was affecting the lives of all people of South Africa and warned that the situation was degenerating into a security matter.

"The PAC maintains that it is wrong to deal with this national-matter as if it was purely an ANC problem," the statement said.

Recently, a meeting was held between the Border Committee and representatives of the National Party,

newly... the homeland system was enforced by the security forces of the apartheid regime," he says.

Ndlovu says that when the ANC and other political parties were unbanned in 1990, people in the area thought that their problems were something of the past.

"In 1993 during the World Trade Centre negotiations regarding the drafting of borders, the people of the area made submissions.

"The area was declared a disputed area, but we were then promised that after the 1994 elections, the matter would be resolved within six months."

He says nothing was done about the issue until in May 1994 when the Bushbuckridge Referendum Facilitation Committee was formed immediately after the elections.

"Several meetings were held, including a main one on June 25, 1994 at the Maputlaneng College of Education, which was attended by the deputy chairman of the ANC in the Northern Province, Dr Joe Phahla, and Mpumalanga Premier Matthew Phosa.

"The meeting was also attended by all stakeholders including the PAC, traditional leaders, representatives from taxi organisations, civic movements and other structures," says Ndlovu.

He says they were encouraged after the meeting by Phosa who allegedly remarked "The people have spoken and it just needs implementation."

"Phosa promised to implement the will of the people within two weeks, but up to today nothing has been done."

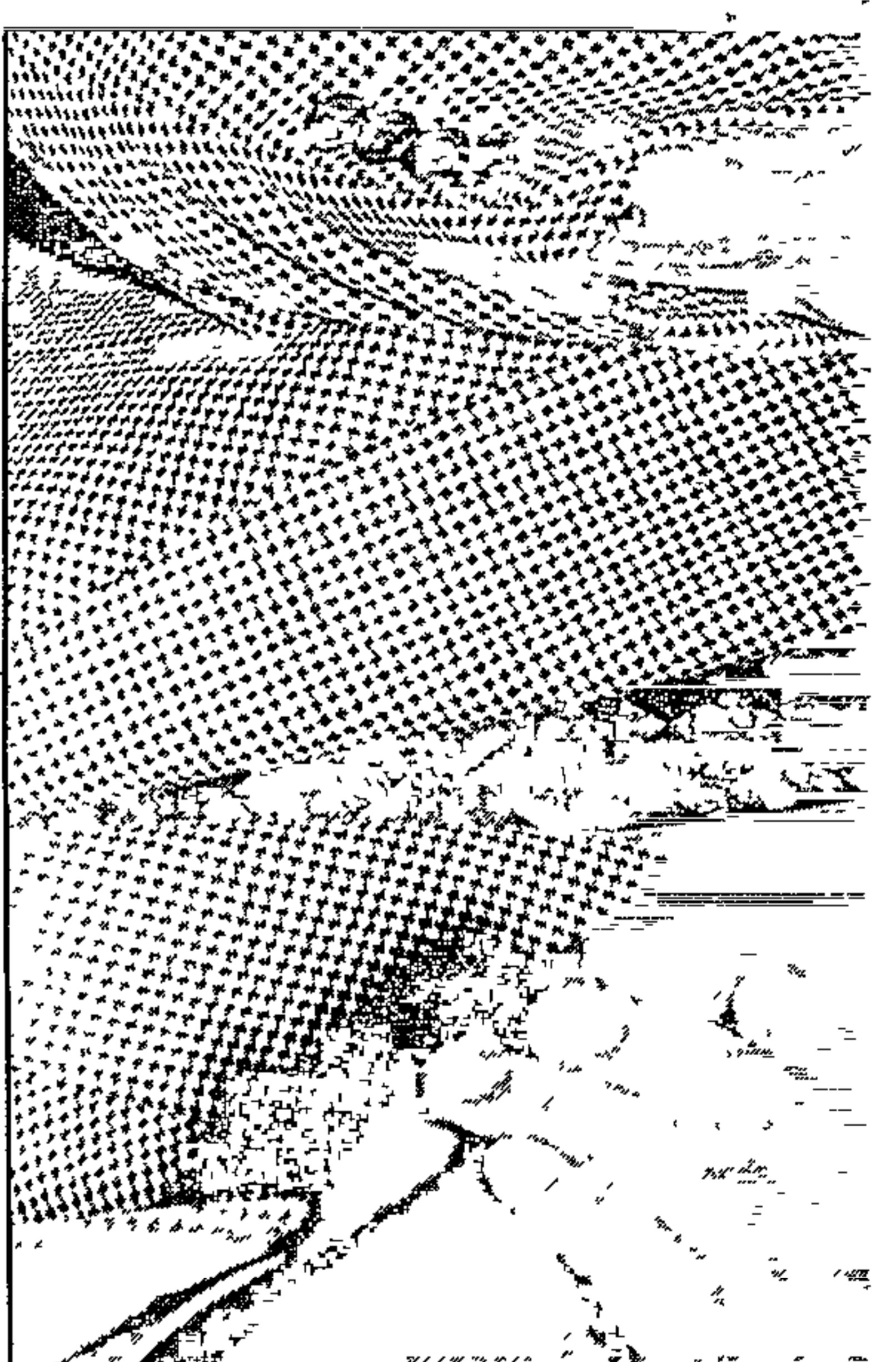
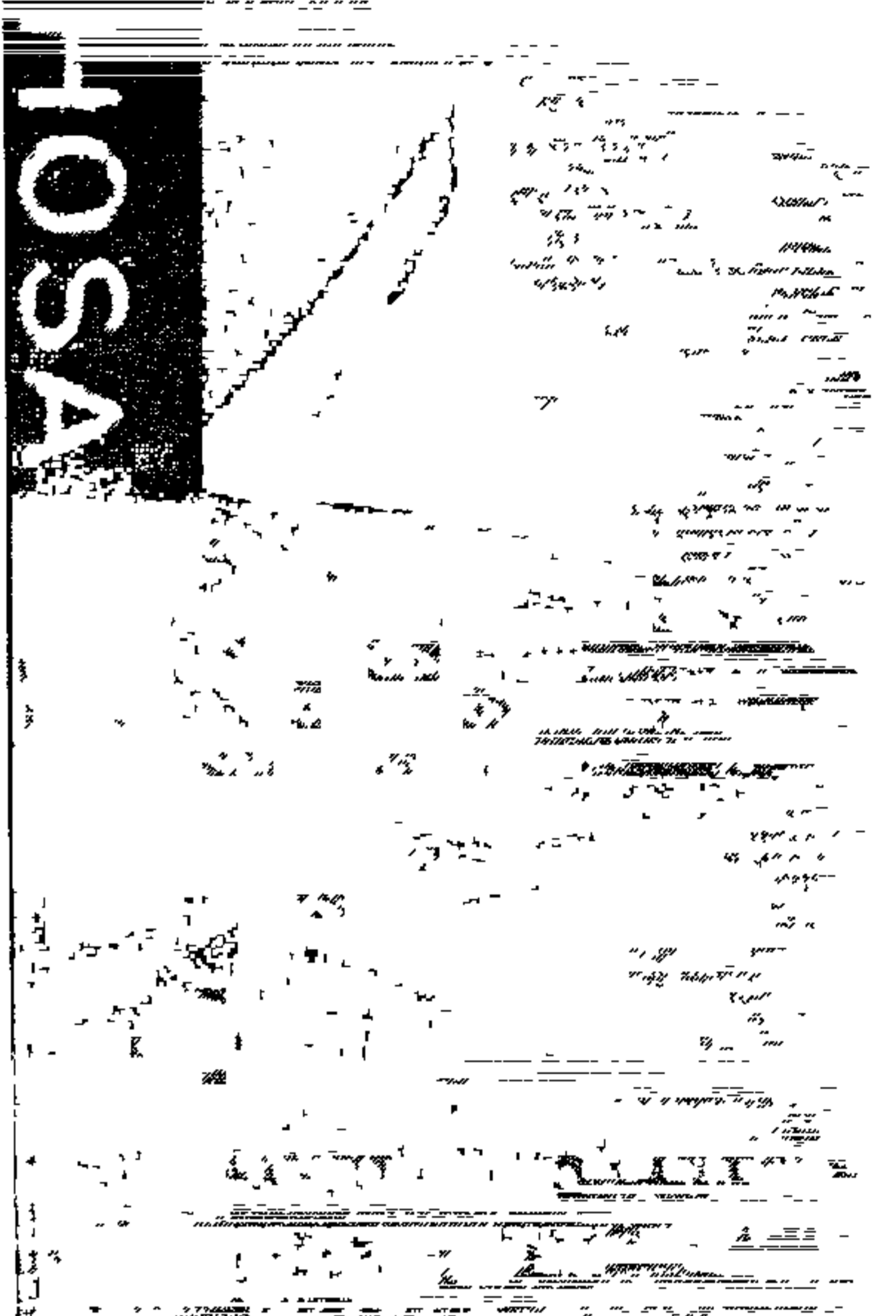
"Instead, the Northern Province and Mpumalanga reached an agreement to swap Groblersdal for Bushbuckridge. What a betrayal by the people we have voted into power."

"They needed our votes to win seats in the Northern Province, now they dump us and dictate terms to us."

"We want to be part of Mpumalanga and retain our historical background and sense of belonging."

"Our lifeline is linked to Mpumalanga - culturally, socially and politically," he says.

In terms of an agreement between Mpumalanga and the Northern Province concluded last year, Bushbuckridge was to become part of Mpumalanga while the Groblersdal area would be part of the Northern Province. This brought mass demonstrations



BROKEN PROMISES Mpumalanga province premier Mathews Phosa allegedly promised to implement the will of the people - but then went back on his promise

DO AS YOU ARE TOLD Northern province premier Ngoako Ramathloai has said that the people of Bushbuckridge should accept the government's decision - and that he will not tolerate lawlessness

in both areas by groups who disagreed with the plans. After a series of protests resulting in violence and serious damage to property, necessitating the deployment of a huge security force presence, the agreement was nullified by Mandela.

At a recent media briefing, John Dombro, MEC for Local Government and Traditional Affairs in the Northern Province, said there had been insufficient consultation with the communities concerned prior to the agreement.

The announcement that Bushbuckridge will remain part of the Northern Province and Groblersdal would be part of Mpumalanga, did not seem to make any difference. The mass action continued.

Residents of Groblersdal, where violence has also erupted, also want to remain in Mpumalanga and are resisting attempts to force them to be part of the Northern Province.

Ndlovu says the people in Bushbuckridge decided on April 20 this year to form the Border Committee when the handover failed to materialise and petitions to the provincial leaders failed to bring any change.

Today, people's lives are in danger because of mayhem, the future of pupils is at stake as there is virtually no schooling in the area, business is adversely affected, tourism is highly disturbed and the

transport system is grounded. There has not been any schooling for the past six weeks and government workers have not been reporting for duty.

For nearly two months there have been no classes at more than 100 schools, two colleges of education and a technical college. Most affected are matriculants.

Adults have stayed away from work, and those who have tried to secure their jobs had their houses torched by radical protesters.

Meanwhile, the MEC for Education in the Northern Province, Dr Aaron Motsaedi, has warned teachers involved in the disruption of schools that they would not receive monthly salaries if they had not returned to their respective schools last Monday.

"The department of education is aware that many teachers involved in the disruptions have not reported at their schools since the beginning of the year."

"It does not matter what happens with the issue of incorporation, but schooling must continue at all costs. Other battles can go on, but not in schools."

Motsaedi warned that if the Border Committee was under the impression that it had taken over the administration of the region, then the committee should also commit itself to paying the teachers

actively involved in the dispute. He said 80 percent of the pupils and teachers were eager to return to school, but were being intimidated. Unrest has since continued in the area, with Sanco offices and other government buildings, including schools, on fire.

Two weeks ago, the offices of the SA National Civics Association next to the Maputlaneng magistrate's court and the Ntse primary school near Bushbuckridge were set alight, causing damage estimated at R600 000 to the school. A freight truck was ambushed and set alight between Marite and Bushbuckridge.

Meanwhile, a pro-Mpumalanga demonstrator and schoolgirl, Sonto Khoza (18) was allegedly shot dead while toy-toying after a protest march and a six-year-old boy was also killed in violence related to the border dispute.

The Mpumalanga department of environmental affairs and tourism was also affected after it had to pay more than R200 000 in damages to several tourists who were attacked and whose vehicles were damaged by protesters.

Hotel and lodge operators in the area have reported an 80 percent cancellation of bookings since the violence started.

At least 40 people have so far been arrested for arson, intimidation, assault, public violence and damage to property in the ongoing violence.

A police spokesman confirmed that at least five official and eight private vehicles were destroyed by fire and that ten buildings and six schools were damaged.

The residents have vowed that the situation will only return to normal if the government accedes to their demand.

The government of the Northern Province has given its assurance that it will do everything in its power to restore normality in the area and to ensure the safety of the public.

Premier Ngoako Ramathloai said the government would not tolerate lawlessness or criminal activities under the guise of protest against the decision that Bushbuckridge would remain part of the Northern Province.

"The entire economy of the region - particularly the tourism industry - has been affected by these illegal activities and we will take steps to protect these interests," he said.

Ramathloai said he supported the call by President Mandela that the people should accept the decision

Provincial chairman of the NP, Dr Lucas Nel, assured the Committee that at no time had his party voted against the inclusion of the area into Mpumalanga.

The two parties agreed in principle that legal and constitutional process for the inclusion of the area into Mpumalanga would be initiated and that further meetings between the two were in the pipeline.

The Democratic Party also added its voice to the dispute.

"The government's assumption that everything is back to normal in the Bushbuckridge area is nothing but a smoke-screen, because the problems have not been resolved."

"In a democracy, this type of problem should be resolved by asking the residents what they need and by looking at economic, social and geographic logistics of the area concerned," said a DP statement.

"Should the ANC government fail to resolve the issue, we will resort to a more collective form of action by the people of the province, in sympathy with those that are being discriminated against," the DP added.

But politicians in the Northern Province are drawing daggers against each other.

Reacting to allegations that the NP was supporting the unrest at Bushbuckridge, which had resulted in the closure of schools, NP member of the provincial legislature, Tjol Lategan, said his party had never been in favour of attaching party politics to education.

"Nobody in the National Party has ever condoned the disruption of schools."

"I call on all people to follow the political and democratic roads in ensuring the effective education of our children," he said.

Meanwhile, in a surprise move, the Mpumalanga government broke its silence over the matter last week, when acting premier Jacques Modipane announced that his government would "withdraw politically and administratively" from Bushbuckridge.

He told a press conference that the government's plan regarding the Bushbuckridge riddle should be left as it was at present.

During the same week, the first meeting between Constitutional Development Minister Vally Moosa and the Committee was described by both camps as "closer to the solution."

But this week President Mandela told a press briefing after meeting the Border Committee at his official Pretoria residence that the government had no intention of transferring Bushbuckridge to Mpumalanga.

"There is no question of changing the borders at all."

"A task team comprising officials from the Department of Constitutional Development and members of the Border Committee has been set up to discuss a settlement of the dispute, but a review of the existing borders will not form part of such talks."

"That is the firm policy of the government," Mandela said.

Committee chairman Enos Maunye said there was hope that a solution would be found.

□ Ndlovu concludes that the Committee will have to get a new mandate from the residents after the meeting with Mandela.

"We have not been able to achieve our main aim of having Bushbuckridge incorporated into Mpumalanga. The people shall decide on what to do next."

While driving on the potholed-road between Bushbuckridge and Hazzyview and through Marite, one sees anger on the faces of residents and senses an atmosphere of unrest.

The question remains: Until when are these stone-throwing protesters going to wreak havoc in this once peaceful region, and is the government ever going to accede to their demand?

SABC

EDUCATIONAL RADIO INVITATION TO INDEPENDENT RADIO PRODUCERS

SABC education invites independent production houses to submit proposals for the production of a 13 part, 10 minute radio comedy/drama series dealing with the new labour relations act, in Zulu, Afrikaans and Sesotho.

The proposals should conform to a prepared programme brief available from the SABC in Johannesburg.

For further information contact Yvonne at (011) 714-5728 OR 714-3890.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bonitas members are invited to attend the 15th Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday 21 June 1997

Venue: Tlindane Town Hall, situated near Tlindane Sun and Fern Crest Hospital

Time: 8:30 am for 9:00 am

Please bring your medical aid card for registration purposes.

For further information please call Luther Phoko Matlou on (0140) 845166/7



AR40089 AR40089

Bushbuckridge gives notice to quit

(266A) M+G 20-26/6/97

The failure of a secret deal over Bushbuckridge has led to the frustration of residents, writes **Stuart Hess**

THE border rebellion in Bushbuckridge was fuelled by the breakdown of a secret deal to allow the Northern Province and Mpumalanga to share power in the troubled territory

Political leaders in the region say a secret deal had been struck in late 1995 when the two provincial governments' leaders agreed the disputed territory would be "politically managed" by Mpumalanga while the Northern Province would handle administration and the delivery of services

But several local African National Congress leaders say the deal collapsed after Mpumalanga Finance MEC Jacques Modipane, who has his traditional power base in Bushbuckridge, began using activists in the area to agitate for its formal inclusion into Mpumalanga

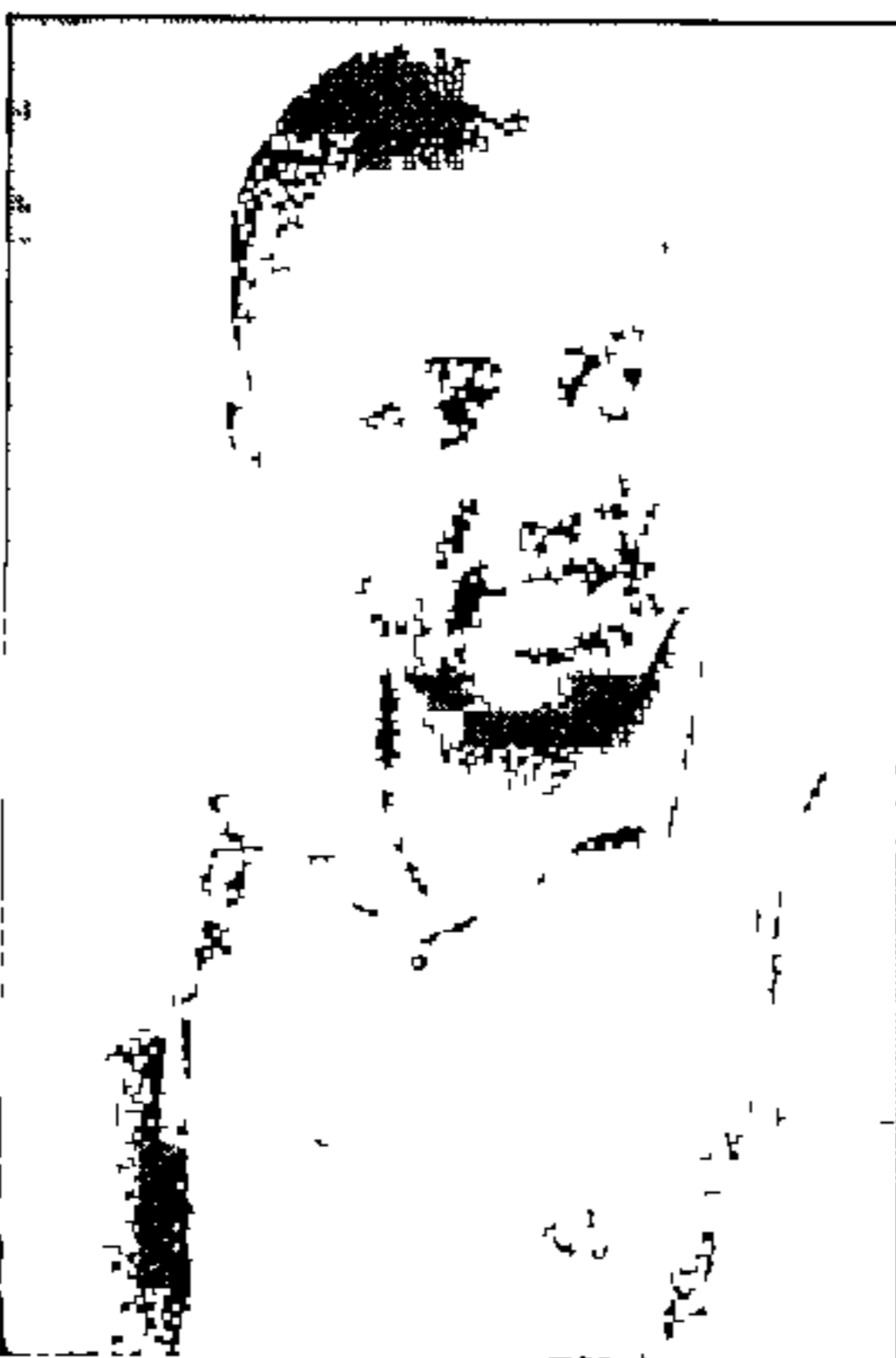
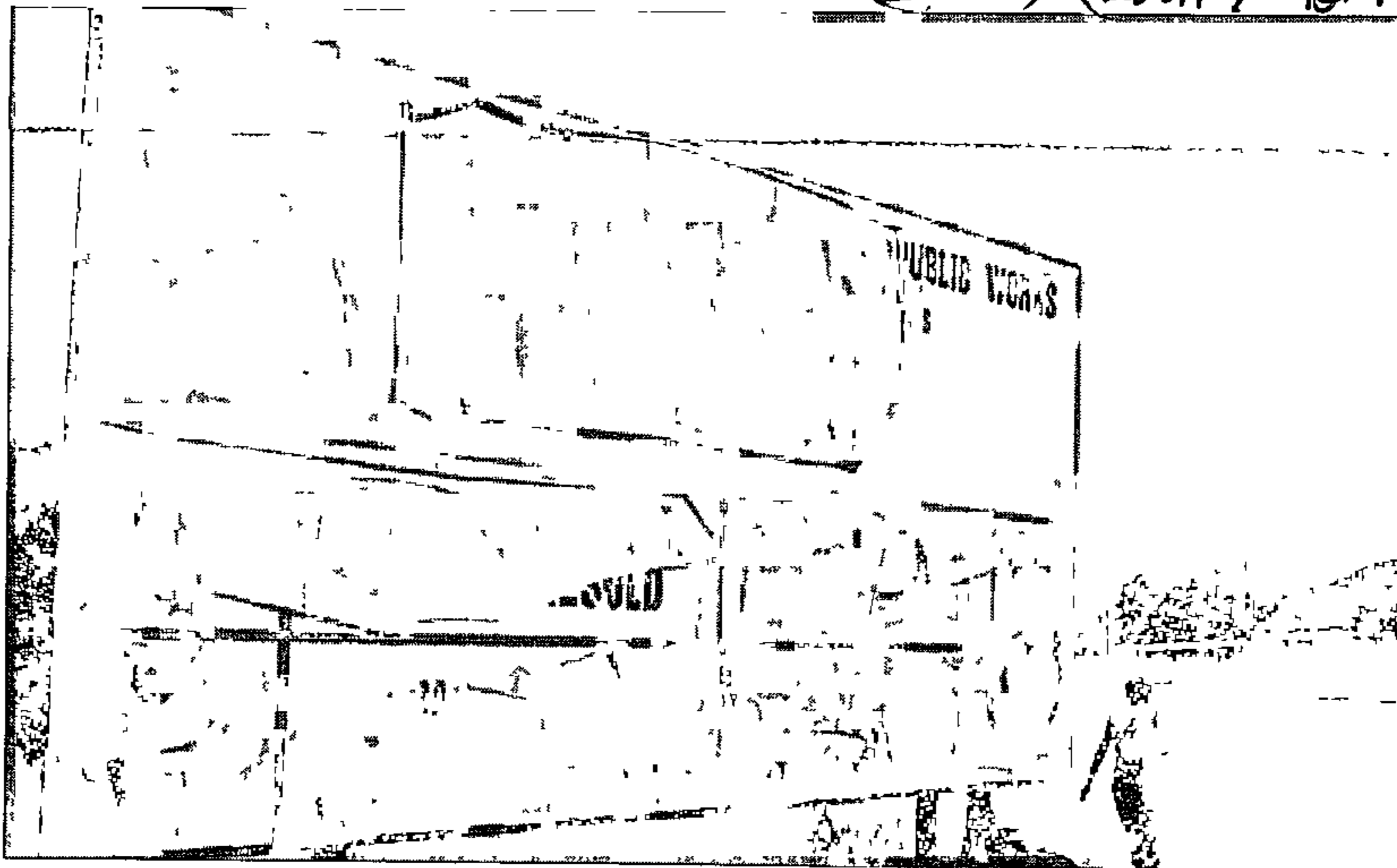
There is massive popular support for the area to be incorporated into Mpumalanga — support Modipane has jumped on

An impromptu survey conducted by the *Mail & Guardian* this week indicated most residents firmly believe their lives would be better if Bushbuckridge fell under Mpumalanga. They believe the Northern Province is incapable of delivering the goods

Thousands of people have in recent weeks embarked on violent protests, which have already claimed at least one life in the area. President Nelson Mandela's announcement last week that the area would stay governed from Pietersburg prompted a new outburst of stone-throwing and torchings

Community leaders and local ANC members, who want to remain anonymous, accuse Modipane of using the border dispute to strengthen his position in the Mpumalanga provincial government

They say Modipane, who sometimes acts as deputy to premier Mathews Phosa, could not retain his



New identity Many Bushbuckridge residents, like Frank Mnisi (left), want to go over to Phosa's province and show it (above) PHOTOS SIDDIQUE DAVIDS

these allegations before and we have investigated them and found nothing

There had been a deal to jointly run Bushbuckridge, he said — an agreement signed openly in 1995. He declined to comment on why the deal had soured. But it is likely the deal would have floundered without formal backing from the national government

Constitutional Affairs Minister Valli Moosa, who has been negotiating in the border dispute for national government, was unavailable for comment

Residents say they have good reasons for wanting to go across to Phosa's government. Frank Mnisi, a standard ten teacher at Mchaka High School, believes the national leadership of the ANC did not understand the problems in Bushbuckridge

"I doubt that they understand the issue or the geography of this area," says Mnisi. "If you look at a map Bushbuckridge is in Mpumalanga, we belong there"

He says Bushbuckridge was "excluded" from the Northern

Province's plans to deliver housing, health and other social services to rural areas of the province

Others say the set-up perpetuates the situation that applied during the apartheid era when Bushbuckridge was ruled over by the Gazankulu and Lebowa homelands with capitals in the far north and hundreds of kilometres away from their homes

The area has a long history of resisting apartheid rule. Labour tenants in the Bushbuckridge area waged massive struggles against exploitation by commercial farmers in the 1960s. The region was one of the strongest support bases for the ANC during the 1980s and early 1990s and this militant tradition is now feeding the border protests

"The national government should not stand behind the argument that we are one country and borders are unimportant," Mnisi says. "Why make provinces and borders if those provinces are not going to be responsible for delivery?"

Other residents share Mnisi's sentiments. "We are not against Northern Province but against their deeds,

since they took over they've done nothing valuable," says Ben Mabuza, principal of Lucas High School in Mkhuhlu township south of Bushbuckridge

He expressed concern about the closure of schools. "Idle youngsters have reverted to stoning cars and crime will increase if this problem is not solved soon," he adds

"Mandela must come and see, in the struggle, we have no work, he doesn't care about us," says vegetable seller Veronica Mnisi. "Mpumalanga is nearby, we do our shopping there but Pietersburg is so far away why must they be in charge?"

Bushbuckridge Border Committee, which wants the area moved, and community leaders, who oppose the shifting of the border, both blame the lack of service delivery and administration for resentment among residents

But the two differ on the reasons for such failings. "We are so far away from Pietersburg that the Northern Province government forgets about us," says Prince Ndlovu, a member of the border committee

Local community leader Sam Mkhabela, however, says there is "nothing wrong" with the provincial government

He says it is the transitional local council's responsibility to "render services to the community" and that it "doesn't matter which province they fall under, if the leadership on the ground doesn't change Bushbuckridge will still experience the same problems"

Mkhabela is the director of a local non-governmental organisation, the Network Education Project which assists high school dropouts and young people who have failed matric

Other local ANC members say the ANC must take overall responsibility for the trouble in the area. "We are fighting for one unitary state. If the Northern Province as an ANC-led government is failing to deliver then the ANC should deal with it," he adds

One local teacher came up with an innovative solution. He felt the government could solve the problem by creating a tenth province. "Bushbuckridge is such a big area, they must just make it into another province"

Task team will try to negotiate end to Bushbuckridge dispute

S.A. 24/6/97 (266A)
Bushbuckridge - A task team appointed by Constitutional Affairs Minister Valli Moosa is expected to visit the Bushbuckridge region this week to try to negotiate a solution to the Mpumalanga border dispute.

The seven-member team was expected to arrive in the area today, said the Bushbuckridge Border Committee.

Pan Africanist Congress MP Patricia de Lille would be touring the area today and would meet the committee to be briefed for a report back to Parliament, African Eye News Service reported yesterday.

Residents, demanding the transfer of the Bushbuckridge area from Northern Province to neighbouring Mpu-

malanga, staged sporadic running street battles with police and army patrols over the past nine weeks.

Both the African National Congress and the Government announced that the area would remain in Northern Province.

Six schools, three government office complexes, four houses and at least fourteen vehicles were torched during the protests, which were estimated to have cost the local tourism industry at least R25-million in lost bookings.

The task team is led by constitutional affairs departmental official Richard Sizani and includes representatives of the Mpumalanga and Northern Province governments. - Sapa.

4-1270

(266A)

Co-operative governing may resolve Bushbuckridge row

(266A) (266A)

Star 26/6/97

By HOPEWELL RADEBE
Provincial Reporter

Even though formally belonging to Northern Province, Bushbuckridge could get basic services delivered from Mpumalanga, according to a spokesman for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Valli Moosa.

Mpho Mosimane said the main function of the task team appointed by Moosa was to identify whether problems that led to violence in Bushbuckridge were created by insufficient delivery of services.

This involves finding out whether the community felt they had reduced access to health, welfare and educational facilities. If this were the case, Mpumalanga would be requested to provide those services to the community. Mosimane said Northern Province would then settle the adminis-

trative costs with its neighbour.

The minister saw this kind of "co-operative governance" as the only viable option "for the sake of peace" in the region, Mosimane said.

He said Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa and his Northern Province counterpart Ngoako Ramatlhodi were scheduled to join the task team soon to find solutions for area.

It would be the first time the two premiers got involved in the dispute simultaneously. The last time Ramatlhodi became involved was when he was held hostage for more than five hours by the Bushbuckridge border dispute committee in 1995, demanding that he let the area be administered by Mpumalanga.

Mosimane said the premiers' participation in the discussions was to decide how best to improve things such as housing delivery and other social development inadequacies.

Border opts for stability

(266A) (5000) CP 29/6/97
By PHALANE MOTALE

BUSHBUCKRIDGE residents who have been fighting for the past two months for the incorporation of their area into Mpumalanga, have decided on a temporary compromise to return stability to the area.

The Bushbuckridge Border Crisis Committee this week promised to end the two-month long stayaway if the government legally committed itself by transferring the administration of the region from the Northern Province to Mpumalanga, with the understanding that the border dispute would be addressed within a predetermined time frame.

Thousands of pupils and students from various schools and colleges have not attended classes and hundreds of civil servants have not reported for work for the past two months.

Businesses have collapsed and the public transport system has been grounded, while several government buildings have been torched. More than 50 people have been arrested and several have died in ongoing violence in the area.

Committee spokesman Prince Ndlovu said nothing positive had been achieved from meetings with Constitutional Minister Valli Moosa and President Nelson Mandela in recent weeks.

"Nothing tangible has been gained by the committee out of this meetings

"But if the government can at least transfer the administration of Bushbuckridge to Mpumalanga, that will be 50 percent of our initial demand

"The people will then call off the stayaway and negotiate the border issue while the area returns to normality"

Ndlovu said the committee's lawyers would within a week serve the Northern Province government with papers to appear in the Constitutional Court.

"One should bear in mind that the appointment of a task team by President Mandela was not seen by the committee as a replacement of the planned court interdict.

"If the government does not want to toe the line, the people are more than determined to continue fighting until our demands are met," he said.

No serious incidents of violence were reported from the area this week, except the death of a taxi owner who was gunned down on Wednesday.

Police said the unidentified man's death was linked to the ongoing taxi violence in the area.

He was the third taxi operator to be killed in the area in the past two weeks.

Five MECs fired in Northern reshuffle

BD 27/97 (266A)

Stephen Laufer

NORTHERN Province premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi has sacked half his cabinet in a reshuffle which draws most of his significant inner-party opponents into government

Five of 10 MECs were fired and three moved. Trade and Industry MEC Thaba Mufamadi had finance added to his portfolio while Edgar Mushwana — seen as a Ramatlhodi ally — was demoted to the housing portfolio.

The new position of MEC in the office of the premier was created for African National Congress (ANC) provincial secretary Collins Chabane, long a thorn in Ramatlhodi's side.

The reshuffle is understood to have been worked out with the ANC's na-

tional leadership and shows Ramatlhodi's intent to gain a firmer grip on government and the party. He has battled to reconcile the two since losing the provincial chairmanship of the party last December.

The reshuffle clearly aims to channel dissent by bringing Ramatlhodi's ANC opponents into the government.

The reshuffle drafts the ANC's deputy provincial secretary, Benny Boshelo, into government as transport MEC and moves Joe Phaahla from health to the key education portfolio.

Provincial ANC chairman George Mashamba, who defeated Ramatlhodi in party elections, could soon be appointed as speaker, sources said.

Mushwana's move to housing came ahead of the Semenya report on irreg-

ularities in the purchase of a building. It is seen as an attempt by Ramatlhodi to distance himself from Mushwana, hitherto an ally.

Ramatlhodi appointed Lutheran churchman Tshenuwani Farisani as agriculture MEC, pharmacology professor and provincial ANC women's league leader Hunadi Mateme as health MEC; and Norman Mashabane, who has a long history in the ANC youth league and as a mineworkers' shop steward, as the new local government MEC.

Freedom Front member Johan Kriek moves from transport to the public works portfolio, a sign of confidence in his abilities.

See Page 15

Ramatlhodi learning to punch smarter

AN INTELLECTUAL who has the instincts of the political backroom boffin, Ngoako Ramatlhodi has come out fighting like Evander Holyfield

His announcement yesterday of a provincial cabinet reshuffle signals a new energy in his attempts to assert his authority over the government and the African National Congress (ANC) in SA's poorest province. If earbiting has not been an issue, backbiting has, and he has made it clear that he intends having no more

His reshuffle is the product of months of discussions within the ANC-led alliance at national and provincial level, and of support and advice from such leading figures as Sam Shilowa

It is also the result of Ramatlhodi's willingness to take Labour Minister Tito Mboweni's dictum to heart that 21st century politics is not just about content, but also how business

This does not mean that the poet is about to mutate into a prizefighter. There are still those in the north's heavyweight division who could outclass him if he were to go toe-to-toe with them

Instead, Ramatlhodi is going to have to learn to punch smarter if he wants to go the distance. He says himself that he was defeated last December's provincial leadership race because he was content about mobilising grassroots support

With deputy environmental affairs and tourism minister Peter Jkaba and health MEC Joe Mashamba complying with a Shell use dichotomy not to oppose him, Ramatlhodi says he made the mistake of not canvassing for support at the conference. He lost to the well-known George Mashamba last-minute challenge

One ANC national leader commented that the problem since 1994 has been too many people in provincial party leadership stepping stone to government. Inpatient to get into the driving seat, they exploit the

Northern Province premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi goes for broke in an attempt to end political infighting in his province, writes Stephen Lauffer

weaknesses of office holders instead of helping overcome skills deficiencies common in a party with only three years' experience of political power

Indeed, the province has been in political limbo as energies have been taken up with infighting since Mashamba unseated Ramatlhodi. While matters have not reached the proportions which led the ANC's national leadership to remove the fighting cocks from the Free State, Pietersburg has not been a productive place

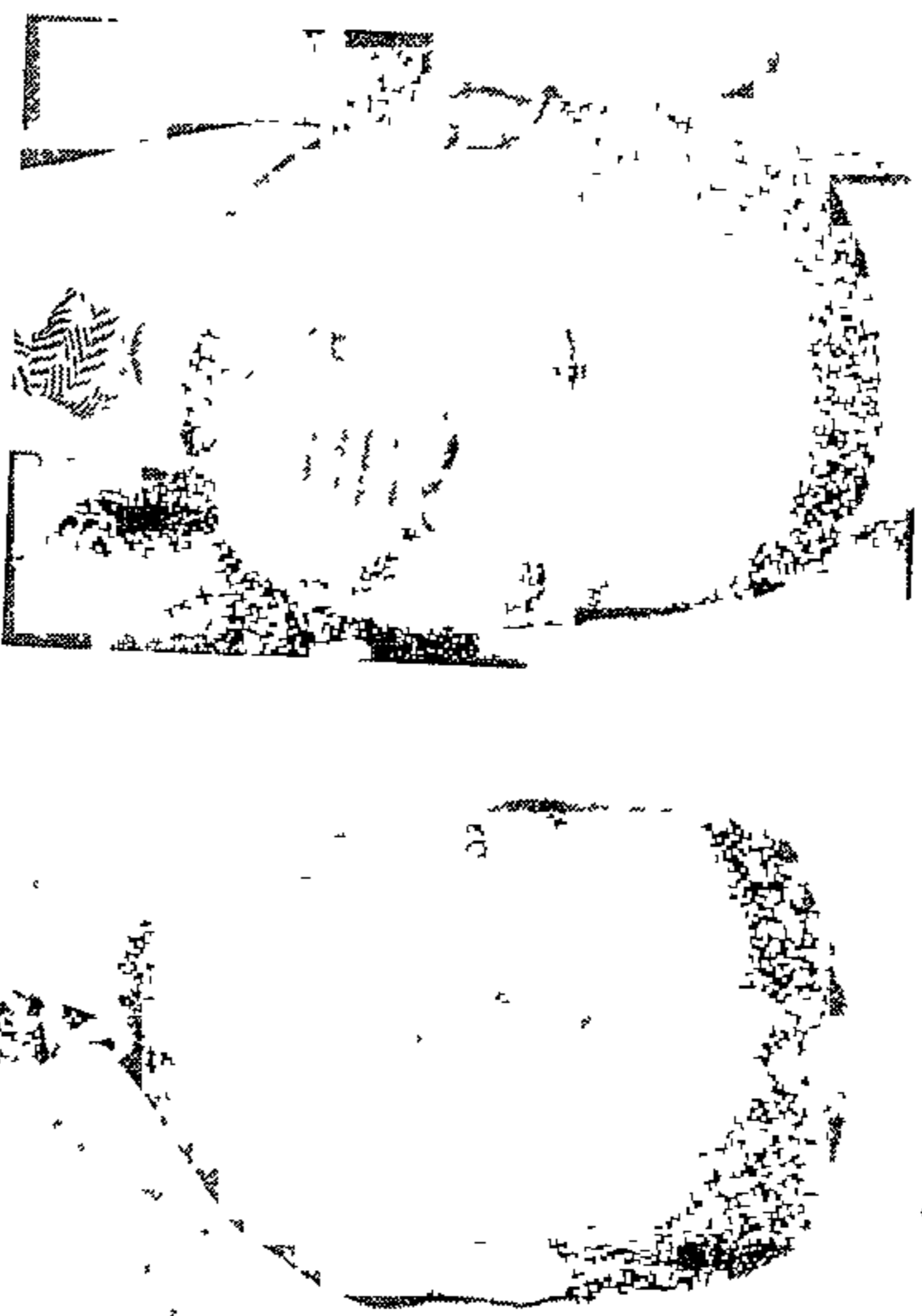
Now Ramatlhodi seems determined to show his opposition that he has what it takes to unite the party and steer the region towards economic and social development

But will his gamble work? Will the apparent decisiveness of a cabinet reshuffle be the demonstration of strength he intends, allowing him once and for all to take the lead in government and party?

Or will it be Ramatlhodi's last hurrah? Only time will tell whether yesterday's reshuffle was a monumental miscalculation which opens the way to more powerful and charismatic figures who have long sought to take charge

One senior ANC leader familiar with the province said the question was whether public confidence in Ramatlhodi's administration could be restored in the short to medium term. It was not certain it could, and it might prove tactically correct to move him sideways — if not now, then in time for the 1999 election

This was not the voice of someone unsympathetic to Ramatlhodi. He is widely respected and well liked within the ANC, but there are many who doubt his ability to govern effectively. Few question his personal ethics, and he is ex-



RAMATLHODI

MOKABA

BD 2/7/97

(266A)

tions and recalcitrant public servants from the homeland era, he faces strong opposition to reforms.

Unlike other provinces, ethnicity is a complicating factor in the Northern Province. Apartheid went further here than in any other region, some argue, managing to divide people along ethnic lines as it could not in the North West and did not in Mpumalanga

The result is public servants — the best educated, most articulate, and most organised groups in the province — who mobilise constituencies along ethnic lines in the hope of protecting apartheid-era privileges. Ramatlhodi is taking jobs away, reorganising administrations and moving departments because he is Pedi and against the Shangaans, or Ndebele, or Venda, goes the argument

More serious than the ethnic issues, critics say, is the discordance between the provincial ANC and the government.

One source familiar with the province describes a situation in which the education MEC's instructions to his department were consistently countermanded by the ANC provincial executive member responsible for shadowing the portfolio. The result was a confused director-general and an MEC effectively sidelined

"There has been an unofficial coup," the source said. "Those in office cannot exercise their authority"

Mashamba is not seen as a viable alternative, should Ramatlhodi falter. A former stalwart of the militant Harry Gwala, he has a history of being at loggerheads with the ANC leadership, and was suspended from membership on Robben Island. Things have reportedly not changed since his

pected to emerge unscathed from the Semenya corruption inquiry

It is in advance of the final Semenya report that Ramatlhodi has decided to act. Despite the appearance of relative calm in recent weeks, all involved in Northern Province politics have known that the wolves calling for a new leadership have continued to howl.

Having trained in the Soviet Union, the premier will have been aware of the old Russian saying that when the wolves are howling, somebody has to get off the sled

But having lightened the load, has Ramatlhodi silenced those baying for his blood? There are certainly those who continue to be critical of his performance, and it is impossible to overlook the power and personal ambitions driving many of his opponents.

Part of Ramatlhodi's misfortune, it is argued, has been his problematic allies. Finance MEC Edgar Mushwana, who is understood to come in for criticism by Adv Ismail Semenya for his handling of the procurement of a Pietersburg building, has been one of the premier's mainstays

His move to housing, a relatively unimportant portfolio in the rural province, indicates Ramatlhodi's intention to free himself from the charismatic insurance salesman who enjoys a large following in the province's Shangaan speaking areas where the premier — a Pedi — is weak politically

The uneasy alliance is indicative of Ramatlhodi's more intractable problems. Like the other provinces dealing with a legacy of division, unwieldy administra-

electron, and he is described as incapable of maintaining cordial working relationships with the party's senior leadership

Most national ANC leaders with Northern Province roots are not seen as candidates for premier, should Ramatlhodi have overplayed his hand. Sydney Mufamadi, who is a Venda, has a key role nationally as minister of safety and security. Labour Minister Tito Mboweni, a Shangaan, has his eyes on the national finance ministry in the long term, and Joel Netshitenzhe, a Venda, is also destined for high national office. Shilowa might be persuaded, but is also said to have national government ambitions

Which leaves Mokaba. The lapsed enfant terrible of the ANC youth league has made few waves since he succeeded Bantu Holomisa at the environment ministry last year. The consensus is that he has done an excellent job, applying himself energetically and avoiding the controversy of his earlier career. Praise comes from the ANC and beyond.

Tourism industry leaders say Mokaba has been active in forging a partnership between business, labour, communities and government, and that he recognises the industry's jobs and wealth creation potential. South Africans at the recent Cites conference were impressed by his efforts to establish a unified Southern African Development Community (SADC) position on reversing the ivory and rhino horn sales bans

In a series of one-on-one meetings, in gatherings of the Africa Group, and in SADC news conferences, "Mokaba did all the talking, swinging several countries around to the sustainable use argument," one observer said.

If Ramatlhodi's last-ditch gamble pays off, he may be secure enough in two years' time to contest the premiership for another term. If not, all indicators point to Mokaba and a return to the backroom — or the parlour of an embassy — for Ramatlhodi.

Report criticises Northern Province govt

Stephen Laufer

NORTHERN Province premier Ngoko Ramatlhodi is expected to announce the appointment of a team of experts to whip his administration into shape following the release today of the Semenya report into irregularities in the procurement of government buildings. Ramatlhodi is expected to order the provincial service commission to consider disciplinary action against public servants who flouted financial controls and management regulations. The experts would be asked to help with a revamp of the public works department and to assist the finance department in replacing the present tender board.

Advocate Ismail Semenya is understood to have found no evidence of corruption in the purchase of a building for the safety and security department, planning for a parliamentary complex

BD 4/9/97
or an offer to buy a parliamentary village. But his report is understood to detail widespread financial mismanagement by the provincial administration, chaotic conditions, particularly in the public works department, a lack of clear boundaries between public service and political competencies, and a general failure to follow accounting and tender procedures.

Most of the politicians responsible for departments criticised in the report were fired or moved in Ramatlhodi's cabinet reshuffle on Tuesday. It is understood that the report could have consequences for the future of provincial director-general John Malatji.

Semenya is understood to have determined that Malatji exceeded his competence when he gave a bank a purported guarantee worth R61m in favour of the developer of the parliamentary complex without tender board

(266A)
authorisation. The province paid R40m for professional services without a clear determination of the actual services rendered.

Semenya is understood to have found that the province spent R10,5m more than the actual R18,6m value of the safety and security building.

The report is understood to criticise indirectly former finance MEC Edgar Mushwana, who chaired an ad hoc cabinet committee which ordered the purchase of the building without full cabinet approval. Mushwana was this week demoted to the housing portfolio.

The airport belonged to the province, but current management was incapable of making it a viable commercial operation.

Ramatlhodi is expected to speed up the appointment of new state law advisers in compliance with Semenya's recommendations.

Top man quits as report finds province wasted R10-million

Special focus on civil servants' training urged

AKT 4/7/99

(266A)

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Johannesburg - Northern Province Director-General John Malatji announced his resignation today after the release of a report which found that the provincial government squandered at least R10-million on the irregular purchase of office buildings.

The report of the Semenya Commission, appointed by Premier Ngako Ramatlhodi last year to investigate allegations of financial mismanagement in the province's property procurement procedures, was released in Pretsburg.

The commission, however, exonerated three MECs but found that Mr Malatji had ignored financial control procedures.

"He accepted the administrative flaws that occurred in the government leading to the loss of funds by the government," the report said. Mr Ramatlhodi said that "after months of discussions between me and the director-gen-

eral, I have accepted his offer to take a severance package. He has accepted responsibility for the administrative flaws that occurred in this government."

Nobody, including Mr Malatji, gained financially from the transactions.

The commission found that some government officials did not stick to strict financial controls when authorising the construction and purchase of office blocks for the parliamentary complex and provincial government departments.

It found that the Public Works Department unlawfully authorised funds to buy an R18,6-million building for the Safety and Security Department. An independent property evaluator found that the purchase price should have been R8,1-million.

Proper tendering procedures were not followed in choosing the construction company for a parliamentary complex costing R350-million. The complex was halted after an opposition uproar and complaints from the tender-

ers. A further R40-million was paid to the complex consultant even before land on which the complex was to be built had been bought.

A R60-million residential village for parliamentarians was also put on hold.

The commission found that no money was paid to the company that offered to build the complex. It found, however, that the Public Works Department had already made an agreement with the construction company and had bypassed the provincial tender board.

The commission warned the government to pay special attention to the training of government officials "without which the financial management systems would collapse."

Even though rules were broken which caused the province "fruitless" expenditure of about R10-million, the commission concluded there was no evidence pointing to corruption or personal gain by any individual.

Mr Ramatlhodi has announced further investigations to establish who in the Public Works Department is guilty of the bungling.

D-G quits after R10-m squandered

(266 A)

Northern Province has wasted millions with the 'irregular' purchase of offices, but no one gained financially, says report

BY HOPEWELL RADEBE
Provincial Reporter

Northern Province director-general John Malatji announced his resignation this morning in the wake of the release of a damning report which found that the provincial government squandered at least R10-million on the irregular purchase of office buildings.

The report of the Semanya Commission, appointed by Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi late last year to investigate allegations of financial mismanagement in the province's property procurement procedures, was released in Pietersburg today.

The commission, however, exonerated three MECs but found Malatji had ignored financial control procedures.

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me and the director-general, I have accepted his offer to take a severance package. He has accepted responsibility for the administrative flaws that occurred in this government."

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R350-million. The complex was halted after an opposition party uproar and complaints from tenderers. A further R40-million was paid to the complex consultant even before land, on which the complex was to be built, had been purchased.

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It found, however, that the public works department had already made an agreement with the construction company and had by-passed the provincial tender board.

The commission warned the government to pay special attention to training of government officials "without which the financial management systems would collapse".

Ramatlhodi has meanwhile announced that further investigations would take place to establish who exactly is guilty of the bungling, and warned the culprits could be dismissed.

Star 4/7/97

CONCERN POLICES HAVE USHERED IN WOODS

The premier brings down the axe

(266A) CP 6/7/97

Dismissed



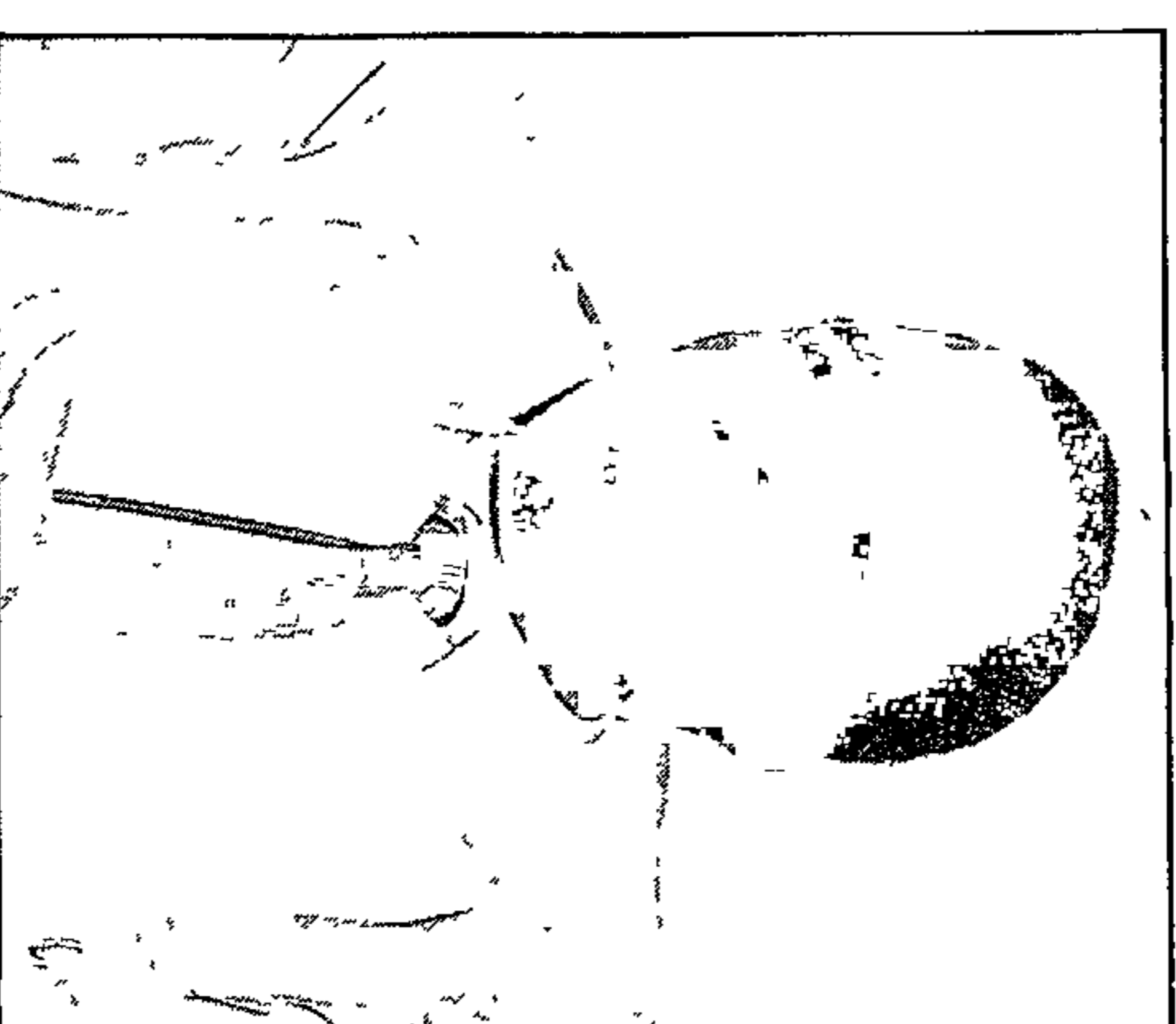
DISAPPOINTING . . . Traditionalist John Dombó
Pics SA COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Dismissed



IN THE COLD . . . Stella Sexwale-Mabiyé lost Water Affairs

Dismissed



EDUCATION CRISIS . . . Dr Aaron Motaalehi was sacked

Strongman

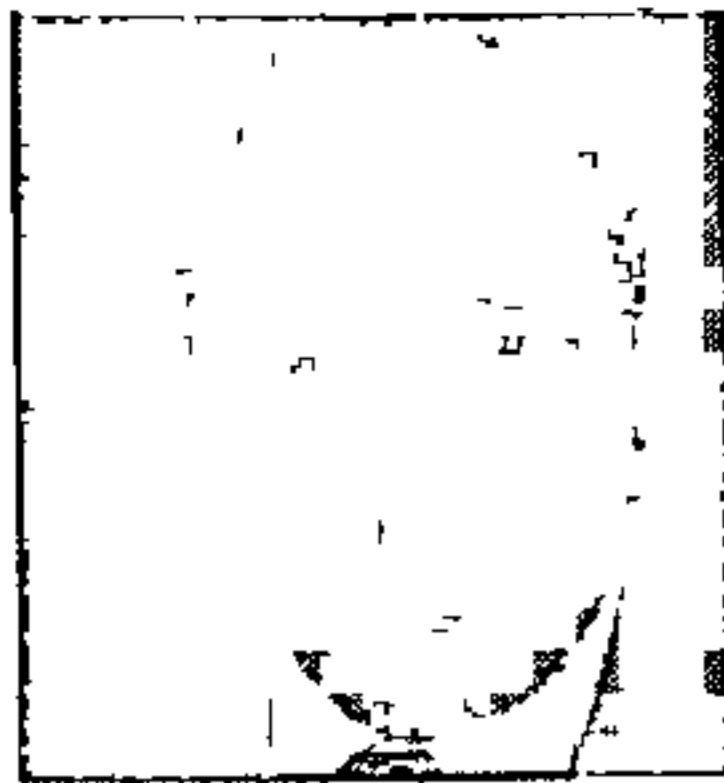


HORNET'S NEST . . . Premier Ramathodi surprised his cabinet

The great Northern Province

(266A) 6-7-97

CONT →



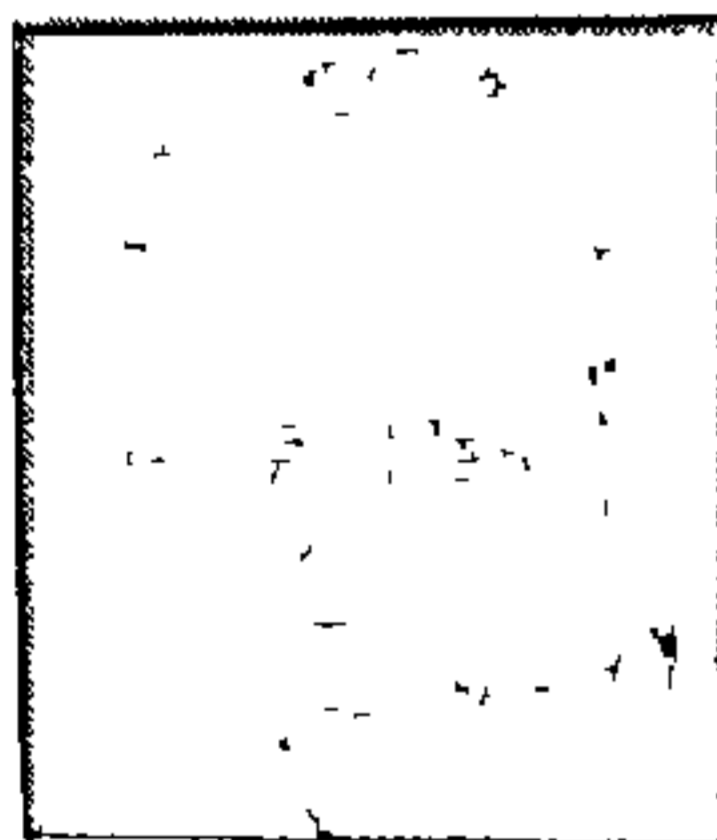
Dr Joe Phaahla.



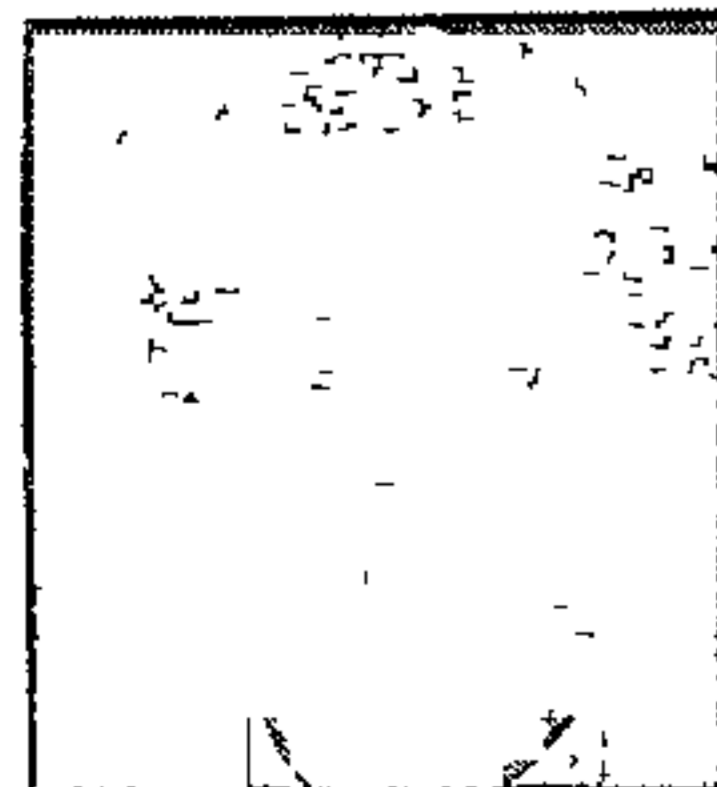
Dr Hunadi Mateme.



Advocate Seth Nthai.



Edgar Mushwana.



DG John Malatji

NORTHERN PROVINCE premier Ngwako Ramathlodi last week flexed his muscles and axed five provincial cabinet colleagues and reshuffled portfolios. These firings were intended to stop political infighting in the province – but instead they stirred up a hornet's nest.

Ramathlodi's purge aimed to cement unity in the provincial government – but this also seems to have backfired – heightening tensions between the provincial ANC and the government.

The cabinet reshuffle was met with resistance – an axed MEC described his sacking as “the beginning of bigger things to come”. The MEC, also a member of the ANC's provincial executive committee, had threatened to “come out with the whole truth” as soon as the Semenya Commission report was made public.

“We've been sitting on the truth while in government. Now that we are in the wilderness the truth shall overcome,” he warned.

The five sacked cabinet members were told President Mandela would contact them about their future. While they can stay on as general members of the provincial legislature they have yet to decide on their next move.

“I am an elected member of the legislature and I therefore do not understand why President Mandela should decide on my future,” the axed MEC said.

□ As expected, embattled education MEC Dr Aaron Motsoaledi made way for former health MEC Dr Joe Phaahla, who is also the deputy chairman of the ANC in the province. This follows an ongoing crisis around exams and teacher appointments. Phaahla was last December allegedly warned by the ANC national leadership not to oppose Ramathlodi for the provincial chair.

□ Phaahla's previous post goes to Dr Hunadi Mateme, who becomes the province's third woman MEC. The other female MECs, Dikeledi Magadzi and Stella Sexwale-Mabiti, were both relieved of their portfolios (public works and housing and water affairs).

□ The Freedom Front's Johan Kriek is the new MEC for public works and his transport portfolio goes to Benny Boshielo. Boshielo is the province's ANC deputy secretary-general.

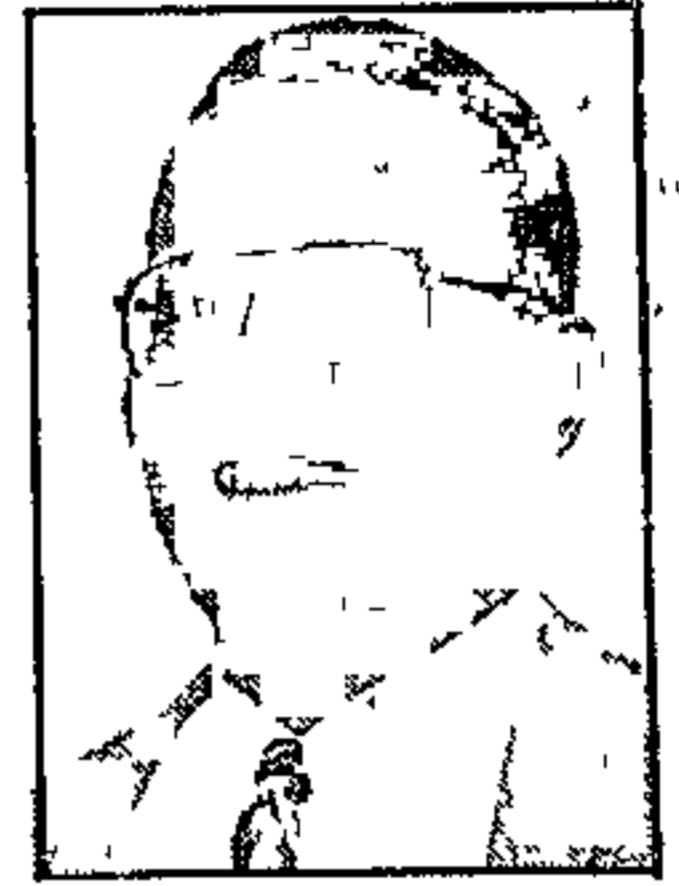
□ Ramathlodi's mainstay and former finance and expenditure MEC Edgar Mushwana, who was blamed by provincial departments when they could not pay their creditors and salaries on time, takes over the housing portfolio.

□ Trade and industry MEC Thaba Mufamadi takes on the finance department as an additional portfolio. He has actively canvassed government for legislation to assist prospective entrepreneurs get loans from financial institutions.

□ Former MEC for local government and traditional authorities, John Dombo, makes way for another newcomer, Norman Mashabane. Dombo has struggled for three years to get a provincial house for traditional leaders established.

□ And agriculture MEC Dr Tienie Burgers is repla-

THERE was a fundamental political realignment in the Northern Province last week. **PHALANE MOTALE** reports.



ced by former Lutheran clergyman Dean Tshenuwani Farasani.

□ Another newcomer, Collins Chabane, the provincial secretary-general of the ANC, is now the MEC in the premier's office. This appointment cleared the way for director-general John Malatji's resignation. Malatji's departure was confirmed on Friday by Ramathlodi who said “after months of discussions between me and Malatji, I have accepted his offer to take a severance package”.

□ Surprisingly, safety and security MEC, Advocate Seth Nthai, who stood accused before the Semenya commission as the man responsible for the purchase of the controversial R18,6 million safety and security building in Pietersburg, was not affected by the reshuffle.

Two of the newly appointed MECs – Chabane and Boshielo – were last year actively organising against Ramathlodi in favour of the present provincial leader, George Mashamba.

□ Meanwhile, there are rumours that Chabane was reluctant to take up his post and Dr Phaahla, who is abroad, is expected to refuse his post.

City Press spoke to Chabane on Friday and he could not confirm or deny allegations that he was reluctant to take the new appointment.

“There are a few things I will first have to clear up before I can comment about the issue. Or you can wait until next week – during the swearing in of new appointed MECs – to see if I'm one of the new MECs,” Chabane said.

However, Ramathlodi issued a statement that all new appointees had accepted their positions, and are expected to be sworn in early this week.

It appears that the “anti-Ramathlodi” faction has won the day – using the irregularities exposed by the Skweyiya and Semenya commissions to get their candidates into office.

Ramathlodi's warnings that heads would roll when his administration acts against inefficient government officials were not taken seriously. And when he said he wanted a clean administration by the end of the year, adding that he would stop at nothing to achieve this, few people thought it would be so soon.

The new appointments by Ramathlodi are seen by observers as a move to neutralise his opponents in the ANC's provincial executive committee and strengthen the government structures to serve the needs of all the people of the province.

□ The axing of Dr Tienie Burgers, the former MEC for Agriculture, Land and Environmental Affairs, came as a surprise. His department has been performing

reshuffle

extremely well and no irregularities were exposed

□ The expulsion of Motsoaledi, Sexwale-Mabitje, Magadzzi and Dombo was anticipated, as Ramathlodi earlier admitted that the Northern Province government had failed to provide quality education and housing for its people

He said while much had been achieved in rebuilding the administration of the country's poorest province, little had been done to address the housing backlog and the province had received the worst matric results over the past two years

□ Ramathlodi's allies and mainstays Mushwana and Nthai, who were prominently mentioned during the Semenya commission hearings, surprisingly retained their cabinet seats

Observers believe that he kept Mushwana, because, unlike in other provinces, ethnicity is still a complicating factor in the province and Mushwana had a large following among Tsonga-speakers in the region

But, more serious than the ethnicity challenge in the province, is the friction between the provincial ANC leadership and the government

The provincial executive committee met on Thursday to "clarify the constitutional position on the matter", but neither ANC provincial spokesman Richard Baloyi nor the provincial chairman George Mashamba were available for comment

The premiership has been no bed of roses for Ramathlodi. He publicly admitted during a media banquet in March that the past three years have been a mixed bag of magnificent achievements and dramatic failures and many mistakes had been made by his administration. He said his administration had gone into a self-inspection exercise

"Out of this we have emerged with a government programme aimed at consolidating our strengths and eliminating our weaknesses," Ramathlodi said

But life became even tougher for Ramathlodi after ANC provincial chairperson George Mashamba defeated him in the race for the provincial leadership last year

Mashamba, who has a history of being at loggerheads with the ANC leadership, later denied rumours that deputy-president Thabo Mbeki had allegedly objected to his position as chairperson in the province

Since then the province has been in political limbo with Mashamba's faction allegedly using all the tricks in the book to unseat Ramathlodi

The rift became even wider when Mashamba told a meeting earlier this year, that before the provincial legislature could pass bills, it should submit them to the people for input through the constituency offices

Ramathlodi was asked to comment on media reports that the knives were out to end his political career - after revelations of gross maladministration by government officials during the Semenya Commission hearings

He replied "At no stage in the past months, even after the ANC provincial conference, have I ever felt the urge or the pressure to quit."

National Assembly members have been accused of wanting to come home and take over the leadership of the province

An ANC spokesman said there were misguided people within the organisation who thought that the process of removing a premier was an easy one

"Those who gained momentum just before the provincial conference last year plotted against Ramathlodi, creating a lot of fighting over the cake that is available," he said

The spokesman said Ramathlodi has all along conducted himself in a manner that has won him respect and some observers feel that he might in future regain the chairmanship

6-7-97

(266A)

Semenya's damning report . . .

MORE heads of politicians and government officials are likely to roll in the Northern Province

Premier Ngwako Ramathlodi this week fired five MECs in a dramatic reshuffle of the provincial cabinet, and announced the premature retirement of provincial director-general John Malatji.

This was in response to the final report by Advocate Ishmael Semenya, made public this week, which recommended that the Northern Province government take disciplinary action against officials who had compromised financial control systems.

The commission had found that:

□ A R61 million letter of guarantee by Malatji in favour of a developer of the parliamentary building was outside Malatji's competence.

□ The budgetary allocation for the financial year 1996/97 for the procurement of capital projects was R9 million and there were insufficient funds to buy the R18,6 million safety and security building - later evaluated at R8,1 million

□ The Department of Public Works did not obtain the prior approval of the Tender Board for buying the building and the building was not evaluated by two independent evaluators, as required.

□ The Department of Public Works did not apply for authorisation by treasury, as stipulated

□ Public Works used an incorrect Tender Board authority number to access the financial system in order to effect payment.

□ The commission said the procurement of the building might have caused the province a fruitless expenditure of about R10 million. It was probable that this fruitless expenditure could be recovered by civil litigation from the developer.

□ As for the proposed R339 million parliamentary building, Public Works had not obtained authorisation before instructing the developer to proceed with drawings and specifications for the building.

□ The decision by the Cabinet to grant approval to Public Works to go ahead with the project of constructing the parliamentary building was taken without technical and financial information

□ The appointment of the consortium to construct this building was not through an open tender and the payment of R40 million to the consultants was made without sound verification of the amounts due. The payment of R40 million to the professionals was higher than the statutory limit of 16 percent

□ It was found that the tension between Public Works and the Tender Board had degenerated to such a state that it would hamper the government's capacity to deliver.

□ There was no needs analysis as prescribed by the regulations for the design of a parliamentary village of 33 houses for an amount of R33 million.

Blame laid at the door of public works

ST 6/7/97
ELIAS MALULEKE

(266A)

NORTHERN Province's department of public works has been singled out as the main culprit in flouting the rules for procuring property.

The Semanya commission found that the department, under axed MEC Dikeledi Magadze, did not follow procedures, and circumvented and undermined financial controls.

Financial and expenditure MEC Edgar Mushwana, who was "demoted" to minister for housing and local government, also featured prominently in the commission's report.

Although Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi was at pains to explain that the removal of the two, along with three other ministers this week, had nothing to do with the commission's findings, the finance department came under fire from the commission.

It found that the department had juggled funds from one account to another to finance the unauthorised projects.

The director general in the office of the premier, John Malatji, who "resigned" from his job on Friday, did not escape the commission's criticism.

He was found to have acted beyond his competence and in contravention of legislation in signing a letter to a bank that gave a government guarantee of a R61-million payment involving developer Dimitri Kourtombellides.

The guarantee could be given only if the loan was for the government.

But Kourtombellides, who was the centre of attraction throughout the hearing at the old Pietersburg municipality offices, was untouched by the commission. Evidence was led that the Greek tycoon, a man with strong ANC connections in the province, was granted contracts worth more than R460-million without submitting tenders.

No second opinion was sought on his propositions and no approval was sought from the Tender Board or the cabinet.

He was awarded a R339-million contract to erect the parliamentary complex, a contract of R33-million to erect a parliamentary village, paid R18,6-million for a building worth R8,1-million and profited handsomely from sales of other properties to the government. In addition, he was paid two R20-million instalments in 12 days for professional services involving ground plans for the parliamentary complex.

The commission found no support for his claim that he had paid the parliamentary complex project manager R2,4-million of the R40-million.

Ramatlhodi said he would launch an investigation and any official found to have acted unprocedurally would be dealt with.

He intended to appoint "professionals" to run all government departments, and to implement training for staff.

Industry to try to resolve deadlock

Nicola Jenvey

~~SECRET~~
DD 10/7/97
DURBAN — Last-ditch attempts to break the deadlock between striking sugar industry workers and management will be held today and failure to resolve the dispute would result in workers continuing the strike for another two weeks, a union spokesman said.

Five unions involved in the crushing and milling process have been on strike since last week and are under a management lockout.

Union spokesman Eric Botha said yesterday that the unions had been "more than patient" and had already made concessions by reducing the wage increase demand from 20% to 15%. The strike would continue if workers demands were not met at today's meeting, he said.

However, the Sugar Milling and Refining Employers' Association chairman Bheki Sibiyi has warned that the sugar industry, which earns more than R1bn in foreign exchange annually, faced significant losses should the strike continue beyond next week.

During Tuesday's meeting, management offered an 11% increase to B4-grade employees and a R100 settling bonus to the remaining workers. The unions rejected this call, demanding an across-the-board increase of 15%.

Meanwhile, Grocane GM Cecil Oliver said yesterday the company had received 18 reports of "wild cat" fires started by employees on KwaZulu-Natal sugar farms.

Province reverses 'no work, no pay' order

Kevin O'Grady

DD 10/7/97 (266A)
THE Northern Province government yesterday revoked its "no work no pay" order governing the two month stayaway by Bushbuckridge public servants over a border dispute and said it would pay affected workers backdated salaries.

Spokesman Kenny Mathivha said the decision at a provincial cabinet meeting was intended to "contribute to the normalisation" of Bushbuckridge after the school and work boycott, designed to pressurise government to transfer the town to Mpumalanga, ended on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Bushbuckridge border committee, which was formed to fight for the town's transfer, yesterday delayed its application for a court order forcing central government to redraw the two provinces' borders.

Committee spokesman Prince Ndlovu said papers would be served by tomorrow.

He also said there would be a march through the town on Monday to highlight Tuesday's meeting between Provincial Affairs Minister Valli Moosa, Northern Province premier Ngoako Ramlhodi and his Mpumalanga counterpart Mathews Phosa at which the issue would be discussed.

Memorandums demanding

that the three leaders "put their personal and political interests in their pockets and the interests of the people of Bushbuckridge on the table" would be sent to their offices.

Moosa's spokesman Mpho Mosimane said Moosa was aware of the committee's intention to start legal proceedings and had told committee members it was their right to do so. "The only thing we're opposing the use of on this issue is violence," Mosimane said.

He also said a commission of inquiry's report on the border dispute between the Northern Cape and North West that was released last week would be the subject of intensive talks between Moosa, North West premier Popo Molefe and Northern Cape premier Manne Dipico.

The commission, headed by former local government elections task team co-chairman Khehla Shubane, recommended Mothibistad and Pampierstad in North West be combined with Kuruman and Hartswater in the Northern Cape respectively but that Taung and Kudumane districts remain in North West.

Mosimane said there would need to be agreement between the two provincial governments and central government before changes could be legislated.

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Peace plan for Bushbuckridge

Kevin O'Grady

(266A) (266A)
20 16/7/97

THE premiers of Mpumalanga and Northern Province had agreed that certain government functions in the disputed Bushbuckridge area would be transferred from Northern Province, in which the area falls, to its neighbour, the provincial affairs ministry said yesterday.

The proposal was made by a task team set up between government and the Bushbuckridge border committee recently in an attempt to satisfy the committee's demands that the area be transferred from Northern Province to Mpumalanga.

The plan was accepted at a meeting yesterday between Provincial Affairs Minister Valli Moosa, Mpumalanga premier Matthews Phosa and Northern Province premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi, Moosa's spokesman Mpho Mosimane said.

He said Moosa was confident the agreement, the details of which still needed to be finalised, would "solve a lot of the problems in the area".

Bushbuckridge has been plagued by violent protest and was until last week the scene of a two-month stayaway by public servants and school pupils in a dispute over which province it should belong to.

Sapa reports Moosa said "Those government functions which may be more convenient to be provided by the administration of Mpumalanga province will be provided by that province on an agency basis on behalf of Northern Province".

Northern Province would transfer the necessary funds to Mpumalanga in order for this to occur, he said.

Mosimane said the task group would be joined by provincial government representatives who would assist in determining which functions should be transferred.

Committee spokesman Prince Ndlovu was cautious in his response to Moosa's announcement. He confirmed the task team had made the proposal but said he would only comment after receiving details of the agreement reached by the premiers.

He said the proposal that certain functions be transferred did not mean that the committee had abandoned its wish for the border to be altered.

Meanwhile, five schools in the Bushbuckridge area have been damaged in arson attacks since Sunday. Police said yesterday the latest attacks occurred at Dwarsloop and Kasteel during the course of Monday night. Three other schools were damaged earlier.

row 16/7/97

Bushbuckridge border dispute 'sorted out'

BY HOPEWELL RADEBE
Provincial Reporter

(266A)

The Bushbuckridge border dispute may finally be laid to rest following Mpumalanga's acceptance of the responsibility to administer services on behalf of the Northern Province in the region.

Addressing a media conference after a three-hour meeting in Pretoria with the Government's Bushbuckridge border task team, Northern Province Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi and Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa, Constitutional Development Minister Mohommed Valli Moosa said the Government would be using its

constitutional powers to override court actions by white municipalities in Groblersdal who were challenging incorporation into Mpumalanga.

He said this would speed up the process of facilitating municipal elections in the area. Groblersdal is the only place in the country still under the transitional authority structures

Phosa said Mpumalanga had the ability to deliver services required by Bushbuckridge and it was eager to begin. However, services would be channelled through as soon as the task team completed its task of identifying and separating functions that could be best rendered by either Mpumalanga or Northern Province.

Mpumalanga to provide some of Bushbuckridge's services

But border committee remains in the dark about developments

CP 20/7/97

(266A) ~~266B~~

By PHALANE MOTALE

THE Bushbuckridge Border Crisis Committee is still in the dark about the latest developments regarding the border dispute, nearly a week after the premiers of Mpumalanga and Northern Province held talks with Constitutional Minister Valli Moosa.

Committee spokesman Prince Ndlovu said they have not yet received a report of the minutes between Moosa and delegations from the two provinces led by premiers Ngwako Ramathodi and Mathews Phosa

"We cannot comment on the situation at present because we have not yet received a report-back from the meeting

"We are still in the dark about the contents of the report and the resolutions adopted by the meeting," Ndlovu said

Moosa told a media conference in Pretoria earlier this week that Bushbuckridge would remain part of the Northern Province but some govern-



HOLDING TALKS... Northern Province Premier Ngoako Ramathodi, who met with Constitutional Minister Valli Moosa ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

ment functions would in future be administered by Mpumalanga on an agency basis

He said he, Ramathodi and Phosa had accepted a recommendation to this end by a joint government and

border committee task team set up a few weeks ago.

"Those government functions which may be more conveniently provided by the administration of Mpumalanga will be provided by that province on an agency basis on behalf of the Northern Province," Moosa said

This means the Northern Province will transfer the necessary funds to the Mpumalanga government for the delivery of services

Moosa could not say which services would be affected, adding that this had yet to be determined by the task team

The Border Committee recently compromised by calling off a two-month long stayaway and re-opening negotiations with the government concerning the dispute

Two weeks ago, the Northern Province government changed its tune in regard to the civil servants in Bushbuckridge who were not going to work because of unrest in the region

The provincial cabinet decided that to contribute to the normalisation of the situation, the salaries of civil servants would be paid. Last month's salaries would also be paid

The cabinet expressed its gratitude that children had been allowed to return to school and again urged all to go back to work

Cont →

Three 'vigilante' businessmen on murder charge freed on bail

By PHALANE MOTALE

THREE alleged members of the Mapogoa-Mathamaga – a vigilante group of Sekhukhune businessmen – who were arrested

in connection with the murder of a theft suspect in the Northern Province, have been released on bail

Daniel Dinkwanyane (60), Andries Matlou (54) and Daniel Mogale (55) have been released on bail of R5 000 each this week, after appearing in a Sekhukhune court

Safety and Security MEC Seth Nthato ordered the arrests as part of a strict clampdown initiative after months of confrontation between the police and the group

Most of the supposed leaders of the group were arrested at the weekend, after the alleged murder of four people last week in the Sekhukhune area

The police action is the strongest indication so far that police intend getting tough on all vigilante groups

At least 82 other alleged members have been arrested and are to face various charges of murder, as well as assault, attempted murder and public violence, arising from previous alleged criminal acts

CP 20-7-97

(266A)

Woman fears for life as husband who shot her seven times gets bail

By DAN DHLAMINI

A POTCHEFSTROOM woman who cheated death after her former husband of seven years shot her seven times earlier this year, now fears for her life again.

Linda Rampou expressed her anger and fears outside the Potchefstroom Regional Court this week shortly after her former husband, Daniel Rampou, pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted murder and had his R1 000 bail extended pending social workers' reports in mitigation of sentence.

Walking with a limp from the shooting, Rampou said she could not understand why her former husband was not kept in police custody or had his bail increased to restrict his movement.

"Now that he has been found guilty he is more dangerous. He can kill me and the children because he knows he is going to jail anyway," said a visibly shaken Rampou.

Also furious at the release was the investigating officer, Captain JJ Coetzee.

"Initially I had said they should not release him on bail. I was, however, dismayed to learn that he had been granted bail while I was out of town," Coetzee said outside the courtroom.

In a written statement read by his lawyer M Visser, the defendant voluntarily pleaded guilty to charges.

He said he was aware that shooting Rampou could have killed her and that he knew it was wrong. He had gone ahead and shot her - but was now remorseful.

State prosecutor J Horn accepted the plea and did not oppose the defence's application for the extension of bail.

However, Horn told magistrate JD Pretorius he would call on Linda Rampou to testify when the case resumed on August 28, to show how strong the case against the defendant was.

According to court records, the defendant shot the unsuspecting Rampou near a taxi rank in town on February 22 after she had jilted him after seven years of marriage.

Voting makes a lot more sense

M+G 25-31/7/97

(266A)

Referendums would put an end to the violence and acrimony arising out of border disputes, argues **Richard Griggs**

All hell broke loose this year along the boundaries that separate South Africa's provinces. Deaths, intimidation, house-burnings and other acts of violence related to provincial boundary disputes are rife.

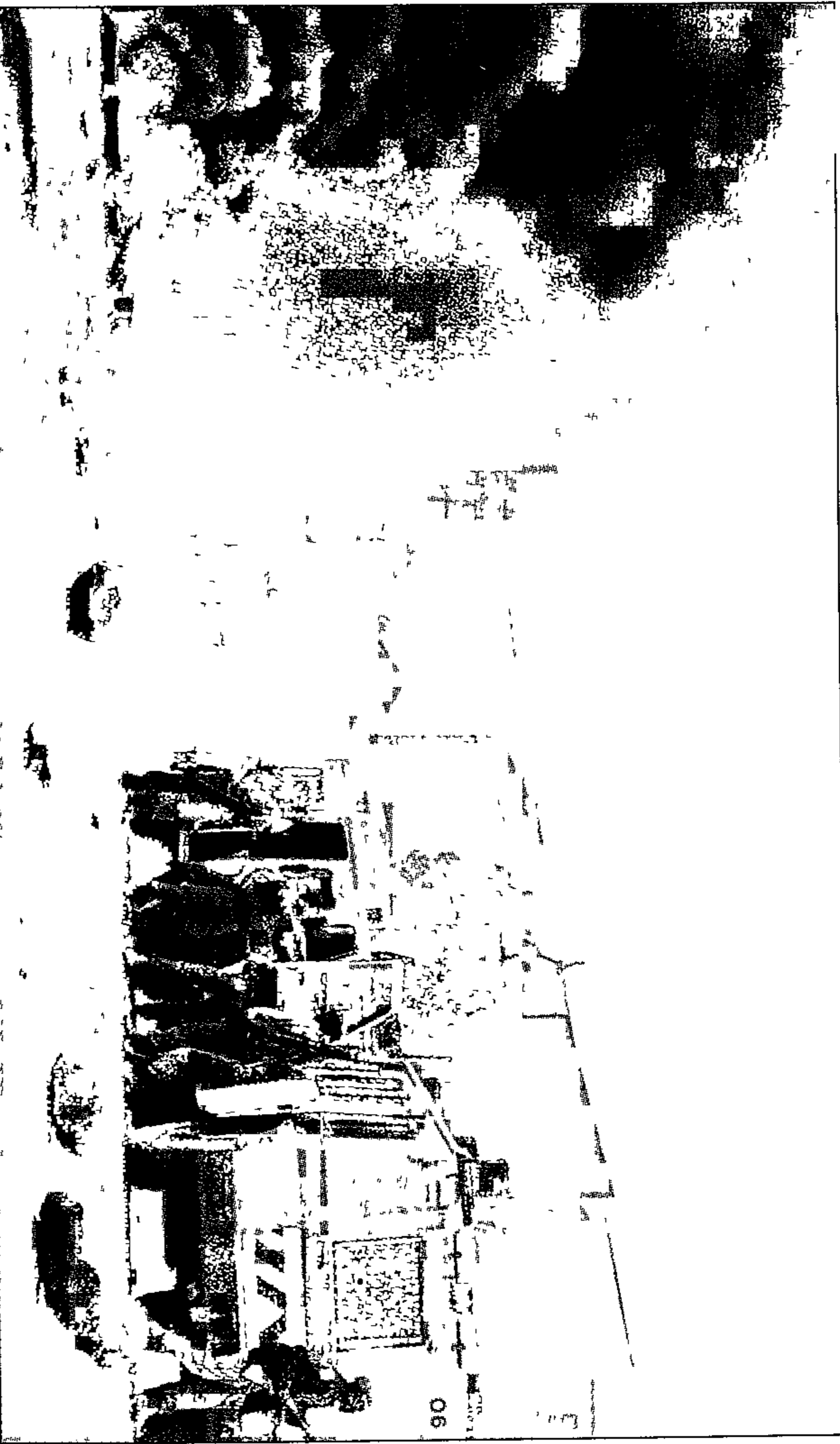
The conflict is not just the product of "street law" and hooliganism, but stems from boundary problems left unresolved by the 1993 Commission on the Demarcation and Delimitation of States, Provinces, or Regions. Although discussion and debate lasted from May to November 1993, the commission took only six weeks to define the provinces.

The haste left 14 unresolved boundary problems. Some of these faded away, but others still simmer on a back burner. Three have come to a violent boil: Kuruman/Kudumane, Bushbuckridge and East Griqualand/Umzimkulu.

A decisive and democratic means for resolving boundary disputes was once part of South Africa's Constitution. The 1993 Constitution allowed six months from April 1994 for area-based referendums on 14 specific boundary problems involving eight of the nine provinces.

This mechanism was never tested, for several reasons. First, the government sought to discourage its use because of the "expense" and the fear of inciting similar problems elsewhere. The African National Congress was most vocal on this point because many of these disputes were among its own members, and therefore it sought to work these out through the political party process.

Second, the referendum option expired before most groups could experience the



Up in smoke: Bushbuckridge is just one of three border disputes which have turned nasty since the 1994 elections

Bushbuckridge/Groblersdal: In 1994 premiers Mathews Phosa (Mpuma-langa) and Ngoako Ramathodi (Northern Province) negotiated an agreement to transfer Bushbuckridge to Mpumalanga. Northern Province insisted on linking an exchange of Groblersdal and Marble Hall to the cession of Bushbuckridge.

they would be free of apartheid demarcations. They are the heirs of many forced removals, including those that made way for the Kruger National Park, and they now want to express the right to live in the area they please. Nonetheless, the ANC's national working committee and President Nelson Mandela

stad, during which copies of the Trengove report were burnt in the streets. Protesters from the Eastern Cape, primarily organised by the local ANC, later crossed the border to show their support for the Trengove report. The commissioners had argued that a refer-

a response. The Action Referendum Party, an organisation supported by business leaders, was the only group to attempt a petition. It failed to obtain even half of the 158 154 signatures needed to split the province along the Kei River.

However, calls for referendums increased in East Griqualand, Bushbuckridge, Kuruman and former KwaNdebele after the date for filing signatures needed to split the province along the Kei River.

The new Constitution now simply states that the boundaries of the provinces are those that existed when the Constitution took effect. We are functioning in a vacuum, without procedures or mechanisms to adjust provincial boundaries.

In the absence of any constitutional instruments, power is referred to higher levels of authority and party politics. This is problematic because the temptation to "horse trade" territories to capture voters has stalemated the entire process. The lack of referendums and constituencies also allows no space for the expression of regional concerns.

Most importantly, decision-making at a distance is creating tensions at the grassroots level by sidelining local actors who then seek alternative ways to demand attention, such as mass action, localised protests and violence.

Much of the central government's response to mass action has been decision-making from a central level, rather than bringing affected communities into the decision-making process. This compounds the problem rather than mitigating tensions.

A referendum offers the maximum degree of transparency and participation in a demarcation process. It provides a decisive answer, and is usually accepted because it is perceived as legitimate. The government has resisted referendums on three grounds: "such moves will only lead to a spiral of similar demands", the high cost of referendums, and since South Africa has "soft boundaries", location is irrelevant.

Boundaries create the territorial spaces in which we live, distribute power to people who influence our lives, determine where we vote, create tax bases, construct regional identities, facilitate or impede easy transport, and determine access to public services.

Two examples can help illustrate these points, and hopefully lead to a reconsideration of a referendum as a mechanism for resolving highly sensitive territorial disputes.

Complex constitutional processes, such as the people of Groblersdal and Marble Hall vigorously protested.

More angry and alienated by the political process were the residents of the former Gazankulu and Lebowa homelands (Bushbuckridge), who have seen virtually no development since the days of apartheid. The Reconstruction and Development Programme cannot function if provinces are afraid to invest in an area they may lose.

Prior to the 1994 elections, residents sought to form a referendum committee to make their demands clear, but then were discouraged by ANC officials. They were advised that referendums were costly and that negotiations would lead to an eventual transfer to Mpumalanga (thereby winning the Bushbuckridge vote). Such a change was never effected.

The Bushbuckridge costs include 15 schools, 10 government office complexes, 13 commercial vehicles, and a sawmill valued at R1,5-million destroyed by arson

Undelivered promises and the active discouragement of community participation in the decision-making process fuelled the present wave of mass protest which began in April.

The costs associated with the violence, strikes, lost business and destruction of property are far higher than any referendum. Any calculation of the costs would include expensive government task teams to investigate the problem, troops and casspurs to patrol the roads, R25-million lost in tourism revenue, a Constitutional Court case filed against the ANC and the two provinces by the Bushbuckridge Border Committee, and 15 schools, 10 government office complexes, 13 commercial vehicles, and a sawmill valued at R1,5-million destroyed by arson.

The local demand to be part of Mpumalanga is motivated more by rational factors than irrational ones. On the map Bushbuckridge juts like a finger of space into Mpumalanga. Development can be better facilitated within Mpumalanga.

There are also irrational, emotive issues. When political organisations were unbanned in 1990, the people of Bushbuckridge thought

that they would be able to produce a situation for the special task team under the auspices of the Ministry of Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development.

Last week the task team recommended some service delivery from Mpumalanga without changing the boundaries. This half-way measure, meant to appease both the region and prevent back-tracking on government policy, fell flat with the local actors who were excluded from the decision-making process. Locally, the issue of representation and self-determination are the priority issues, not service delivery.

Now the government faces a new rebellion: the residents are refusing to co-operate in any manner with Northern Province officials. They will not even allow them to address meetings in the area.

East Griqualand/Umzimkulu: The struggle over the boundary between the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal (East Griqualand) has sparked killings, house-burnings and other violence that also requires an army presence.

Prior to the "independence" of Transkei, much of the former Matatiele magisterial district was incorporated into Mount Currie and annexed to Natal.

Formerly it had been part of the Cape Province. Then, 20 years later, the Trengove Commission was formed to take testimony from affected citizens and make recommendations as to whether the areas of Umzimkulu, Mount Currie and East Griqualand should be placed in the Eastern Cape or KwaZulu-Natal. Like Bushbuckridge, the central problem with the boundary is fairly obvious. Umzimkulu is an exclave of the Eastern Cape and an enclave inside KwaZulu-Natal. Likewise, Mount Currie can be seen as an enclave inside the Eastern Cape or an exclave of KwaZulu-Natal.

Using a commission of inquiry to resolve this problem has one central weakness: consultants and advisers are not the decision-makers. The Trengove Commission was also fraught with problems and highly expensive. Its very presence created tensions as various political forces focused on swaying the decision-making process by packing halls and sometimes using intimidation to create the impression of unanimity.

In May 1996 the report was released. The conclusion was that all of East Griqualand be placed in the Eastern Cape. Within days a protest of about 2 000 people was held in Kok-

men in favour of a referendum (the calls have been stronger and more powerful since then).

Most who live in Umzimkulu appear to support joining KwaZulu-Natal because delivery of services is obviously easier from Pietermaritzburg than Bisho. Those living in the Eastern Cape appear to be the greatest supporters of incorporating Kokstad and Matatiele as hubs for development there. Many around Kokstad would prefer things to remain as they are.

A referendum could have dispelled all doubt and established a legitimate means of resolving the problem permanently.

The advantages of referendums on long-standing boundary disputes are clear-cut. Where decision-making power is concentrated, political parties will act in the best interests of the party, not the local people whose lives are at stake.

A properly structured referendum allows citizens the opportunity to express a democratic will that may differ from their representatives. Voters are freed from the intimidation of public meetings and feel responsible for the referendum result.

Politicians routinely claim that referendums create the divisions that they are meant to resolve. They also fear a loss of both individual and party power through an erosion in its ability to maintain a hierarchy.

This fear is unfortunate because referendums can actually be good for those who promote them. The perceived legitimacy of referendums raises citizens' confidence in the democratic system and translates into investment because participatory democracy is linked to stability.

Grassroots participation in decision-making can also help build political party power rather than reduce it. For instance, the ANC's squelching of the referendums has caused it political set-backs rather than gains. Pan Africanist Congress membership cards are being printed as fast as they can be dished out in Bushbuckridge, formerly an all-ANC area.

Support for referendums to resolve boundary disputes suggests an interest in moving South Africa toward a system of more direct democracy and community empowerment — still a debated issue in our transitional democracy.

Richard Griggs is the head of research at the Independent Projects Trust.

Bushbuckridge group calls for renewed action

Kevin O'Grady

(266A) (266B)
BD 19/8/97

THE committee pushing for the transfer of the Bushbuckridge area from Northern Province to Mpumalanga would call a series of "staggered strikes" in support of its demands, despite the cancellation of the first of these last Friday, a spokesman announced yesterday.

Bushbuckridge border committee spokesman Prince Ndlovu said a mass protest had been cancelled on Friday when a meeting that was rumoured to have been planned between Provincial Affairs Minister Valli Moosa, Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa and Northern Province premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi failed to take place.

However, the committee would meet residents soon to discuss when new protests should take place, Ndlovu said. This was despite the fact that a task group set up by Moosa, on which the committee is represented, recommended recently that the area remain in Northern Province, but have certain services provided by Mpumalanga on an agency basis.

Moosa, Phosa and Ramatlhodi accepted the recommendation and provincial representatives joined the task group to establish which services should be provided by Mpumalanga. However, Ndlovu said Bushbuckridge residents were unhappy with this arrangement which would "make Mpumalanga the garden boy of Northern Province because every time something needs to be done in Bushbuckridge, Northern Province will call Mpumalanga to do it".

Moosa's spokesman Mpho Mosimane said the task group was pressing ahead with its plans for the transfer of certain services and was meeting every two weeks to discuss the issue.

He said the committee was "saying different things" in public from what its position was during task group meetings.

Three provinces on 'verge of collapse'

(266A)
~~22~~
~~(266B)~~
~~(266C)~~

BD 21/8/97

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The Northern Province, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal are on the verge of collapse, the provincial audit report released yesterday shows.

Only Gauteng and the Western Cape received relatively clean bills of health, with Gauteng emerging as the best-run provincial administration.

The 15-member audit team also identified serious problems in the Northern Cape and Free State administrations and, to a lesser extent, in Mpumalanga and the North West.

The team, headed by public service director-general Paseka Ncholo and including three international experts, visited the nine provinces between last October and May this year.

Their 10 reports — one for each province plus an executive summary — depicted provincial public services as being crippled by grossly inadequate financial, information and human resource management systems. They reported a chronic shortage of appropriately skilled staff. Only the audit summary was released yesterday.

"The lack of discipline and the

prevalence of misconduct (such as fraud and theft) are major problems in many departments and provincial administrations." Procedures to manage misconduct were ineffective.

National government was also criticised by the task team: "New policies are often set at national level without due consideration to the organisational, financial and service delivery implications in the provinces."

It said "political interference" was hampering the administration of provincial departments. "There is a poor definition of the different roles of politicians and administrators."

The review found that the centralisation of functions in provinces, particularly financial and personnel management, had a negative effect on departments' ability to deliver services.

Provincial public services were still not focused on improving service delivery, and were restricted by "inherited" administrative processes.

The report was almost not released after a cabinet committee decided last week against publication due to its damning nature. The decision was reversed at yesterday's cabinet meeting after intense lobbying which resulted

in Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, among others, supporting its release.

Public Service Minister Zola Skweyiya told a news conference the cabinet had been "very supportive" of the need for corrective measures in the beleaguered provinces. His department would "be going back to the cabinet for further assistance".

He said national departments which had already undertaken corrective initiatives, based on the findings, were finance, housing, education, health, welfare and home affairs.

Public servants and Swedish experts had been working together in the Eastern Cape, while in the Northern Province public servants from Skweyiya's department and experts from Britain and the Commonwealth were tackling problems.

The task team said national financial regulations limited the efficient use of the state's resources. "They do not establish value for money as the key principle." Financial management systems were not adequate and most provinces did not prioritise their budgets with policy objectives.

See Pages 6-8

PROVINCIAL AUDIT

'Northern Province has worst administration' (266A)

Reports by
David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The Northern Province administration suffered from a chronic lack of capacity, considerable resistance to change, financial mismanagement and widespread fraud, corruption and lack of discipline, the provincial audit team found

Worst affected were the management, finance, administration, technical and professional areas

"Many staff are not clear of their roles and responsibilities", because of a lack of clarity on the role of departments in achieving overall provincial objectives

The Northern Province and the Eastern Cape administrations were considered the two worst by the audit team and, together with "third-placed" KwaZulu-Natal, were in danger of collapse unless urgent remedial action was taken

This was because they inherited most of the former homelands, whose administrations had virtually collapsed

The Northern Province was considered "slightly" worse off because it had not implemented a well-defined salvage plan with the assistance of central government as the Eastern Cape had

BD 21/8/97

The audit report said there was "little effective co-ordination or leadership" in the Northern Province with most staff "awaiting leadership from the top in dealing with the issues of providing quality services to the public"

The director-general's office and the provincial service commission duplicated or overlapped in activities

Strategic plans were not co-ordinated and linked to the budgetary process. The salary bill was distorted by double payments, improper promotions and the lack of or late processing of leave applications, resignations, retirements and death of personnel. Financial controls were inadequate

Many large capital purchases had been made without adherence to treasury instructions

There was also poor control and monitoring of transfer payments — financial management staff were not applying treasury guidelines and prescriptions which ensured accountability

"In a number of cases this has resulted in financial staff being in-

timidated into giving approval for expenditure that is inappropriate and unauthorised"

The provincial tender board acted as a barrier to implementing effective service delivery.

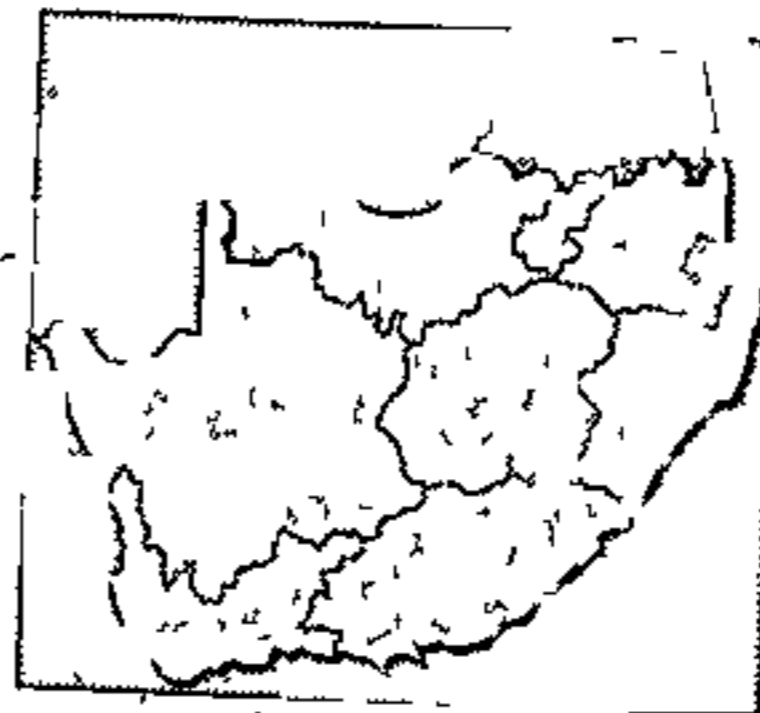
The audit team found that the responsibility for personnel management and financial management was heavily centralised and ineffective.

"Surplus staff lack appropriate experience and skills to fill many vacancies," the task team found

There was no effective delegation system in place, "which led to an overly centralised management system and on occasions managers acting ultra vires" Intraprovincial communications were "poor".

Inadequate methods of operating from the former administrations were still in place, however, no systematic change management programme existed.

Many administration levels lacked motivation, while the province did not have an action plan to encourage excess staff to accept voluntary severance.



R35-m chemicals Scam exposed

By Khathu Mammalla

THE Northern Province government has paid more than R35 million to a Pietersburg chemical manufacturing company for products that were either never delivered or, if delivered, were not required by the supposed users.

In a desperate attempt to recover some of the money from Sen Enterprise, Premier Ngoako Ramathodi asked the police's fraud unit to investigate the matter.

According to a report compiled by the auditor-general, between April last year and May 15 this year, Sen Enterprises, run by Mr Walter Senoko, was paid R35,4 million to supply cleaning products and enzyme

chemicals to schools.

The amount does not include money paid between July 1995 and April last year when the tender was awarded.

The money was paid out in cheques with amounts ranging from R1,9 million on April 21 this year to R10 000 paid out on December 24.

Sowetan has copies of 47 cheques issued by the department of education to the company between November 1995 and April 21 this year.

The contract expired in July last year but payments continued until this year.

In his report, the auditor-general said that out of the 99 vouchers requested for audit purposes, only 29 were submitted.

The 29 vouchers were checked and the findings were that payments were made to the supplier without official orders being issued. This was contrary to tender procedures.

"Unless official order forms are submitted for audit purposes, an amount of R14 673 823,36 will be considered as unauthorised expenditure," said the AG.

Possible double payment amounted to R2,3 million.

Prices included VAT

Although the tender board approval had indicated that all prices included value added tax, R2,29 million was paid to Sen Enterprises as VAT.

The report said the money paid as VAT should be recovered. Vouchers of more than R15,3 million could not

be submitted for audit purposes and would be considered unauthorised expenditure as a result.

The products were to be used in schools throughout the province. The enzyme chemicals were supposed to be used in pit toilets.

However, an investigation has revealed that certain schools with flushing toilets were also supplied with the chemicals.

A report of the inspectors attached to the department of finance found that in many cases, money was paid by the government to Sen Enterprises without proof of delivery of the goods.

"Also, delivery of the enzymes was made at the schools, regardless of whether the services were necessary or not," the inspectors said.

(266A) *Sowetan*
29/8/97

"The principals and teachers at the schools indicated that the services provided by Sen Enterprises were not necessary because products supplied by another company (Firechem) were still lying in classrooms and offices.

"The products could not be effective because there was no water. It is claimed that the products turn hard if applied under such conditions," the report said.

Efforts by *Sowetan* to trace Senoko were fruitless. A visit to their offices at 81 Hoof Street, Superbia, Pietersburg, revealed an abandoned building with chained doors.

Ramathodi spokesman Mr Kenny Mathivha said the government was aware of the allegations and had referred the matter to the police for investigations.

Privatisation plan to save ailing province

CAROL PATON

(zbbA) (2)

ST 31/8/97

THE Northern Province may privatise a number of government enterprises in an effort to save the provincial administration

This proposal was made by Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi a week after a provincial audit report compiled by the Department of Public Service and Administration described his 125 000-strong provincial administration as being "on the verge of collapse"

Other radical reform proposals made public by Ramatlhodi and his cabinet this week include

- Cutting the size of the public service,
- The reconsideration of all capital projects already planned or under way,
- The appointment of financial managers in government departments,
- A moratorium on the purchase of vehicles, and stringent measures to curb the misuse of vehicles, and
- Cutting back on telephone bills and other unnecessary expenditure

Heads of department will also be made accountable for finances and overspending in their own departments

In July the Semanya commission identified widespread financial mismanagement, chaotic administration and a failure to follow accounting and tender procedures

However, no one was found guilty of corruption

A spokesman for Ramatlhodi, Kenny Mathrvha, said that assets that were likely to be privatised included the Gateways international airport, 25 game farms and the Northern Province Development Corporation. Non-core government functions such as laundry and catering services would also be privatised

Other government activities may be continued in joint ventures with the private sector. One example of these are the proposed "peace parks" — nature conservation areas on the borders of Botswana and Zimbabwe — which are to be developed for tourism

Ramatlhodi has also ordered the temporary suspension of the building of a multimillion-rand government complex in Pietersburg

All government departments will be asked to examine their functions to determine which can be privatised or outsourced

also referred to my written answer to Question 906

Donor funds which do not form part of Departmental funds have been made available for facilitating and supporting the process of land reform. These funds can be accessed by beneficiaries of the DLAs programmes. They sometimes use the services of NGOs for this purpose. Details thereof are, however, not readily available.

New questions

Corruption in Northern Province: Semanya report
*1 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development

(1) Whether the report by Advocate Ishmael Semanya concerning corruption in the Northern Province has been made public, if not, (a) why not and (b) when will the report be made public, if so, (i) when, (ii) what were the findings contained in the report and (iii) what recommendations were made,

(2) whether any action has been taken to give effect to the recommendations contained in the report, if not, why not, if so, what action? N2038E

THE MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The information is not readily available in the Department in order to assist the hon member, the following information was obtained from the Office of the Premier of the Northern Province

(1) The report by Advocate Ishmael Semanya is not dealing with corruption as such but with the investigation into the procurement of immovable property acquired by the Northern Province Government since 1994 to date and in particular the Parliamentary building, Parliamentary village and the building occupied by the Department of Safety and Security

The terms of reference were later amended to include the investigation around the *Gateway Airport Authority Limited and Gateway Airport Holding Limited*. The Commission remarked that no evidence of corruption or

enrichment of officials could be found on any of the issues referred to above

(1) The report was made public on 4 July 1997 after which the Premier released a media statement to this effect

(ii) and (iii) Recommendations were made in respect of matters such as budgetary processes to be followed, recovery of fruitless expenditure, adherence to financial instructions, the engagement of legal expertise, appropriate training of government officials, adherence to tender procedures and several other related recommendations. The list of recommendations is too lengthy to be answered orally in full, but a complete list is available should you wish to study them

(2) The recommendations will be implemented soon after the report of the team of experts, appointed to investigate the implementation of the Commission's recommendations, has been submitted to the Premier

Corruption in Northern Province: Ncholo report
*2 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister for the Public Service and Administration

(1) Whether the report by Dr Paseka Ncholo concerning corruption in the Northern Province has been made public, if not, (a) why not and (b) when will the report be made public, if so, (i) when, (ii) what were the findings contained in the report and (iii) what recommendations were made,

(2) whether any action has been taken to give effect to the recommendations contained in the report, if not, why not, if so, what action? N2039E

THE MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

The report by Dr Paseka Ncholo focused on the state of administration in the Northern Province and was not specifically directed at uncovering corruption

(1) The said report was made public on 22 August 1997

(ii) Poor co-ordination and leadership within the senior part of administration, personnel and financial management were highly centralised, poor strategic planning and definition of priorities, weak human resource development, centralised disciplinary procedures and poor discipline, fraud and corruption appeared widespread, poor financial discipline and management

(iii) General recommendations were made which focused on addressing key areas such as developing management skills, delegating decision making powers, reviewing the structure and functions to reduce overlaps and duplication, finalising disciplinary cases, undertaking a payroll audit, improved financial management and capacity building, reviewing the transfer of assets and ownership of parastatals, Management of information

(2) Additionally, recommendations were made to the Premier to set up a Commission of Inquiry. Subsequently the Premier established the Semanya Commission which investigated a series of issues contained in the report. The premier of the Northern Province was also requested to submit action plans for the recommendations made in the Provincial Review Report. These are awaited

Releasing persons on early parole: dangers
*3 Rev K R MESHOE asked the Minister of Correctional Services

(1) Whether he or his Department has given consideration to the possible dangers of releasing persons on early parole, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details,

(2) whether any measures are to be implemented in respect of the 26% of the prison population currently awaiting trial, if not, why not, if so, what measures? N2040E

THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

(1) First of all, it has to be emphasized that the Department of Correctional Services does not

release inmates on early parole because of the obvious dangers inherent in such a practice. However, when the Parole Board considers parole, each and every case is considered on its own merits after various factors have been taken into account. The necessary circumstances are therefore applied when a recommendation for parole is made. The well-being and safety of the community at large, *inter alia*, some of the factors applied in this regard

(2) Awaiting-trial persons are the responsibility of the Department of Justice

*4 Mr L T LANDERS - Safety and Security [Question standing over]

*5 Mr L T LANDERS - Safety and Security [Question standing over]

SAPS: personnel figures compared with international standards

*6 Mr J A MARAIS asked the Minister for Safety and Security

Whether he or the South African Police Service has compared South African personnel figures with international standards concerning the total number of personnel of a country's police force performing administrative duties, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details? N2043E

THE MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

Statistics have been gathered on many different countries, but circumstances vary greatly, due to factors such as the duties performed by the different police services, the legal frameworks within which they operate and internal procedures. The South African Police Service is busy with an ongoing restructuring process in order to assess all duties which can be performed by civilians. At present approximately 15% of the total staff complement consist of civilians

International syndicates in RSA

*7 Mr A FOURIE asked the Minister for Safety and Security

Whether international syndicates in the Republic are claimed to be operating in

Northern Province draws up a plan to save itself

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The Northern Province government had drawn up a comprehensive plan involving both central government and the private sector to remedy chronic provincial administration problems, premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi said yesterday.

This comes in the wake of the provincial audit report released last month, which found that the Northern Province, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal were on the verge of collapse.

Ramatlhodi said the "adjustment and stabilisation" plan included stringent financial controls over government expenditure; tough action against corruption, mismanagement, inefficiency and wastage; improved service delivery and a cut in the number of public servants and the public-service wage bill.

The provincial government proposed placing staff in specific sectors — such as cleaning, laundry and roads — in independent co-operatives which could then also tender for private contracts. This would help cut the size of the 125 000-strong public service.

(266A) BD 319/97
The plan provided for a thorough audit of government functions to determine which were core functions, which should be restructured and which could be continued in joint ventures with the private sector, Ramatlhodi said. It committed the government "to the restructuring of certain assets under government control such as Gateway International Airport".

The private sector was expected to assist with capacity building in the public sector, joint venture partnerships on strategic projects, rooting out the culture of mismanagement, promoting the province as a haven for investment, ensuring profit derived from agriculture and mineral wealth was ploughed back into the development of its people and assisting with investment in labour-intensive projects to alleviate unemployment.

Central government departments of finance, state expenditure and public service had also been called in to identify and remedy weaknesses.

Ramatlhodi said the plan would be fully implemented by the end of the year. The first phase was already in progress.

Namibia

Continued from Page 1

BD 319/97
quirement that all insurance companies will have to cede a portion of their premium to the state reinsurer". Effectively, companies would have to reinsure a percentage — rumoured to be 25% — of portfolios whereas presently only huge risks were reinsured.

He said the implementation of a state reinsurer could lead to more money leaving the country as the reinsurance corporation would have to go abroad to spread its risks.

"The industry here is accused of transporting huge volumes of premiums out of the country, but that is patently nonsense. Of every R100 of premium, probably 5% or at most 10% is left over after paying tax, salaries etc in Namibia," Steele said.

Haken said Namibians had access to an oversubscribed and therefore cheap worldwide market to get reinsurance. Restricting activities to a local state reinsurer would increase costs. The deduction of this money from premium income would also di-

minish investment income and lead to an increase in premiums.

Steele said there had been "ominous rumblings" from the private sector about the Namibian government's actions. "The banks and international operations are following with keen interest what appears to be a move towards nationalisation," he said.

Nasria members stood to gain nothing from the creation of NamRe, which was a registered company and wholly owned by the association. "The licence to operate has been refused on a technicality; it is now subjudice because we are involved in a legal discussion with them," Steele said.

Namibian government sources argue, on the other hand, that the SA companies had sought to derail a government bid to prevent the flow of millions in insurance money out of the country. "The SA companies, through their Namibian branches, wanted to establish a company that would effectively block the Namibian government's plans to form a national reinsurance company," a source said.

In so doing, the SA companies had hoped to retain a monopoly on the industry in the country, he said.

Thousands of irregular public service promotions found

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — The White commission had uncovered a further 1 768 irregular public service promotions, bringing the number of such promotions between April 1993 and September 1994 to more than 5 700.

Only three of the latest batch of 1 771 promotions being investigated by the commission were found to be regular, commission spokesman Pam Barnes said.

The overwhelming bulk of the latest batch of irregularities — 1 752 — had

taken place in the former Transkei. The remaining 16 irregular promotion cases concerned the department of foreign affairs.

Barnes said the commission had still "heard nothing" about the implementation of any of the commission's findings from either departments or provincial governments.

This was despite a decision by the parliamentary public service committee at the beginning of last month that the findings had to be implemented regardless of difficulties over the issue of the recovery of overpayments.

The special parliamentary hearing heard evidence that irregular promotions were not being set aside because of reluctance by departments to recover the overpayments, "conservatively" estimated by a member of the commission to be at least R350m.

Barnes said what under investigation is 18 000 cases still under investigation it was going to be extremely difficult for the commission to meet its own deadline of the end of March next year to complete its work. Fortunately, the constitution did not specify a deadline. However, the completion of the com-

mission's work also depended on whether it received any new complaints, Barnes said. For instance, the commission had recently received three new complaints concerning 280 public servants.

The latest irregularities in the former Transkei concerned the departments of post and telecommunications (496 irregular cases), justice (388), education (305), health (275), works and energy (127), finance (67), office of the auditor-general (42), local government (39), military council (12) and trade and industry (1).

SA's new maximum security prison draws mixed response

A MAXIMUM security prison for SA's violent criminals opened by Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela this week received mixed reactions from correctional services watchdogs.

The Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation condemned features of the new closed maximum security prison in Pretoria as "punitive", while the SA Human Rights Commission welcomed the prison.

The centre said that while secure facilities were needed for high-risk prisoners, the new jail seemed to indicate a move towards harsher punishment rather than humane treatment with reintegration as its goal.

Surveillance and security procedures at the institution seemed extreme

Rules which forbade smoking, interaction between prisoners, confinement for 23 hours daily, sleeping on concrete slabs and showering in cages were distinctly punitive, the centre said.

While the correctional services department might be right in stating that its measures were not an abrogation of

BD 25/9/97

the constitutional rights of the inmates, the regime at the facility was inhumane and impaired human dignity, the centre said.

The severe restrictions on communications between prisoners cut off what was a clear emotional and developmental need for all people. The denial of this was inhuman. Such treatment could engender a range of psychological problems ranging from depression to psychosis.

SA Human Rights Commission spokesman John Mojapelo said anybody found guilty of serious crime should serve the sentence imposed. "We hope the new facilities will securely hold the sentenced prisoners and not make it possible for them to escape, cause more havoc and worsen the disturbing crime rate in the country," Mojapelo said.

The commission was pleased with assurances given by correctional services that jailed prisoners would enjoy basic human rights. — Sapa.

See Page 15

Scene of Cape blast 'chaotic', policeman

CAPE TOWN — Police rushing to the scene of a bomb blast in Worcester on Christmas Eve last year arrived as the second bomb exploded, the Cape High Court heard on Tuesday.

Worcester Det Insp Christo Engelbrecht was testifying at the trial of right-wingers Johannes "Voetbal" van der Westhuizen and two accomplices, Cluffy Barnard and Abraham "Koper" Myburgh, who have all pleaded not guilty to 18 counts, including four of murder and one of attempted murder.

Four people were killed and more than 50 seriously wounded in the December blasts. Engelbrecht told Judge Hannes Fagan he received news of the incident on a police radio

BD 25/9/97

Northern Province 'loses' millions by overpaying

Northern Province businesses which have supplied items and services to the provincial government might have been overpaid by millions of rand, finance committee chairman Manue Kriel said yesterday.

He said auditors had discovered cases, possibly totalling millions of rand, in which officials had issued firms duplicate cheques for items and services supplied.

Kriel said he had a list of the businesses that had received double

BD 25/9/97

payments and appeared to them to refund the money. If they did not, legal steps would be instituted from the end of next month to recover the funds. Only a few firms had come forward, he said.

Kriel allayed fears that the matric exams in the province might not take place this year because of a lack of funds. Sufficient funds had been issued to the provincial education department to ensure the exams would go ahead, Kriel said. — Sapa

MP retracts 'racist' Chinese reference

GATFENG MP Darvi and von can't say what is

Sowetan 25/9/97

By Khathu Mamalia

THE Northern Province government has lost up to R256 million in double payments made to dozens of companies that had supplied more than one invoice for the same service, an independent firm of auditors appointed by the government has found.

Chairman of the standing committee on finance and expenditure Mr Manne Kriel told *Sowetan* yesterday that the firm had found that up to R256 million of taxpayers' money could have been lost between 1994 and March this year.

He said the auditors were appointed

Probe finds suppliers paid twice by officials

(266A)

by former finance MEC Edgar Mushwana after suspicions that suppliers were being paid up to three times more than what was due to them.

Kriel said his committee had the names of the companies that had defrauded the government. He pleaded with them to come forward.

"We are aware of these firms. We

know who they are. We are giving them to the end of October to come forward and give us the money back.

"If they fail to come forward on their own, we will get the money back through the courts," Kriel said.

He warned that criminal charges would then be instituted and those companies involved would also be

blacklisted by the government.

Kriel said some of the double payments were caused by corrupt government officials who clearly colluded with the suppliers while others were caused by technical errors.

Explaining some of the errors, Kriel said some suppliers had submitted their invoices for services rendered but after

a month had elapsed without receiving payment, they submitted other invoices using different numbers and when payments were finally made all the invoices were paid by separate cheques.

The companies involved had supplied the government with virtually everything from cars, cleaning materials, spares, furniture and books. He said the independent firm of auditors was continuing with its investigations.

"It appears the revelations are only the tip of the iceberg. We are committed to a clean administration and we will stop anything in exposing corruption and recovering the money where necessary," said Kriel.

Committee threatens mass action

Sowetan 23/10/97

(266A) (266B)
 Task team appointed to resolve border dispute 'fails to deliver'

By Khathu Mamaila

THE BUSHBUCKRIDGE BORDER Committee, leading a campaign to force the Government to re-zone Bushbuckridge, has threatened mass action again

Committee spokesman Mr Azaph Nxumalo said that a meeting held at the weekend found that the task team appointed to look into the matter of re-zoning the area from the Northern Province into Mpumalanga had failed to deliver

"Representatives of various organisations agreed that the Government is using delaying tactics. It was then resolved that mass action should be called," said Nxumalo

However, he said since pupils were busy with their final examinations, the mass action would be called only after examinations had been completed

Earlier in the year, Bushbuckridge and the surrounding villagers were hit by a mass stayaway which lasted three months.

Pupils were the hardest hit as the

majority of workers in the area are teachers

The stayaway was suspended following the appointment of a task team to look into the matter

The Northern Province government also announced that it would establish a seventh region in Bushbuckridge to bring services nearer to the people

Nxumalo said the establishment of the region was not a solution to the demand that the area should be transferred to Mpumalanga. He said although the committee was not opposed to the plan, the area should still be transferred to Mpumalanga

Asked if the residents were not happy with the various projects, including the building of houses, implemented by the Northern Province government, Nxumalo said "Projects which are supposed to be done in the area should be done regardless of our call to be incorporated into Mpumalanga."

Northern Province government spokesman Mr Kenny Mathivha said the task team was continuing its work

MECs grounded in savings drive

Pule Molebeledi

IN AN attempt to cut down on rising expenditure, the Northern Province government has decided not to foot the bill for future international and local flights undertaken by premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi and his MECs unless the trips are "really essential".

Ramatlhodi's spokesman, Kenny Mathivha, said the decision followed a campaign to re-examine departmental budgets and determine where savings could be effected (266A)

Ramatlhodi was expecting a report from MECs on eliminating wastage, duplication and unnecessary projects.

Mathivha said Ramatlhodi would travel by road at the end of the month to the coronation of Lesotho's King Letsie in Maseru. BD 24/10/97

The government has also decided to stop accommodating public servants at high cost in hotels.

Mathivha said all MECs in official residences would be required to pay rent and settle outstanding obligations to the state. An agency had been contracted to collect outstanding amounts.

The provincial cabinet had resolved to "tighten the belt" as there was a shortage of funds for development.

The provincial government has, however, allocated an additional R53m for the development of roads. The money was diverted from the budget of an envisaged parliamentary complex.

Mathivha said the government would appoint financial managers to assist with capacity building, particularly in financial administration.

Public servants finally paid after six months

PIETERSBURG — More than a thousand Northern Province public servants, who did not receive salaries for six months following the transfer of the traditional authority offices to the local government department, were finally paid last month, a department spokesman said.

Thomas Lekgothoane told African Eye News Service yes-

terday that his department was able to pay the salaries after receiving R5m from the Northern Province finance department.

The traditional affairs section, which had 1 308 staff members, was transferred from the premier's office to the local government department at the end of April.

In turn, the land and hous-

ing section of the local government department was transferred to the premier's office.

Lekgothoane said that the R5,02m was distributed to the six district local government offices in the province.

The local government offices would in turn administer the money to the 212 traditional affairs offices under their jurisdiction. — Sapa

BO 21/11/97

...nerf who arrested him in the ...
Friday morning. "When Mandela dies, we will kill
you white-like flies."

According to police, Gaba was driving on the
wrong side of the M1 motorway when he was
stopped by a police officer with drunken driving,
making threats to a police officer and avoiding
arrest. Gaba spent the night in jail.

Northern Province acts to trim its expenditure (266A)

Farouk Chothia

BD 13/11/97

DURBAN — The Northern Province government
was confident of averting a budget deficit this fiscal
year because of the steps it had taken to cut expen-
diture, premier's office spokesman Kenny Mathivha
said yesterday.

Mathivha said Eastern Cape premier Makhenke-
si Stofile apparently told an extended cabinet meet-
ing last week — involving ministers, deputy minis-
ters, premiers and finance MECs — that Northern
Province and KwaZulu-Natal were in the "same
boat" as his government. However, Finance Minister
Trevor Manuel told Stofile to "speak for himself".

Mathivha said Northern Province had an estimat-
ed over-expenditure of about R230m this fiscal year.
"But we are confident that we will wipe it out."

Cost-saving measures implemented since July in-
cluded a decision not to fill vacant posts, to buy only
essentials when their need was "proved beyond
doubt", a "temporary suspension" of foreign visits by
MECs, and a cut in local flights, Mathivha said.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Party (DP) in KwaZu-
lu-Natal said estimated over-expenditure of R2,2bn
in the province was due to the "irresponsible unfund-
ed mandates imposed" by central government.

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N Prov 'corrupt' welfare officials suspended (266A)

CP 16 | 11 | 97

THIRTEEN "corrupt" officials attached to the department of health and welfare in the Northern Province were suspended this week pending internal investigations into alleged irregularities involving about R2 million, writes Hangwani Mulaudzi.

The officials are believed to have been involved in fraudulent dealings with suppliers of goods and services in the province.

According to the health spokesperson Tshepo Moshima, it would appear that the fraudulent dealings have been going on for the past three years and involves private businesses.

He however declined to release any details of the case at this stage in order to avoid compromising both investigations into charges of misconduct and criminal charges.

Moshima said the reason for their suspension is to avoid the possible interference with evidence by those accused.

"The department has opened several cases with the SAPS and close liaison has been established between the investigating officer and the department," said Moshima.

He said further suspensions are not ruled out.

"It would appear that the theft and fraud has been going on for many years and we won't leave any stone unturned in our investigations," said Moshima.

He said the department has declared war on corruption and nobody including senior officials will be allowed to operate above that law.

Making 'the people shall govern' more than just a phrase

(26 Feb)

BD 18/11/97

Northern Province premier **Ngoako Ramathodi** suggests a model for allowing the people greater participation in government

STEVEN Friedman raised some thought-provoking and challenging issues in his recent article "Sizing up the strength of ANC watchdogs" (Business Day, November 10). My reaction is intended to enrich the debate on this very important theoretical and practical issue facing the country.

My point of departure is the Freedom Charter which unambiguously states that "The people shall govern". Unlike Friedman, my approach is based more on mass participation in matters of government rather than the notion of a passive mass awaiting guidance from the governing elite.

The latter approach postulates a dormant civil society responding only occasionally to outside stimulation. In this scenario, the masses are aroused only during election time or when some crisis erupts within the system. When things are going right, the role of the civil society is minimal or, at worse, completely absent.

Friedman's notion of "accountability" is premised on an adversarial relationship between government and the governing. Its point of departure is that the governed is a distinct category from the governing. Superficially this may seem to be correct and definitely "as true under the old regime". However, in the new dispensation, this should not necessarily

continue to hold true. It may be argued that accountability is not by definition based on an adversarial form of relationship, it being but one element in a complex regime of relationships.

I would rather argue it is quite possible for the masses to play a far more active role in matters of government, far beyond the narrow confines of "accountability". This was the original aim of the phrase "the people shall govern".

In the mid-'80s we witnessed this new form of participation with the emergence of organs of "people power".

While it originated as a protest movement, it provided a template for participatory democracy that we can realise under the new dispensation. The organs of people power empowered them to take direct charge of their lives without being part of official government structures.

Given the nature of the old state, it was impossible to establish a co-operative relationship between the organs of the people and the official structures.

In fact, the organs of people power were the direct antithesis of the prevailing order. They challenged its hegemony and sought to

create, with some success, new centres of authority inside SA.

However, the advent of a democratic constitution has paved the way for a co-operative relationship between civil society and government institutions.

The challenge we face is how to accommodate this relationship into our new system of governance without ending up with the Pagad (People Against Gangsterism and Drugs) phenomenon or the people's courts of yesterday.

One obvious route would be to work towards an increasing synergy between the structures of state and civil society.

At local government level, for instance, the official unit would encourage the formation of a shared structure operating in a nonpartisan manner. The system of community police forums is an excellent model of this that could be followed and improved upon.

Here, ordinary people become active participants in determining their destiny rather than mere recipients of decisions taken by some level of government.

This model allows for direct people's participation in both the policy formulation and implementation phases. In the process it



Northern Province premier **Ngoako Ramathodi**

closes the gap between government and the people and eliminates the "us against them" syndrome.

The result will be that political structures and officialdom become far more sensitive to the needs of

the community while the community starts to take ownership of both the successes and the failures of government.

This form of accountability is far more profound than the adversarial model, although one should

guard against a situation where the civic component is merely assimilated or "swallowed" by the official component.

At the level of policy formulation, on both national and provincial level, this will afford the civic movement an opportunity to make a direct input into the process.

During the implementation phase, the civic leadership will be required to contribute to the tactical and operational details of policy execution — within the confines of the political sphere.

The success and efficacy of the model is dependent on the autonomy enjoyed by the civic movement. It would therefore be the right — and indeed the duty — of the unions to differ with government within the context of a co-operative relationship.

While the parties would obviously seek to establish consensus on issues it would also entail an "agreement to disagree" in certain areas without that constantly being interpreted as a crisis within the relationship.

In this model, accountability assumes an active rather than a passive dimension. During the current transition, the country needs the active participation of the masses instead of disengagement. Only then can we be true to our ultimate goal that "the people shall govern".

Staff waits

8 months

for salaries

(2667)
CT 25/11/97

JOHANNESBURG The Northern Province government has approved R5,5 million to pay salaries of 1 308 office staff of tribal leaders in the province who have not been paid for eight months

The people who would benefit from salaries backdated to April this year were tribal police officials, clerks and cleaners, said Mr Thomas Lekgothoane, spokesperson for Traditional Affairs MEC Mr Norman Mashabane.

"This has been a nightmare for the poor people. Only God knows how they survived these months," Lekgothoane said.

The matter was raised earlier this year by the House of Traditional Leaders which took the matter to the president's office.

The delay resulted from an administrative error that was caused by the transfer of the traditional affairs portfolio from the premier's office to the department of local government — Own Correspondent

Ramatlhodi's resignation dismissed as barrage of lies

(266A) CP 7/12/97
By HANGWANI MULAUDI

Masters in law at the University of Lesotho

RECENT reports that Northern province Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi is about to quit his job have been dismissed as a "barrage of lies", government spokesperson Kenny Mathivha said this week

Mathivha confirmed that Ramatlhodi had been admitted to the Lesotho Bar Council

Contrary to reports that the ANC in the province would support the nomination of Patrick Lekota as

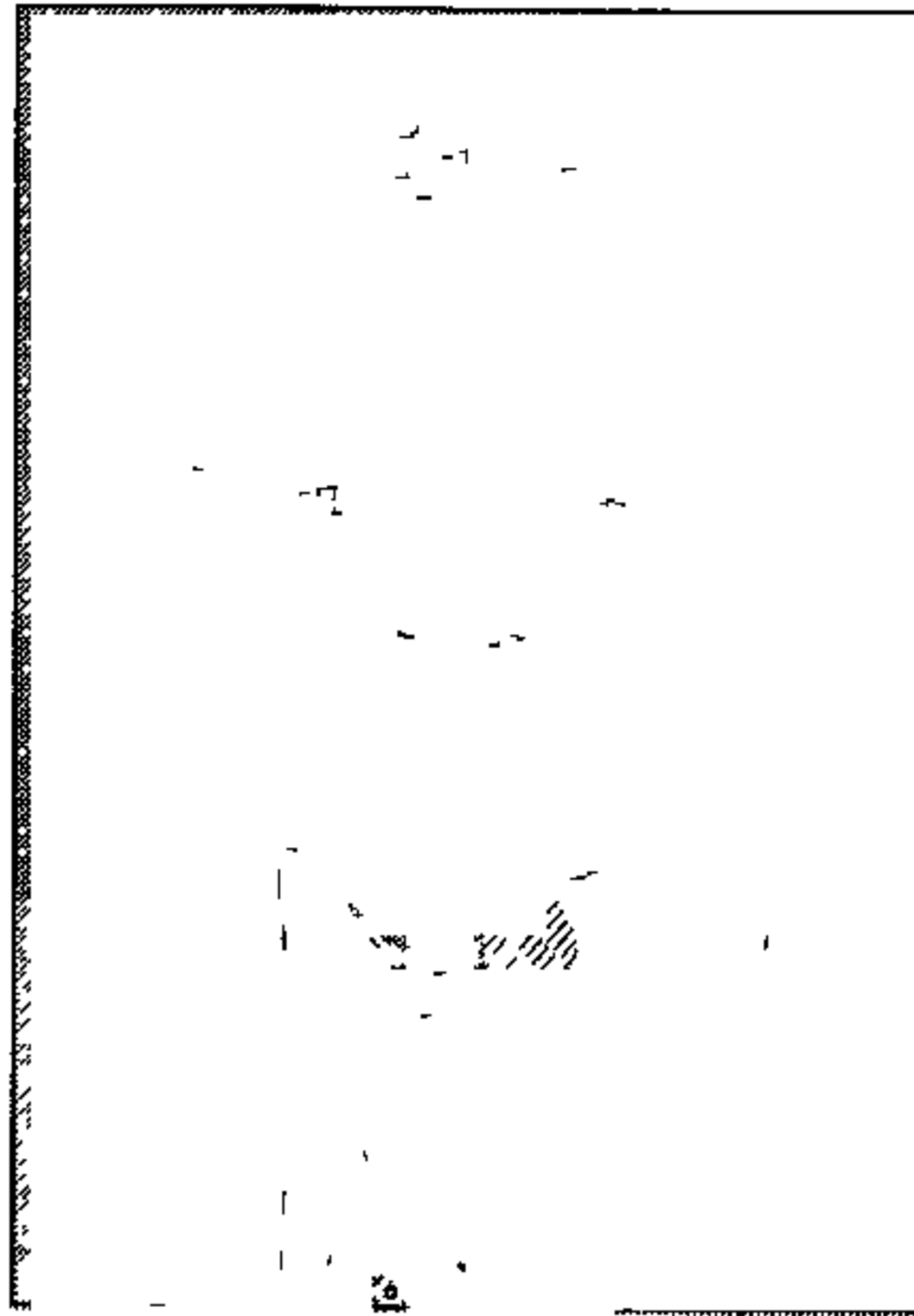
This followed a report by a local newspaper, stating that it was rumoured Ramatlhodi was considering vacating his post

Mathivha rejected the report as "speculation", saying that Ramatlhodi was definitely not on his way out

"There is no substance to that report. No credible newspaper publishes a report based on rumour," said Mathivha

The same report alleged that Ramatlhodi submitted an application to the Lesotho Bar Council

Ramatlhodi, who formerly taught law at the University of the North, obtained his LLB degree and



NGOAKO RAMATLHODI .. Rumours that he is on the verge of resigning have been dismissed as lies

national chairman at the forthcoming conference, Ramatlhodi has been nominated by other ANC regions for the post

Rumours that Ramatlhodi was on the verge of resigning, surfaced after he was dethroned as ANC provincial chairman

However, the allegations were denied and slammed as a "malicious campaign to discredit the

ANC's provincial leadership" since January this year

Ramatlhodi presided at the launch of community development projects in Botlokwa yesterday

PS - LOCAL AUTHORITIES - N. PROVINCE
1998-1999

Another showdown looms in Bushbuckridge

By HANGWANI MULAUDZI

THE BUSHBUCKRIDGE Border Committee is bracing itself for a showdown with the Northern province government following the provincial government's refusal to transfer several departments to Mpumalanga.

ince did not want to hand over the administration of some of the departments to Mpumalanga. Last year the area was hard hit by massive strikes. Damages estimated at millions of rands were incurred. This was after an agreement was reached between the Northern province and Mpumalanga that Bushbuckridge was to become part of Mpumalanga, while the Groblersdal area would be part of the Northern province.

After a series of violent protests, necessitating the deployment of security personnel, the agreement was nullified by President Nelson Mandela. Nxumalo said they had earlier reported to the people that there was an agreement at government level that some key departments, including education, would be administered in Mpumalanga. "People want to resume the stay-away as they envisage no progress in negotiations with the Northern

Province government," he said. However Northern province MEC for education Dr Joe Phaahla, denied any knowledge of such an agreement. In a press conference held last week, he announced that the departments would continue to be administered by the Northern province. He said he was aware that there was a person who had made a statement to that effect, but that the statement was incorrect.

Bushbuckridge deal 'not implemented'

Kevin O'Grady

20 2/2/98 (266A)

AN AGREEMENT reached six months ago to resolve the Bushbuckridge border dispute has not yet been implemented, prompting the Bushbuckridge border committee to press ahead with plans to take the dispute to the high court for a decision.

The committee, which has been pushing for the area to be transferred from Northern Province to Mpumalanga, said yesterday there had been "no progress" in implementing the agreement.

In terms of the agreement, which was reached between Mpumalanga premier Mathews Phosa, his Northern Province counterpart Ngoako Ramatlhodi and Provincial Affairs Minister Valli Moosa last July, Mpumalanga would provide certain services to the disputed area and receive financial compensation from Northern Province in return. The agreement was intended to end the dispute which had resulted in violent protests.

Spokesmen for Phosa and Ramatlhodi were at odds yesterday over what progress had been made. Moosa said the agreement was not working to his satisfaction and further effort would be needed to rectify the situation.

Ramatlhodi's spokesman Kenny Mathivha said the team, set up to identify which functions should be performed by Mpumalanga, was still busy assessing the situation as it was difficult to show Northern Province was unable to provide services.

Northern Province had built 500 housing units and upgraded water supplies, roads and schools in the Bushbuckridge area since the agreement was reached. Mpumalanga was supplying some health services to the area but this arrangement predated the agreement.

Phosa's spokesman Oupa Pilane said the functions which were to have been transferred to Mpumalanga had been finalised but the province was waiting for a letter from Moosa's department formally giving it those responsibilities and detailing how financial compensation would be made.

Committee spokesman Prince Ndlovu said the committee had never accepted the arrangement and wanted all education, local government, health, safety and security and public works functions to be provided by Mpumalanga.

N Province to decline funds

Sowetan 20/2/98 (266A)

By Isaac Moledi

NORTHERN Province says it will follow other provinces in declining extra funds from the R1,5 billion expected to be made available to the provinces should the Adjustment Estimates Bill be passed by Parliament.

Provincial MEC for finance, trade and industry and tourism Thaba Mufamadi said yesterday that his province would decline a share of additional funds as the province was able to "live within its budget".

Free State also announced yesterday it would decline the money, joining the Western Cape, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Northern Cape and North West, which have already indicated that they will not apply for the extra money.

Sowetan Business could not get any responses from KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape – the two provinces that are reported to hold R2,3 billion in bank overdrafts.

Last Friday Finance Minister Trevor Manuel announced the Adjustment Estimates Bill, which, if accepted by Parliament, will assist those provinces with severe problems, provided they rationalise and restructure their provincial administrations to reduce their salary bills.

The provinces will also receive an equitable share of the R500 million contingency reserve which has not yet been utilised.

Mufamadi said although the province had been involved in discussions with the Government, the negotiations had not been about extra funding for the province.

"Our discussions with Government



Thaba Mufamadi

have been about its obligations in as far as the bloated public service we inherited as a province. The discussions are also about the money that Government owes the province," said Mufamadi.

"The province feels that it can live within its budget. So, we will not be applying for any extra funds from the Government," he said.

Clean record

Mufamadi said the province wanted to enter the new financial year with a clean record so that it could implement its programmes.

He said due to cost-cutting measures introduced since July last year, the province will be able to save about R500 million from its initial projections of R800 million.

This is a budget deficit of less than three percent, he said.

Northern Province widens ghostbuster net

Kevin O'Grady

THE cash-strapped Northern Province will hand salary cheques to its public servants in person at the end of this month in an attempt to quantify and cease payments to non-existent "ghost" employees.

Provincial government spokesman Ken-ny Mathivha said the province hoped to save about R100m by ending payments to the suspected "ghosts" Northern Province was paying 135 000 public servants but there was no official estimate of how many of these

were non-existent employees whose salaries were being collected by a third party.

The eradication of salaries for ghost workers, as well as pensions and social security grants to people who were not eligible for them, was an important tool in the provincial government's drive to cut costs and trim its overdraft debt, Mathivha said.

About 80% (R8bn) of the province's R10bn budget allocation from national government was earmarked by law for the payment of salaries and pensions. This left little for the provision of infrastructure and es-

ential services, he said.

Provincial premier Ngoako Ramathodi wrote in a recent edition of the Sowetan newspaper that since constitutional agreements meant provinces were to keep the public service "as inherited", perhaps it should be treated as a national debt which could be serviced by national government before provincial allocations were made.

Another option was for national government to take responsibility for the payment of the public service, a move with implications for the powers of provinces. "I suppose provinces would be prepared to live with such consequences," Ramathodi wrote.

Mathivha said the provincial government's eradication of ghost pensions had been a success. About 94 000 pensioners who appeared not to meet the necessary criteria had been removed from the system, saving the province about R36m a month. Unfortunately, the programme used for the clean up accidentally removed some disability-grant recipients because their age disqualified them, Mathivha said. The error was being rectified.

(26/11)

DD 29/11/98



R300-m missing in Northern Province as a result of fraud

~~(266A)~~ (266A) - Stav 5/3/98
Pietersburg - Fraud involving R300-million has been uncovered in the Northern Province government, SABC television news reported last night.

The fraud involved payment for undelivered goods, bribery, and theft of government cheques and pension money.

The customs and excise department was apparently hardest hit, losing more than R172-million

The report said details about the fraud had not been released because this might jeopardise the investigation. - Sapa

N Province thefts 'tip of iceberg'

Star 9/3/98

(266A)

Corruption and mismanagement keep on growing as auditors burrow into books

By **NORMAN CHANDLER**
Pietersburg

The extent of theft and corruption uncovered so far in the Northern Province government is regarded as a drop in the ocean compared with what is likely to emerge over the next 12 months, according to provincial auditor Steve Lekutle.

He told The Star at the weekend that the R6,8-million so far uncovered for the 1995-96 financial year would more than likely double for 1996-97 and double again for 1997-98.

This follows the release last week of the provincial auditor's reports in which Lekutle refrained from expressing an opinion on the province's

financial status, saying no acceptable accounts had been submitted by the provincial administration's finance and expenditure departments.

Meanwhile, police in Pietersburg have disclosed they are investigating fraud and theft cases amounting to R281-million - 43 times higher than the official audited figure.

Teams of auditors from national government and the private sector have moved into the province to unravel fraud, theft, corruption and mismanagement which have plagued the Northern Province government and previously the Venda and Lebowa homeland governments.

The auditors are working in both Pietersburg and Lebowa-

kgomo, the former Lebowa capital, in an effort to unravel a morass of theft and fraud.

Money which should have been deposited in banks has gone missing, tribal funds have been looted, community development projects have been halted because of theft of materials and corruption of officials, and medicines and drugs have been stolen from hospitals and clinics and probably resold on the open market.

There has been theft or fraud involving the departments of justice; agriculture; health and welfare; finance; water affairs; and education, arts, sports and culture; as well as in the SA Revenue Service, the SA Police Service and the Tender Board.

There is concern in the province that much of the fraud has not been divulged, particularly in regard to mismanagement of tribal funds

The Star was told by officials at Lebowakgomo that the department of finance and expenditure had already gone on record as saying they wanted to keep everything confidential.

Lekutle confirmed that an audit of the province's books showed many shortcomings and deficiencies, and said the work of reconciling accounts was far from completion.

"It is going to take some time as there are a number of departments that appear to be unable to assist. We've written letters to the administrations urging their co-operation"

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'No take-over for Northern Province'

ET 11/3/98

NORTHERN Province premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi yesterday denied that his administration would be taken over by central government.

But, he confirmed the provincial government was expecting assistance from central government.

Ramatlhodi was reacting to earlier charges by the National Party's Burger Lategan in the provincial legislature in Pietersburg.

Burger charged that the Northern Province government was soft on corruption and that the financial management and control systems were on the brink of collapse.

On the findings of the Mpha and Ncholo commissions of inquiry into the province's administration, and a recent report by the Presidential Review Commission, Ramatlhodi said they simply confirmed the fact that "we began this dispensation with no government at all".

The recently released provincial Auditor-General's report had to be seen in this context, he said.

The difficulty in closing his government's accounts which reflected negatively on the province, he added, was related to this reality.

Ramatlhodi said "Lack of reliable information and the fact that we started with four systems are the real reasons why our books are yet to be closed."

His government acted swiftly to launch inquiries when irregularities occurred — Sapa

Sowetan 11/13/98

Clampdown on 'ghost workers'

1266A

Northern Province premier leads the way in effort to save millions

SO-CALLED "ghost workers" who are fraudulently "employed" by the Northern Province government face possible exposure this month.

A campaign to eliminate "ghost payouts" was launched in Pietersburg yesterday when Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi, provincial MECs and a number of government officials were paid directly by cheque instead of bank transfer. The provincial government announced recently that staggered payments would be made by cheque to all civil servants this month.

Ramatlhodi pointed out that millions of rands had been lost since 1994 because a large number of unauthorised people had been receiving salary cheques.

The exact amount involved was not known, he said.

In order to rectify the problem, civil

servants would be paid by cheque throughout the month at designated payout points, he explained.

The remaining payday is March 13 and 18. Salary recipients who fail to show up and identify themselves at the payout points will automatically be classified as "ghost workers" and be dropped from the payroll.

Ramatlhodi said he and his executive members would receive their cheques publicly.

He believed the exercise would ultimately save the government a huge amount of money and appealed for the co-operation of all civil servants.

Meanwhile, further reactions of shock and indignation continued to reach the premier's office and the media after disclosures by provincial auditor-general Steve Lekuthe of mismanagement and corruption in the province. — Sapa

Ramatlhodi joins salary queue, to stop the 'ghosts'

'Many taking double salaries'

(266A)
CP 15/3/98

By HANGWANI MULAUDZI

NORTHERN Province Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi this week fired the first salvo in his crusade against his administration's "ghost" salary earners - he joined a queue of public servants receiving their salaries in person

The clean-up campaign to eliminate "ghost" payouts was launched this week when politicians, led by Ramatlhodi, queued at the Pietersburg Gateway Airport to receive their salary cheques

In an effort to expose "public servants" drawing more than one salary, the provincial government decided that all workers should be paid only after personally signing for their March cheques

Now more than 125 000 public servants in the province will not have their money put into their

bank accounts as usual - but will have to queue at various pay points to collect their salary cheques

Government spokesman Kenny Mathivha said the campaign to expose the "ghost workers" in the civil service was progressing well. He said he was confident that the campaign would expose "those public servants who were drawing more than one salary"

"Although we are unaware of the exact number of ghost workers who have defrauded the government of millions, we are however convinced that there were people who drew more than one salary," said Mathivha.

He said that "since the attainment of the country's freedom in 1994, the provincial government inherited about 125 000 civil servants" either from the former homelands or the

former TPA.

He said a large number of "unauthorised people" received salaries and the exact amount involved was not known

"The campaign is similar to other operations against corruption held previously ... and it is a strategy by which the government will see that a particular person exists or not," said Mathivha

He said the remaining salary recipients will be given their cheques on Wednesday and "all workers who fail to turn up and identify themselves will be automatically dropped from the payroll".

□ Mathivha said all those civil servants who were found to have been "defrauding the government" by accepting extra salaries would be dealt with severely

Northern Province says it needs help on infrastructure backlogs

(266A)

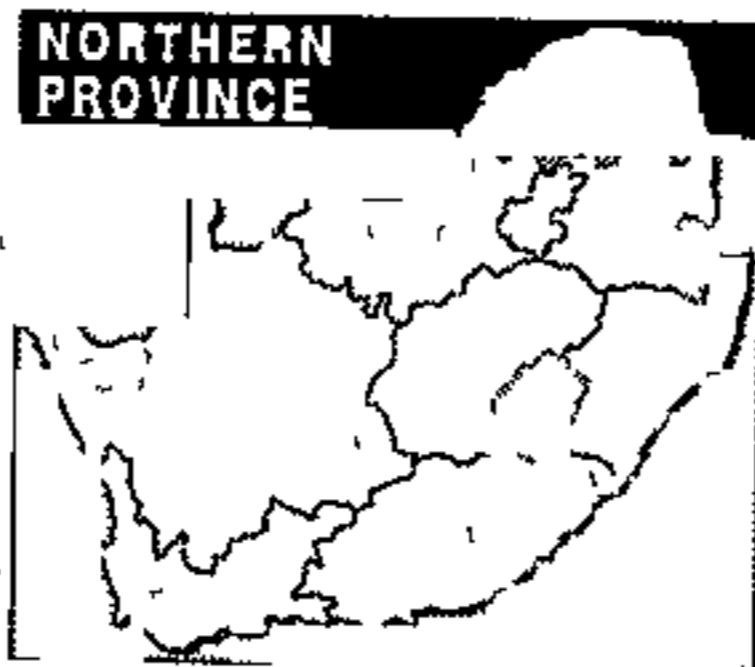
Lukanyo Mnyanda

NORTHERN Province yesterday tabled a balanced budget of R11,3bn — a 4,1% increase over last year — which was marked by large increases in social and education allocations and a 24% cut in infrastructure expenditure.

BD 19/3/98

Finance, trade, industry and tourism MEC Thaba Mufamadi urged central government to intervene in

solving the province's infrastructure backlogs, saying that it did not have the capacity to raise the required funds itself



The province had reduced its revenue estimate to R257m — down from R498m in the previous budget — with R11,3bn from the na-

tional revenue fund making up the rest

The social sector would account for 82,2% of the budget, with spending on education set to rise by 19,5% to R5,6bn, though the bulk (91,2%) would be spent on salaries.

This was reflected in the overall budget allocation, with personnel expenditure accounting for 65,4% of all money spent

Mufamadi said 95,6%, or R10,8bn, of the provincial budget had been allocated to recurrent expenditure compared to R9,9bn in the last budget. Capital expenditure would be almost halved at R499,6m, or 4,4%, compared to R940,2m last year

The provincial government had raised the welfare budget 14,7% to R1,7bn in response to an increase in the number of beneficiaries. But the government hoped to save about R41m in the remainder of the 1997/98 financial year as efforts to weed out "ghost" pensioners bore fruit

The health budget would decrease slightly to R1,9bn, but would still have the second biggest allocation after education with 16,5% of total spending. A total of R108m would be set aside for the primary school nutrition programme

Mufamadi said the provincial government aimed to collect more revenue from vehicle licence fees and urged residents and businesses to ensure their cars were registered in the province. He warned businesses that their reluctance to register their vehicles locally could make it "difficult" for them to secure government contracts

"We cannot upgrade roads and related infrastructure if people continue to pump registration (fees) into other provinces.

"We would like to encourage business people do the same. Very soon it will be difficult to have direct business with government, while deliberately taking revenue out of the province," Mufamadi said

Northern Province government being cleared of 'workers'

By HANGWANI MULAUDZI

CP 22/3/98

(266A)

THE ten-day operation of clearing the public service of "ghost" workers in the Northern Province - believed to have cost the government millions of rands - ended this week and already there are indications that the exercise was a success.

While the provincial government is still to release a full and detailed report of the campaign, several officials, including high ranking officials, have been exposed as drawing more than one salary.

According to preliminary findings, civil servants who have since retired or resigned were also found to be still drawing money from the state coffers.

Two such culprits were apprehended on the first day of the operation after they attempted to draw

more than one cheque.

Five other people also reportedly tried to claim payments for this month in the Far North region.

Criminal charges against the seven have been laid with the police and they are expected to appear in court this week.

Government spokesman Kenny Mathivha said the campaign to expose the so-called ghost workers in the civil service has progressed well but added that it would take at least three months before they could release a final report. "We are confident that the objective seems to have worked. Some incidents were reported and most of them are under police investigations," said Mathivha.

Meanwhile, the provincial government has sent out a stern warning to business people to refrain from cashing cheques for which no positive identity is produced.

Revamp of body aims to reduce dependency on govt

Patrick Wadula

B/D 26/3/98

(266A)

restructuring proceeds over the next two years

THE restructuring of the Northern Province Development Corporation rolls out on April 1 under the banner "NPDC Vision 21", with the aim of repositioning and strengthening it and reducing its dependency on government funding

The corporation said in a statement yesterday that the main objectives of NPDC Vision 21 were to achieve greater operational efficiencies, unlock shareholder value, mobilise private-sector capital and create wider ownership in Northern Province by facilitating black economic empowerment initiatives

The corporation said it would try to create avenues for private and foreign investment as well as develop a strong and sustainable capital base in the province

It is projected that investment by external parties should bring approximately R250m into the corporation as

As part of the corporation's goal of enhancing the competitiveness of its assets, it has appointed Absa Asset Management to manage the corporation's listed equity portfolio of approximately R100m

The corporation's structure would also be reorganised into strategic business units or divisions

These divisions included financial services, property, tourism and leisure, retail enterprises, manufacturing, industrial, transport and strategic investments

These divisions would later be commercialised, incorporated and constituted as companies in terms of the Companies Act

The corporation would ultimately become a holding company and potential investors would be invited to participate as strategic equity partners and minority or majority shareholders at any level.

Suicide over four 'ghost' salaries

Andy Duffy

A teacher at a state school in the Northern Province has shot himself, apparently because he was caught netting four salaries a month for one job.

The Gazankulu teacher was trapped when he tried to collect the pay cheques during a sting operation the province set up last month to expose "ghost workers" among its 125 000 public servants.

Provincial government officials have called in the police to question other employees, many of them teachers, who were caught trying to claim the province with fraudulent pay claims.

A representative for Premier Ngoko Ramathodi's office says police discovered the teacher's body when they went to his house to question him. "Most definitely he realised he had been caught and shot himself," the representative adds.

It is not clear how long the teacher had been drawing a quadruple salary, nor the extent of such fraud plaguing the province.

The province was still sitting on dozens of unclaimed pay cheques earlier this week. Ramathodi's office, however, believes such fraud is costing the province around R100-million a year.

The provincial education department, which employs an estimated 67 500 staff, has uncovered cases where female teachers, taking advantage of changes to their marital status, have used two or three different surnames to secure double or triple pay.

Many teachers who left the state's employ years ago were also found to be drawing salaries. Payments were also going to teachers who were dead.

The Gazankulu teacher, who has not been named, is the second reported suicide triggered by the province's clean-up campaign.

A pensioner killed himself last month after the province temporarily halted his disability grant — one of 92 000 grants frozen while the province decided which were genuine cases.

The province's bloated public service — inherited from four former homelands in 1994 — remains its most intractable problem.

Public-service salaries cost the province more than R810-million a month for the past year — 93% of its total budget. It wants to cut that spending to about R620-million a month — 65% of its total budget — for the new financial year.

Attempts to isolate ghost workers have been stymied so far, largely because the inherited workforce brought with them four different identity documents and payment systems.

Until last year, when education staff went on to a centralised, computerised pay system, salaries were paid from about 5 000 paypoints, most of them schools.

The province says it will revert to paying this month's salaries directly into bank accounts for staff found to be in the clear.

The initiative to get staff to collect their salaries personally could be repeated after six months, however, to uncover other "ghosts".

(2661A) M+G 2-8 1998



Drive to flush out fraud

(266A)
Seweron 6/4/98

By Joshua Raboroko

NORTHERN Province premier Mr Ngoako Ramatlhodi is to intensify the campaign to rid the civil service of "ghost workers" after his government saved R2 million in the past month.

Speaking at the launch of the Ndengéza housing development near Giyani at the weekend, Ramatlhodi said the government had been compelling civil servants to collect their pay cheques in person so that a head-count could be done.

Ramatlhodi said cheques worth R2 million had not been claimed at the end of last month, indicating the extent of fraudulent payments to non-existent employees.

The province launched the campaign as part of a programme to downsize the civil service so that resources could be diverted to essential services. About 970 of the province's schools have no principals and 25 000 teachers in the province.

Ramatlhodi said his government would intensify its campaign to apprehend the culprits after the arrest of 12 people in a bid to "clean up" the civil service, which had suspended normal procedure.

Ghost-worker hunt

He would clamp out corruption in the civil service, saying during the ghost-worker hunt authorities had up to 90 per cent of the province's civil servants required to collect their pay cheques.

As part of the process to ensure that its finances were healthy and proper, Ramatlhodi's government approached Finance Minister Trevor Muniu for help to pull it out of its financial straits.

The premier said his government would "do its damndest" to clean the system, adding that his intention was to produce a good government.

MayoFS among the 'ghost CP 12/4/98 workers'

By HANGWANI MULAUDZI

(266A)

AN UNDISCLOSED number of Northern Province mayors have been found to be among the so-called "ghost workers" involved in a scam to defraud the government.

Government spokesman Kenny Mathivha said he could not disclose how many very complicated but he added that most mayors were involved.

Mathivha said the irregularity was discovered during the clampdown campaign waged from March to May 1998 to expose ghost workers. It was discovered that most mayors had left their posts, principals for more than a year but continued to draw salaries as principals.

Some of these people had taken leave for three months but after their leave expired they never returned to work. They continued to get their salaries as principals and were paid as principals even though they had not worked for more than a year, said Mathivha.

He also revealed that the findings of the government audit to clear the public service of ghost workers would be released next week. The report was still being scrutinised by the director general.

It also noted the operation could be more successful in that cheques totalling P2 million had not been claimed at the end of last month.

The process would be reviewed in a month and a further audit would be responsible to companies could be repeated to weed out any other ghost workers from the bloated civil service.

Preliminary investigations have shown that some of the cheques were issued to people who had died, but no public notice.

Some employees were even found to be drawing more than one salary from the system.

To clear the service of ghost workers, all public servants - including Premier Ntshole Ramatlhodi and his cabinet - had to collect their own pay cheques in person. Even people who were "ghost" had to try to collect their cheques.

Mathivha said all those found to have defrauded the government would face prosecution.

Premier Ntshole Ramatlhodi has taken it upon himself to combat maladministration, he said.

'Ghost workers' get the sack

~~(266A)~~ (266A) ARG 16/4/98
Johannesburg - An operation to rid the Northern Province of "ghost workers" in the public service has identified at least 1 211 of them and the government says this will save the province about R50-million a year

Premier Ngoako Ramatlhodi's spokesman, Kenny Mathivha, said the process of eliminating the workers had brought clarity to estimates of the size of the province's public servants, originally estimated at 125 000 but now

thought to number only 115 914.

He said 10 officials were found to be manipulating the computers and a further 29 officials attempted to remove their bogus names from the system in a bid to avoid detection

"Legal steps will be taken to recover money paid to workers who were not entitled to it," Mr Mathivha added.

He said some of the ghost workers were found to be those who had been retrenched, resigned or transferred

Northern Province exorcises ghost jobs

266A
16/4/98
A Northern Province personnel audit has identified more than 1 200 ghost workers who were siphoning off about R50-million a year in fake salaries, premier Ngoako Ramathodi said yesterday.

The non-existent civil servants were exposed during the province's Operation Clean-up campaign last month, when all state employees were forced to physically collect and sign for their salary cheques after presenting their identity books for inspection.

Ramathodi, who also queued for his salary, on yesterday said the province would save over R50-million a year after exposing the 1 211 ghost workers.

"Although some of the workers never existed at all, many of them do and are officials who continued to accept salaries after they were retrenched, resigned or were transferred to unrelated departments. Some even received double salaries," he said. Most of the irregular payments occurred in the education department.

Ramathodi said his administration was instituting legal proceedings to recover money paid to former officials.

Invisible ink, similar to that used during the 1994 general election, was used during Operation Clean-up to prevent employees from receiving double salaries. Twenty-nine officials were caught with ink stains on their hands attempting to claim salary cheques. All insisted, Ramathodi said, that they had got the ink on their hands while shaking hands with colleagues.

A number of finance officials had tampered with the province's computer-based salary system and had erased their names to avoid detection.

He said many of the double payments had started during the amalgamation process of five homelands and the Transvaal Provincial Administration financial systems. - Sapa

Northern Province is (266A) R778-m over budget

By Khathu Mamaila

NORTHERN Province government has overspent its budget of more than R10,5 billion by more than R778 million during the last financial year, *Sowetan* has learnt

According to a report on financial management leaked to *Sowetan*, the government has overspent its budget by R778 million

Sources say the government has been experiencing severe cash flow problems for the past few months

"Some creditors who rendered services to the government late last year were only paid this month because the department wanted to use the money for this financial year to settle debts incurred last year," an

Sowetan 15/5/98
official said

The document states "The province has overdrawn about R405 million at close of business on March 31 1998. Total cheques not yet released amounted to about R374 million. This has the potential of increasing the total overdraft to R778 million."

Undertaking

The deficit was reported despite an undertaking late last year by the MEC for finance, trade and industry, Mr Thaba Mufamadi, that the department had taken measures to ensure that the deficit would be zero at the end of the financial year

Approached for comment yesterday, Mufamadi, who is on leave,

referred inquiries to the head of the department, Mr Ben Mphahlele

Mphahlele confirmed the deficit and said it would impact on the current budget

"It will reduce the amount of the budget because in fact, some of the money has already been spent," said Mphahlele

He said the government had embarked on belt tightening in a bid to control expenditure

"We have suspended all non-essential services. These include overseas trips, purchase of new cars and other luxuries. We have also suspended the appointment of new staff members. We are managing on a thin line but we are on top of the situation," said Mphahlele

Ramatlhodi regains provincial chair

Stephané Bothma

NGOAKO Ramatlhodi yesterday won a closely fought three-way race for the chairmanship of the African National Congress (ANC) in the Northern Province, placing him in a strong position to retain his provincial premiership in next year's elections

He snatched the chairmanship from his closest rival, education MEC Joe Phaahla, by a narrow margin of 20 votes. Phaahla supporters claimed that the participation in the race by Ramatlhodi supporter Collins Chabane had successfully split the vote, enabling Ramatlhodi to regain his position as chairman.

Ramatlhodi polled 338 votes, Phaahla 318 and Chabane 117, which Phaahla supporters claimed was an indication that Ramatlhodi did not enjoy the confidence of party rank and file supporters.

Ramatlhodi lost the chairmanship of the province in 1996 by two votes to a surprise nomination from the floor of George Mashamba, after the ANC's national leadership persuaded Phaahla and Deputy Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba not to stand for election. Mashamba did not make himself available for re-election this year.



RAMATLHODI

The congress, held near Pieters-

burg, lacked the "high drama" of 1996, observers said. "Ramatlhodi is in a stronger position at the provincial executive than ever before."

"Ramatlhodi's victory does not automatically mean that he will retain his post as premier of the province, but it does place him in a very strong position to do so," a spokesman said.

The Northern Province, the ANC's strongest province with a 92% majority vote in the 1994 elections, was much divided along ethnic lines and it was unlikely that the province would ever have a unanimous candidate for the chairmanship, the spokesman said.

Ramatlhodi was nominated as chairman by the lowveld and central north and western regions, and shared eastern region support with Phaahla, who was nominated by the central Bushbuckridge and southern regions. Chabane was nominated by the north-east, Limpopo and Mutare regions.

Transport MEC Benny Boshielo was elected provincial secretary, provincial executive member Jerry Ndou as his deputy and agriculture MEC Tshenuwani Farisanu as treasurer.

De Lille's private bill turned down

Linda Ensor, (266A) (2/19/98)

CAPE TOWN — A private member's bill by Pan African Congress (PAC) MP Patricia de Lille calling for a change in provincial boundaries, so that Bushbuckridge could be transferred from Northern Province to Mpumalanga, was turned down by the National Assembly yesterday

The National Party, Democratic Party and Freedom Front, while not necessarily supporting the contents of the bill, voted against a report submitted by the African National Congress-dominated private member's committee that the bill not proceed to a port-

folio committee for consideration

In terms of existing rules of Parliament, the committee recommends to the National Assembly whether a bill should be accepted or rejected, in principle, for further consideration

It was the first time the rules had been applied in this way to a private member's bill

The three opposition parties believed Parliament should give private members the democratic right to have their proposed bills debated.

ANC MPs denounced the PAC for exploiting popular issues in pursuit of votes, saying Bushbuckridge would be dealt with holistically

Official gets R22 000 salary 'for doing nothing'

STAN 15/3/99 (266A)

Pietersburg -- A Northern Province chief director in the transport department, who was suspended after allegations of corruption almost two years ago, is still drawing his salary and has pocketed R440 000 while waiting for a disciplinary hearing.

Chief director of corporate services Michael Machabaphala was suspended on July 8 1997 after he was implicated in corruption involving a video-duplicating company Machaba-

phala has not faced any disciplinary action and has been paid about R22 000 a month for 20 months.

Former transport MEC Johan Kriek said on Friday the matter should have been finalised in 30 to 60 days. "I would not mind receiving a salary like that for doing nothing," he said.

Machabaphala was suspended when Kriek, who is the Freedom Front's provincial leader, was the transport MEC. There have been two MECs

since Kriek resigned in 1997 after complaining of underfunding and incompetence in the department. Neither of them has ensured the speedy completion of Machabaphala's case.

Current transport MEC Aaron Motsoaledi on Friday said he was waiting for a report from the transport director-general. "When I took office last September the case was still dragging on and I have communicated with the D-G, asking that the case be finalised," he said.

The director-general, Man-chung Monama, could not be reached for comment on Friday as she was in Pretoria on business. Provincial director of legal services Mohammed Bham said he had received a report from Monama's office.

Bham, who advises the DG on the legality of decisions, said he would look at the report this week and advise Monama.

Machabaphala could not be contacted for comment. - African Eye News Service

Increased pressure on Govt jobs

(266A)

By Khathu Mamaila

MORE than 7 000 jobs in the Northern Province government and parastatals have been lost as the provincial government tries to reduce its public service and channel its resources into the development of infrastructure and resources.

In his budget speech two weeks ago, MEC for public works Mr Collins Chabane said the workforce in his department had been reduced from 16 000 to 10 800. This means that 5 200 jobs have been lost.

He said the workforce had been reduced through "natural attrition".

Education head Professor Rannwedzi Nengwekhulu said his department had phased out about 1 000 posts annually through the same process. He said teachers who left the system through retirement, death or resignations were not being replaced.

Nengwekhulu said 4 000 temporary teachers would also lose their jobs as the department implemented its policy

of reducing the wage bill from 95 percent to 80 percent of the R5,5 billion education budget.

About two months ago more than 700 workers at the Northern Province Development Corporation lost their jobs.

Sowetan also learnt that the Rural and Agricultural Corporation in the province was planning to retrench more than 1 000 workers. Attempts to get comment from corporation chief executive Dr Alidzulwi Naledzani and MEC for agriculture Dr Tshenuwan Farisani proved fruitless as they were reported to be attending a meeting dealing with the matter.

Government spokesman Mr Jack Mokobi said the new provincial government had inherited more workers than were required.

"We could not just fire people even though they were not required. The only viable alternative was natural attrition and it is working effectively. The main objective is to reduce the wage bill so that government can channel more funds into capital projects."

Sowetan 24/3/99

Officials' promotion withdrawn

PIETERSBURG — The Northern Province health and welfare department has withdrawn the 1994 promotions of 77 officials and has demanded they repay the increases they received at the time of their promotions, African Eye News Service reported yesterday

They are all former employees of the administration of the former Giyani homeland

The White commission of inquiry, which was set up last year to investigate misuse of state funds, has declared that the promotions were irregular

The officials received letters informing them of the decision and that their salaries would be reduced to their pre-promotion levels

Department spokesman Tshepho Moshima said the decision to withdraw the promotions was in line with the commission's recommendations

"Some people, particularly when they realised a new government would be elected in 1994, promoted themselves and automatically jumped into positions which are an entry to managerial posts," said Moshima

In some instances, officials from the former administrations of Lebowa and Venda were repaying the money received from similar promotions, without complaint, he said — Sapa

(266A)(250)
BD 15/7/99