

SOCIAL SECURITY — CHILD CARE

1995

JUNE — OCTOBER

Child abuse: Publicity urged

CT 11/6/95

BISHO: Eastern Cape Health and Welfare Minister Dr Trudy Thomas called for renewed efforts to break the "conspiracy of silence" surrounding child abuse yesterday.

In a provincial legislature debate she said abused children had become the victims of a system that failed to protect or adequately care for them. (248)

The justice system was often insensitive, she said.

Dr Thomas also lashed out at the imprisonment of children, saying an estimated R57million would be needed in the next year to care for those who had recently been released.

International Children's Week starts today. — Sapa

PROBATION OFFICERS OPEN WAY

Real change sought in juvenile justice system

A WORKSHOP document produced by probation officers "will radically change the way people think and act towards children in trouble with the law".

A PROPOSAL from probation officers calling for more personnel, training and facilities has opened the way for real change in the juvenile justice system.

According to Mr Henry Slimmert, chief probation officer at Wynberg, the document, produced after a top-level two-day workshop in Brackenfell, will "radically change the way people think and act towards children in trouble with the law".

He said a delegation of Western Cape probation officials will present their proposals to regional Health and Education Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool on Monday.

Besides calling for the creation

of 150 new posts, the building of more places of safety and changes in staff at service establishments, the document also calls for a directorate of probation.

Mr Slimmert says the directorate is necessary to expedite decision-making in carrying out the Criminal Procedure Act.

One problem highlighted by the proposal is the need for better training and selection of care officers. The solution, the document argues, is to create a screening committee composed of social workers, clinical psychologists, experienced care officers and members of the community.

Despite the cost of the pro-

posed changes (R7,5 million for additional staff alone), the probation officers are confident that their recommendations will be taken seriously.

Transformation

Underlining her concern, Ms Geraldine Frazier-Molekete, Deputy Minister of Health and Population Development, told the Cape Times there was a need for the "transformation of not only the juvenile justice system, but also the entire childcare system".

Ms Frazier is confident that a top-level inter-ministerial committee, comprising the ministries of health, safety and security, education, justice and the RDP will formulate a clear, humane policy, within the next six months.

Child-rape belief 'must be stopped'

ARG 2/6/95

(298)

A BELIEF among a certain class of man that they would be cured of Aids if they raped a young child had to be dealt with at the highest level of government, senator Evelyn Lubidla (ANC) said today.

Rapists and child molesters had to be stopped at all costs — even if this meant castrating them — she said

during debate on the President's Vote.

Legislation should be tabled in parliament which made it the duty of police to respond to every call of abused women. Perpetrators should be held in custody for a minimum of 12 hours and on their release women should be provided with protection if they desired it. — Sapa.

'Porn likely to increase abuse'⁽²⁹⁸⁾

CT 2/6/95

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PRETORIA: The government's apparent laissez-faire attitude towards pornography could contribute to a rise in incest cases in South Africa, says a new Human Sciences Research Council report.

The report on the secrecy surrounding incest, written by Professor Diana Russell and published by the Co-operative Research Programme on Marriage and Family Life, predicts the rate of incestuous abuse will become "even higher than it is in the United States".

Prof Russell bases her conclusion on the increasing rate of rapes, the number of broken families, personal violence and the influence of drug and alcohol abuse.

"Pornography, and the laissez-faire attitude the government has

towards it, is likely to contribute to greater violence against South African women. More incestuous abuse is expected to be part of it," warns Prof Russell.

According to the report, incest affects the the victim's entire family, particularly her relationship with her mother and siblings: "Disclosure can create havoc ... as perpetrators often deny the charges against them. This causes family members to take sides and often results in the victim becoming even more isolated."

Abuse may affect later relationships because of cynicism about romantic or love relationships, and often leads to sexual difficulties. Victims are more likely to get divorced or separated "and they may lead a life of promiscuity and compulsive seductiveness".

Hundreds of toddlers join march to highlight child abuse outrage

Star 3/6/95 (298)

By TEFO MOTHIBELI

The frightening increase in sexual abuse was under the spotlight again this week when hundreds of toddlers braved chilly weather to join a protest march in Sharpeville.

Police, parents and teachers were united in their outrage over cases which have come to light in increasing numbers during recent weeks.

Zodwa Mamatela, a teacher at Sharpeville's Inkanyezi nursery school, said sexual abuse of children in Vaal Triangle

townships was increasing and "something will have to be done about it soon".

She said that the increase in such abuse called for tough action from the Government against perpetrators. "It is more terrifying now that even helpless 2 and 3-year-olds have become targets of these heartless beasts."

Mamatela helped organise the anti-child abuse protest march by hundreds of toddlers on Thursday morning.

The singing children were joined by their concerned par-

ents, members of the Vaal Taxi Association and police. The march ended at the Sharpeville library, where a child abuse awareness ceremony was held.

The event was attended by a member of the South African Police Service's Vanderbijlpark Child Protection Unit.

The march followed recent reports of sexual abuse at a school in Sebokeng.

One of the adults who joined in the march remarked: "My God, are we nearing the end of the world when we can do such things even to our very own

blood?"

On Thursday, International Children's Day, President Nelson Mandela said: "Children are the most important national asset for any country and that is even more relevant in our country, where the majority of our children have been marginalised."

Sharpeville police station commander Major Ronnie Rajin told the Saturday Star he suspected the level of sexual abuse was very high in the area, but it was not possible to confirm this.

Children to score from rugby, Mandela book

SAF 3/6/95 (298)

Sales of a special autographed edition of Nelson Mandela's autobiography are set to give a big boost to the President's Children's Fund, writes
TEFO MOTHIBELI

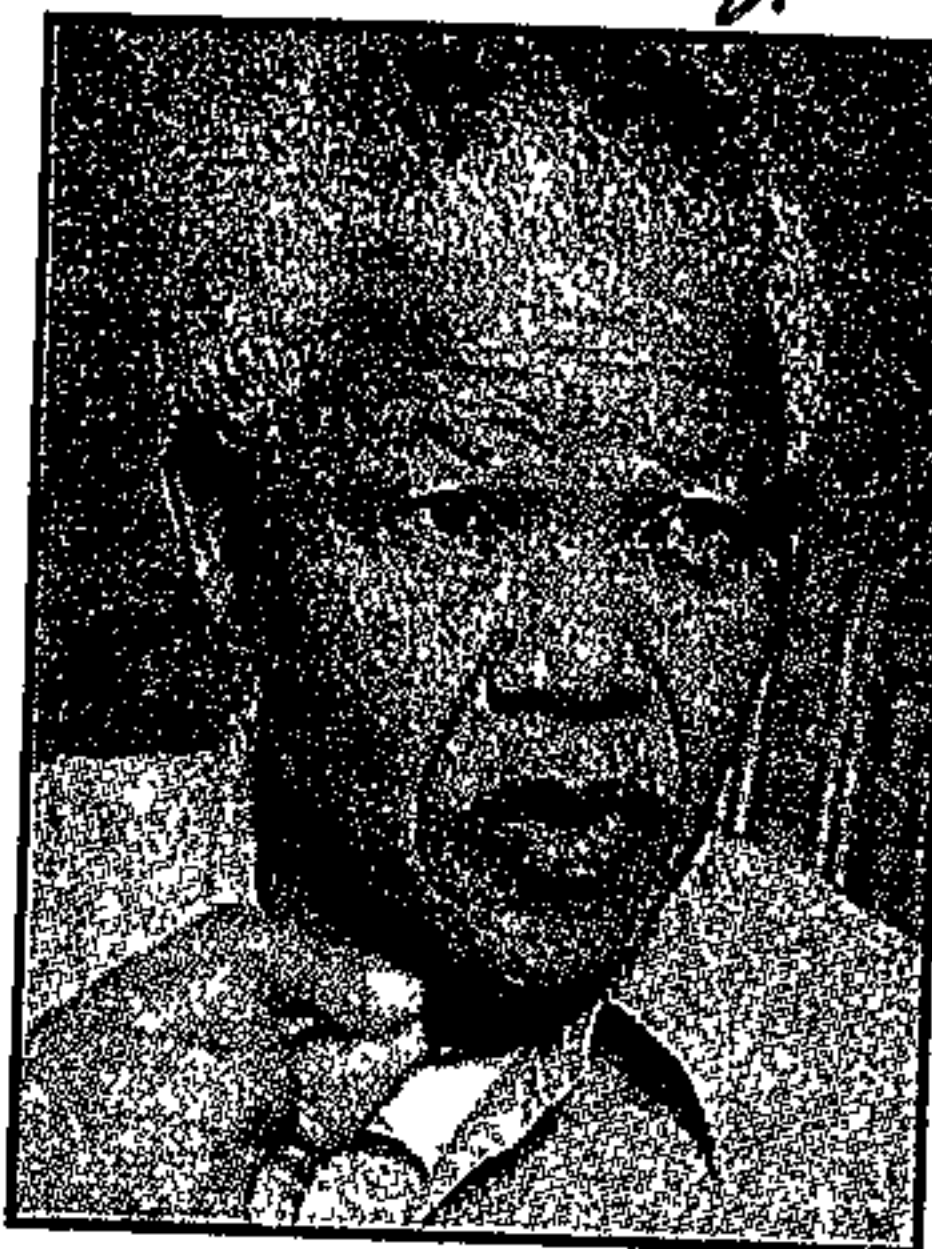
The President's Children's Fund is expected to be boosted by at least R400 000 after a special Rugby World Cup commemorative edition of President Mandela's autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom* goes on sale at CNA and Exclusive Books

today.

A thousand autographed copies will be sold at R500 apiece as part of a joint venture between the private sector and Mandela to raise money for the fund.

CNA Gallo chairman Doug Band, who is behind the initiative, said this week: "We aim to raise at least R400 000.

"Rugby enthusiasts from South Africa and overseas who buy this commemorative edition will know they are taking home not only a valuable souvenir and an excellent literary work, but also the knowledge that they have contributed to Man-



MANDELA: Made second large donation last month

dela's vision of building a new South Africa by helping the young people of our country prepare for their future."

The fund was started last year by Mandela, who pledged an annual R150 000 from his salary for the next five years.

"The president presented his second donation last month at the official launch of the fund, which has already raised almost R2-million from the private sector, individuals, foreign contributions and proceeds from the sale of the signed copies of Mandela's autobiography," a statement by the fund's administrators said.

Child unit 'under threat'

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CRIME REPORTER

CT 5/6/95

A ROW is brewing between the Western Cape's Minister of Health and Welfare, Mr Ebrahim Rasool, and Minister of Police Mr Patrick McKenzie over the possible disbanding of the Child Protection Unit (CPU).

In a statement released at the weekend Mr Rasool said he was shocked to learn of discussions that might end in the disbanding of the CPU.

Last night Mr McKenzie lashed out at Mr Rasool for commenting on a matter that had not yet come under discussion.

He said it was "strange" that Mr Rasool had made a statement to the press, rather than speaking to him personally, as he usually did.

"We have not yet applied our minds to how the restructuring will affect this particular unit. In our restructuring we need to make sure that specialist detectives are available to all sectors of the community. If Mr Rasool really wants to help, then I suggest his department provides social workers after hours to help police in their investigations"

Parliament to decide if SA will be member of child law convention

THE cabinet has approved a Justice Department proposal to submit to Parliament the question of South Africa's accession to the Hague Convention on civil aspects of the International Child Abduction Act, Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar said on Saturday.

The cabinet had also approved the simultaneous introduction of legislation required to implement the convention, he said.

This would make it part of South African law and extend the powers and functions of the family advocate as a central authority in terms of the convention.

Mr Omar said the convention's main objective was to ensure that a child wrongfully removed or retained in a member state was returned or handed over as soon as possible, and that the access and custody rights under law of one member state were respected by other member states.

Passage of the proposed legislation through Parliament would make it possible for SA to accede to and implement the convention.

The draft followed a recommendation by the SA Law Commission, which had "investigated and consulted widely". — Sapa

SA looks at signing treaty

The Government of National Unity wants South Africa to become a signatory to a treaty concerning children abducted across international borders, Justice Minister Dullah Omar said at the weekend.

The treaty places particular emphasis on wrangles between divorced parents.

The Cabinet has approved a proposal for Parliament to consider joining the Hague Con-

vention on Civil Aspects of the International Child Abduction Act.

The main object of the 1980 convention is to ensure that any child wrongfully removed or kept in a country that is party to the convention is returned, Omar said.

The convention also aims to ensure that custody and access rights in any member country are respected by all other parties to the agreement.

— Reuter.

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They need food and love

(298)

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Children of the street 'really bounce back if they're given just half a chance ...'

In spite of the odd calm and sunny day, the Cape of Storms is aptly named. For thousands of the city's less privileged inhabitants, winter inevitably means floods, cold, damp and misery. The Argus, in association with the Community Chest, Protea Hotels and Pick 'n Pay Discount Stores, has launched a *Warm Hearts Campaign* to help some of these unfortunate people cope with winter by collecting cash, clothing and blankets. In this second part of a scene-setting series, Staff Reporter JOHN YELD looks at some of the likely beneficiaries of the campaign.



ARG

06/06/95

NINE-year-old Patrick has just started to read and write.

Until last year, when a friend introduced him to The Homestead projects for street children, he'd never been to a proper school.

When he was six, his family moved to Cape Town after being thrown off a Boland farm because of his father's alcoholic binges.

But there was no work in the city, and his mother, forced into prostitution, eventually moved in with her pimp.

Patrick's father, who used to beat him in a drunken rage until he learned to hide, was jailed for theft, and his six sisters and brothers split up and went their own ways in the desperate search for survival.

Patrick spent the next year "strolling" the streets of Cape

Town — begging, sniffing thinners, sleeping in doorways with just a piece of cardboard for a blanket and a fellow stroller's leg for a pillow, getting into trouble with the police.

Last winter, he shivered with the cold — and he was hungry every day.

Then he made contact with The Homestead organisation and its projects for street children — the outreach Street Work, drop-in centre Yizani, night shelter The Bridge, intake centre The Homestead and children's home Patrick House.

Collectively, they cater for about 150 children daily, some on a residential basis.

Patrick is not an actual person. The organisation is reluctant to allow the children in its care to be

personally interviewed, but he's a typical amalgam of the real characters who pass through its various doorways.

"The backgrounds of the kids are extremely similar, and this is true world-wide — whether you're in Rio de Janeiro or Lagos or New Delhi or Cape Town," says The Homestead director Annette Cockburn.

"There are four critical factors: poverty, overcrowding, unemployment and alcohol abuse, and urbanisation has exacerbated the problem.

"Families are coming from the rural areas looking for jobs and houses. They find none and the family becomes dysfunctional.

"You just don't get kids running away from functional homes."

The project doesn't attempt to



SMALL MERCIES: For many hungry street children, left-over sandwiches provided by a sympathetic motorist are the most nutrition they're likely to get in a day — unless they are in contact with a welfare organisation, many of which are being assisted by The Argus Warm Hearts Campaign.

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reunite families.

"There are far too many of them," Ms Cockburn said "But we do have the outreach programme where we tell the kids where to find shelter and food and medical attention and so on."

How many street children are there in Cape Town?

"Nobody knows and there's no way of knowing. Many of them are just daytime strollers merely trying to make something but who don't actually sleep in the streets," Ms Cockburn said.

The organisation helps children mainly between the ages of six and 16, most of whom arrive with nothing.

"Maybe just a few layers of clothing and lice and scabies and half-healed dog bites and burns," Ms Cockburn said.

"But it's amazing what three weeks of hygiene and good food and sleep and a shower and haircut can do. They really bounce back if they're given just half a chance.

"They're keen — most of them, that is — and they want to succeed.

"These kids are survivors, they're not pathetic little waifs. So to 'give them back their childhood' is not the way to go — they already have well-developed entrepreneurial skills."

The organisation's philosophy is that of Sigmund Freud's notion of the integrated person — someone who is able to love and to work — although it's often a struggle to achieve.

"These kids have had very poor experiences of nurturing and bonding. They are mistrustful of adults and often with good reason," Ms Cockburn said.

"Obviously we would dearly love them to be able to go home, but it usually only lasts a week or so because the circumstances that caused the child to leave are still there."

Not surprisingly, the project has many more demands on its services in winter than in summer.

"In summer the kids can stay out late — it's sunny and warm and



DOWN AND OUT: When that feeling of hopelessness threatens to overwhelm and there's no loving home to turn to for support, what can a street child do but drop his head onto his arms? But fortunately there are caring organisations like The Homestead project to look after him — and support from The Argus Warm Hearts Campaign.

it's fiesta time when all the tourists are here and they don't come in," Ms Cockburn said.

"But in winter..." — the memory of last year's bitter season is still fresh and doesn't need elaborating.

Asked why they left home, most street children respond. "There's no food there."

"That's the most common rea-

son. Obviously there are a multiplicity of problems but that's the obvious one," Ms Cockburn said.

What does The Homestead need — apart from cash, naturally?

"T-shirts, jeans, jackets, blankets, and especially shoes, which are a form of currency."

"Shoes are *the* thing — they represent a step into society, the first step back."

Murderers and rapists were freed in presidential amnesty

ARC 7/6/95 (298)

Political Correspondent

JUVENILE criminals released in this year's presidential amnesty included 29 convicted of murder and 47 of rape.

A total of 839 had been convicted of theft.

This was disclosed in the national assembly by Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela, in reply to a question by Gerhardus Oosthuizen (NP).

Altogether 1 603 juvenile criminals were released in terms of an amnesty announced by President Nelson Mandela on April 27.

The amnesty applied to sentenced offenders younger

than 21

All were released unconditionally.

The amnesty also applied to sentenced juveniles under 21 who were removed from prison conditionally and who had to comply with basic requirements of after-care and supervision, Mr Mzimela said

Replying to a question in the senate by James Selfe (DP), Dr Mzimela gave details of planned new prisons. Five of the seven are to be in the Western Cape

They are.

● Accommodation for 474 people at Victor Verster in Paarl, likely to cost

R12,1 million and be ready by September,

● Accommodation for 316 people at Brandvlei in Worcester likely to cost R10,3 million and be ready by September,

● Accommodation for 1 201 prisoners at Voorberg prison, Porterville, likely to cost R86,4 million and be ready in August next year,

● Accommodation for 1 501 people at Wingfield, to cost R114,1 million and be ready by January 1997; and

● Accommodation for 1 197 in Malmesbury, to cost R149 million and be ready in January 1998.

Shelter (298) ARG 7/6/95 from the storm at Ons Plek

Fires blazing in the hearth, toasted marshmallows, pinotage and snoek paté — the Cape of Storms holds no terrors for many citizens. But for thousands of the city's less privileged inhabitants, the fierce winter storms bring lashing rain, floods, bitter cold and misery. The Argus, in association with the Community Chest, Protea Hotels and Pick 'n Pay Discount Stores, has launched a *Warm Hearts Campaign* to help some of these unfortunate people cope with winter by collecting cash, clothing and blankets. In this third part of a scene-setting series, Staff Reporter JOHN YELD looks at some of the likely beneficiaries — individuals and organisations — of the campaign.

THE 16-year-old schoolgirl sits in a chair in a room at *Ons Plek* in Albertus Street, just around the corner from the City Hall and the Parade

The room in this home for female street children — the only one of its kind in the city — is slightly gloomy and sparsely furnished, but it is comfortable and there is a warm, relaxed atmosphere

Ntombeka — not her real name — has been living here since August and she likes it

She asks that her real name be withheld as the children at her township school — she's in Standard 8 — mock her "Onse plek, Onse plek," they shout after her

She sits demurely and tells her story in a quiet, matter-of-fact voice, but the restlessness of her twisting hands in her lap betray the unspoken emotion

She's never had a proper home before.

Born in Cape Town, her early childhood was spent with a series of relatives

"Before I came here in August, I was living with an aunt in Guguletu. I was also staying with another aunt but she died

"Before that, I was just staying with other people, I don't know where

"My mother was staying with her friends and my father was staying with his sisters.

"My mother doesn't have a place to stay. She has a drinking problem. My father has no place to stay."



SAFELY OFF THE STREET: Some of the unfortunates who have found relief at *Ons Plek*



It's simple and cheap to save young

ARG 9/6/95

RICHARD MEARES of Reuter reports from Bonn.

IN a high-tech age, a hint of iodine in salt or a dose of vitamin A are still cheap and easy miracle cures to save millions of children's lives, says Unicef.

But it says rich donor countries, especially the United States, are being stingier than ever, meaning some poor states skimp on programmes which could save lives at just a few cents a time.

In "The Progress of Nations", its annual report into the well-being of the young, the United Nations' children's welfare organisation said that among advances and setbacks, the fight against polio through immunisation was a shining success.

"The number of polio victims is down from approximately 400 000 in 1980 to about 100 000 in 1993," Unicef said in a statement issued

with the global report in Germany. "Confidence is therefore running high that the polio virus will be eradicated from the earth by the end of the century."

Pneumonia, diarrhoeal disease and measles, which cause about half the 13 million child deaths in the world each year, were proving harder to combat, the agency said.

Highlighting the easiest ways to save the most lives, Unicef said vitamin A supplements could prevent the deaths of one to three million children a year in the developing world.

More than 200 million under-fives do not get enough of the vitamin, impairing their immune system and making common diseases like diarrhoea and measles fatal more often.

In some countries a third of child deaths could be avoided

Unicef also said a lack of dietary iodine condemned millions of children to cretinism, tens of millions

to mental retardation and hundreds of millions to milder impairments.

It said countries were making good progress towards eradicating this scourge by iodising salt at a cost of about 20 cents a person a year.

Dr Alfred Sommer of Baltimore's John Hopkins University said in the report that Unicef hoped for similar progress in raising vitamin A intake — by improving diets, fortifying foods or distributing vitamin capsules — now that there was scientific consensus after a decade of unnecessary delay.

"With its vision fixed on high-tech, high-cost frontiers of modern medical care," he said, "the medical and research establishment found it difficult to accept that something as simple and cheap as a two-cent capsule of vitamin A could represent such a breakthrough for human health and life."

Industrialised countries which enjoy the benefits of such high-tech health care were also slammed for neglecting aid.

Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said in the report that development aid was in "a shameful condition".

Almost all rich nations cut aid budgets in 1993, the latest year for which figures are available, reducing total aid by eight percent to \$56 billion (about \$190 million).

Only Denmark, Sweden, Norway and the Netherlands gave 0.7 percent of their gross national product (GNP), a target agreed 25 years ago. On average rich countries gave just 0.3 percent.

"The world's second largest donor, the United States, falls to bottom place in percentage terms — with a contribution of just 0.15 percent of GNP," Unicef said.

"The Progress of Nations" also tries to deal with child rights, an area where advances are far hard-

er to measure.

"In all regions of the world children continue to be malnourished, plagued by preventable disease, denied even a basic education," it said.

"They continue to be exploited, prostituted and abused in the home, at work, and in war."

It estimated the number of young teenage prostitutes at two million, including 300 000 in the United States.

● Sapa-Reuter reports from Abidjan that the plight of many children in the expanding towns and cities of West and Central Africa is worsening as they have to work or turn to prostitution or begging to survive.

A statement issued by the West and Central Africa office of Unicef said that putting the children to work was a fact of economic life for many poor families.

But it called for greater efforts to ensure those children who do

lives

work receive proper care and are not exploited.

"In the urban areas the numbers of children in especially difficult circumstances are increasing," regional director Torild Skard said in the statement. "This includes street children, child prostitutes, girls working as domestic servants, young boys forced into begging and physically abused children."

The statement, which also spotlighted the problems faced by children in war zones such as Liberia, estimated that up to 20 percent of African children were working. "These working children, estimated at 40 million, would double in numbers by the year 2000 if no action were taken," it said.

Quoting a 1991 study, it said an estimated 30 000 children lived and worked in the streets of Ivory Coast's commercial capital Abidjan. It said an estimated 90 000 children under 15 begged on the streets of the Senegalese capital, Dakar.

ATIONAL

Africa trails the world on children's rights

From Sapa-AP

Abidjan — African countries trail most of the world in protecting the health and human rights of children, who are being forced into street life at a rising rate because of the continent's poverty, the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) said yesterday.

An estimated 40 million children under the age of 16 are working in African countries, and the number could double by the year 2000, Unicef said in its annual Progress of Nations survey. The report, which ranks coun-

tries' performances in areas of health, education and protection of human rights, was optimistic in some areas.

It praised the west African nation of Guinea, one of the world's poorest countries, for increasing measles immunisation from 18 percent to 57 percent of children between 1990 and 1993. As in past years, however, the report showed African countries, notably those south of the Sahara, lagging in most categories.

Of the 40 countries in which polio is still common, 26 are in Africa and 24 of those are in sub-

Saharan Africa.

Vaccinations against measles, which kills about a half-million children a year, remain unavailable to a majority of children in several African countries where the cost of the vaccine has forced governments to halt immunisation programmes.

In 18 countries — 13 of them African — the percentage of children immunised against the disease dropped anywhere from 11 percent to 36 percent between 1990 and 1993.

Only one of 39 sub-Saharan countries surveyed — the island

nation of Mauritius — had more than 90 percent of its children completing five years of school. In about half those countries, including relatively prosperous ones such as Ivory Coast and Gabon, the level was 50 percent or less.

The figures, Unicef says, are a reflection of political and social upheavals affecting Africa, particularly wars and urbanisation.

In west and central Africa, urban populations are growing at twice the general population growth rate because of wars, environmental degradation and the search for work.

20 juveniles escape from place of safety

BY PRISCILLA SINGH

At least 20 juvenile awaiting-trial prisoners have absconded from the Proteem Place of Safety in Magaliesoord, Cullinan, near Pretoria, bringing the number of escapes since May 9 to 65.

The juveniles form part of the group released from prisons countrywide after a special announcement by President Nelson Mandela granting amnesty to under-18s awaiting trial.

According to Proteem department head Ida Strydom, drastic action is being taken to step up security in the complex.

"I have already made arrangements for a second fence to be erected around the existing one and we are also going to arrange for the night security to keep more dogs with them. The

lighting outside is also going to be upgraded."

Strydom said most of the boys ran away because they were led to believe they would go home after their release or that their parents would be notified.

Democratic Party member in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature Jack Bloom unleashed a scathing attack on the justice system, saying the latest escapes of awaiting-trial juveniles illustrated its hopelessly skewed priorities yet again.

Speaking yesterday, Bloom said it was outrageous that the 65 juveniles escaped from this "supposed" place of safety, "an outcome that was utterly predictable from what was initially described to me by a senior police officer as little more than a boarding school".

RDP 'Mandela sandwich': is it so very nutritious?

Star 9/6/98

(298)

■ BY PATRICK BULGER

Cape Town — Five million primary schoolchildren munch on their "Mandela Sandwiches" each day, but are they as nutritious as they are tasty?

The question has been raised in the first annual report of the Reconstruction and Development Programme tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The report hails what it calls the "Mandela Sandwich" — a peanut butter sandwich — as the "most well-known example of RDP delivery".

The report continues: "It is

well known that we did not have time to plan fully for the free health programme and the primary school nutrition programme.

Problems

"As a result we have experienced a number of problems ... questions have been raised about the nutritional value of the snack provided to schoolchildren."

It did not say what nutritional issues had been raised.

The report says the "Mandela Sandwich" provided a quarter of a child's daily energy re-

quirement; had decreased the school drop-out rate; and resulted in better concentration and participation, the report said.

■ Johannesburg dietician Susan Sharf said yesterday the peanut butter sandwich was internationally accepted as a balanced and nutritious meal, containing protein, carbohydrates and fat.

"It is very popular in all feeding schemes, but especially with the children."

"Not only is it easy to prepare, but it is also reasonably priced," she said.

Now Constitutional Court flexes muscles on juvenile whipping

Star 10/6/95

(298)

The Constitutional Court yesterday delivered its second watershed hearing in a matter of three days.

It abolished judicial corporal punishment for juveniles, saying it was inconsistent with the constitution.

"It is my view that at this time, so close to the dawn of the 21st century, juvenile whipping is cruel, it is inhuman and it is degrading," Constitutional Court judge Pius Langa said as he announced the court's unanimous decision in Johannesburg.

All corporal punishment sentences would have to be set

aside and alternative sentences imposed, he said.

The Department of Justice said the abolition took South Africa a step closer to a human rights culture. A new juvenile justice system was being investigated.

The abolition did not apply to schools, Judge Langa said. Whipping at schools was not nearly as severe as that by the judicial system, he added.

However, Minister of Education Sibusiso Bengu said in a statement that corporal punishment in schools also contravened the constitution.

"The new Education Policy

Bill, which is being drafted, will include suitable provisions to abolish corporal punishment in schools and other educational institutions," he said.

Yesterday's ruling was generally welcomed.

"We hoped it (the abolition) would be extended to schools because the same stigma is attached (to corporal punishment) as in the judicial system," Lawyers for Human Rights head Jody Kollapen said.

The Campaign to End Physical Punishment of Children said the ruling was the first step in replacing the national

ethos of violence against children with behaviour that would protect them from violence. The organisation felt, however, it was illogical and unjust not to ban corporal punishment in schools and other settings.

National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders spokesman Jeanette Schmidt said corporal punishment was administered to 75% of the 40 000 children sentenced by South African courts in 1993.

In submissions before the court's decision, the State argued that corporal punishment

for juveniles was a more humane alternative to imprisonment. It also said SA lacked sufficient resources for alternative punishment.

However, Judge Langa said "imaginative sentencing" such as house arrest, community service and job placement would humanise the criminal justice system and shift the emphasis from retribution to rehabilitation.

He referred to recent decisions by the supreme courts of Namibia and Zimbabwe which found whipping to be "inhuman or degrading". — Sapa

Children escape places of safety

Ingrid Salgado

NEARLY 400 of the 792 children released from prisons last month had escaped from places of safety, Welfare deputy minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said on Friday.

More than 240 of the escapees were from KwaZulu-Natal, where the largest provincial release, 351 children, took place, while 78 Gauteng children — from a total of 185 releases — escaped, she said.

Released when an amendment to Section 29 of the Criminal Services Act became effective on May 8, the minors were put into the care of parents, guardians or into places of safety.

Only child detainees and awaiting trial prisoners under 18 years old were released.

More than 50 children in the Western Cape escaped, eight each in the Eastern Cape and Free State and five in the Northern Cape, she said. These figures included 1 455 minors released from police cells nationwide. Some had been rearrested.

No minors were released from prisons in the Eastern Transvaal while the amendment — excluding releases from police cells — affected 87 in the Western Cape, 70 in the Eastern Cape, 52 in North-West, 29 in Northern Province, 14 in the Free State and four in the Northern Cape.

Fraser-Moleketi said public fear that the escapees were dangerous criminals was misplaced. None were convicted criminals and in KwaZulu/Natal less than 8% were awaiting trial for serious crimes.

Numerous children were orphans, homeless and living in poverty. If government did not redress this issue, children who were the victims of violence would become the perpetrators, she said.

The minors had been released when places of safety were not equipped to deal with the influx and the Welfare Department had to create mechanisms to enable them to fit into communities.

Better synchronisation between departments should have been in place when the minors were released, she said, but it would take more than a year to transform the entire childcare system. Although the releases were not successful, they represented "an important decision in terms of basic human rights".

About 50% of all crimes were committed by youths between 18 and 21 years of age and over 5 000 youths were awaiting trial.

Imminent

purchase, but De Villiers conceded was "a problem".

had indicated its willingness to be of the joint management operation sizeable. Venetia/Limpopo Game

park area of between 50 000 and as envisaged on the SA side of the

of private game farm and reserve the Botswana side of the border had est in becoming part of the joint

Province premier Ngako Ramath government was committed to re-eration and this would help in ex-tourism potential of the area.

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Denel enters deal to upgrade fighter jets

John Dlodlu

ARMS manufacturer Denel at the weekend struck its first post-sanctions international deal by entering into a trilateral co-operation deal with leading French and Spanish counterparts to upgrade and modernise engine components of the Mirage F1 fighter jets and the Super Etendard.

The agreement — which was clinched in Paris by Denel CE Johan Alberts and his counterparts from the French company SNECMA and Spanish ITP — would see the three companies working together to manufacture modern atar engine parts for aircraft widely flown in France, SA and Spain.

From Paris yesterday Denel spokesman Paul Holtzhausen said in terms of the deal Denel would have to design and manufacture major turbine components for the fighter jet engines.

The deal also provided that ITP, a leading Spanish aircraft manufacturer, would have to design and produce high pressure compressors for the Mirage F1 engines.

Holtzhausen said although it was difficult to put monetary value to the deal, he expected it to beef up Denel's international ex-

port business.

A spokesman for Armscor said the deal characterised the post-sanctions era, and reflected the international competencies of the SA defence industry.

Sapa-AFP quoted SNECMA chief Bernard Dufour as saying the deal would be profitable for the French company.



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Cautionary a

Further to the cautionary on 10 May 1995, shareholders are advised that negotiations which may have an effect on the price of the shares. Accordingly, shareholders are advised to exercise caution.

Johannesburg
12 June 1995

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NEWS

Cash cut-backs will hit hard

Child care is facing crisis ⁽²⁹⁸⁾

Star 12/6/95

■ BY SUSAN MILLER

Today marks the start of Child Protection Week, which has been proclaimed to highlight the plight of abused children, street children, homeless children and those facing the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.

Child Protection Week will be marked by a series of processions, talks and discussions about children's rights.

But ironically, as public awareness of the rights of children grows, Johannesburg Child Welfare, the largest private welfare organisation dealing with children's issues in the Greater Johannesburg area, is faced with a R1-million cut in its subsidy from Gauteng welfare services.

Lynné Perry, director of Johannesburg Child Welfare, said the cut-back would mean that 18 social worker posts and three control posts would be abolished and work done among foster care and adoption investigations would be badly affected.

Lack of funding would also affect crucial work which was being done among physically, emotionally and sexually abused

and neglected children and which would cease by the end of August unless Child Welfare can somehow find enough money.

Child Welfare officials said they did not know of any other cuts in the child care field, but government services have already announced drastic cuts in subsidies for the aged.

Celia Theart, assistant-director of Child Welfare, said the State only paid social workers' salaries and subsidised children's homes at the moment.

"Our budget every year is around R11,7-million and out of this total the State pays about 45%. We have to find the rest in the public and corporate sector. Finding an additional R1-million after this cut-back will be impossible."

Theart said they were waiting "in limbo" to hear from the Gauteng Ministry of Welfare which had promised to discuss the situation. Anxious Child Welfare staff members are already beginning to resign.

Perry said the cut would mean that Child Welfare would not be able to recruit foster parents and place babies easily.

First joint Youth Day for 20 years

□ Concern over 'snub' by NP action committee

ARG 13/6/95 (298)

Staff Reporters

YOUNG people in the Western Cape will celebrate National Youth Day on Friday — June 16 — under the banner of the Western Cape Youth Forum, the first joint celebration for nearly 20 years.

But the forum says it is "gravely concerned" about an alleged snub from the National Party's Youth Action Committee.

At a press conference, spokesman Peter Skei said the forum had done "everything possible" to include all political parties and structures in the Western Cape in the important Youth Day events.

The NP's youth committee had failed to respond to repeated efforts by the forum to ensure its participation.

"Last year there was some concern on their part that they didn't feel included, so this year we made a special effort to include them in the celebrations. But all attempts to do so have failed," Mr Skei said.

The forum had even asked the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa) to mediate in an effort to gain the NP's participation, but this had also failed.

In response, National Party Western Cape Youth Action spokesman Craig Morkel said the forum was dominated by the ANC and had excluded many other political and religious youth organisations.

The NP group had been excluded since the forum's launch in October 1993.

Other youth groups, including

cultural and religious organisations, had not been invited by the forum, Mr Morkel said.

The main item for the Western Cape will be a cultural celebration at Phillipi Stadium, starting at 10am. Speakers include Justice Minister Dullah Omar and ANC MP Peter Mokaba.

Youth would use June 16 to remember past achievements and the young people who had died and suffered, and would spell out their role in building the country, Mr Skei said.

They wanted to put pressure on the government to establish structures for dealing with problems affecting youth, and were looking at establishing either a youth commission or a youth ministry.

Youth has role to play in curbing violence — Mandela

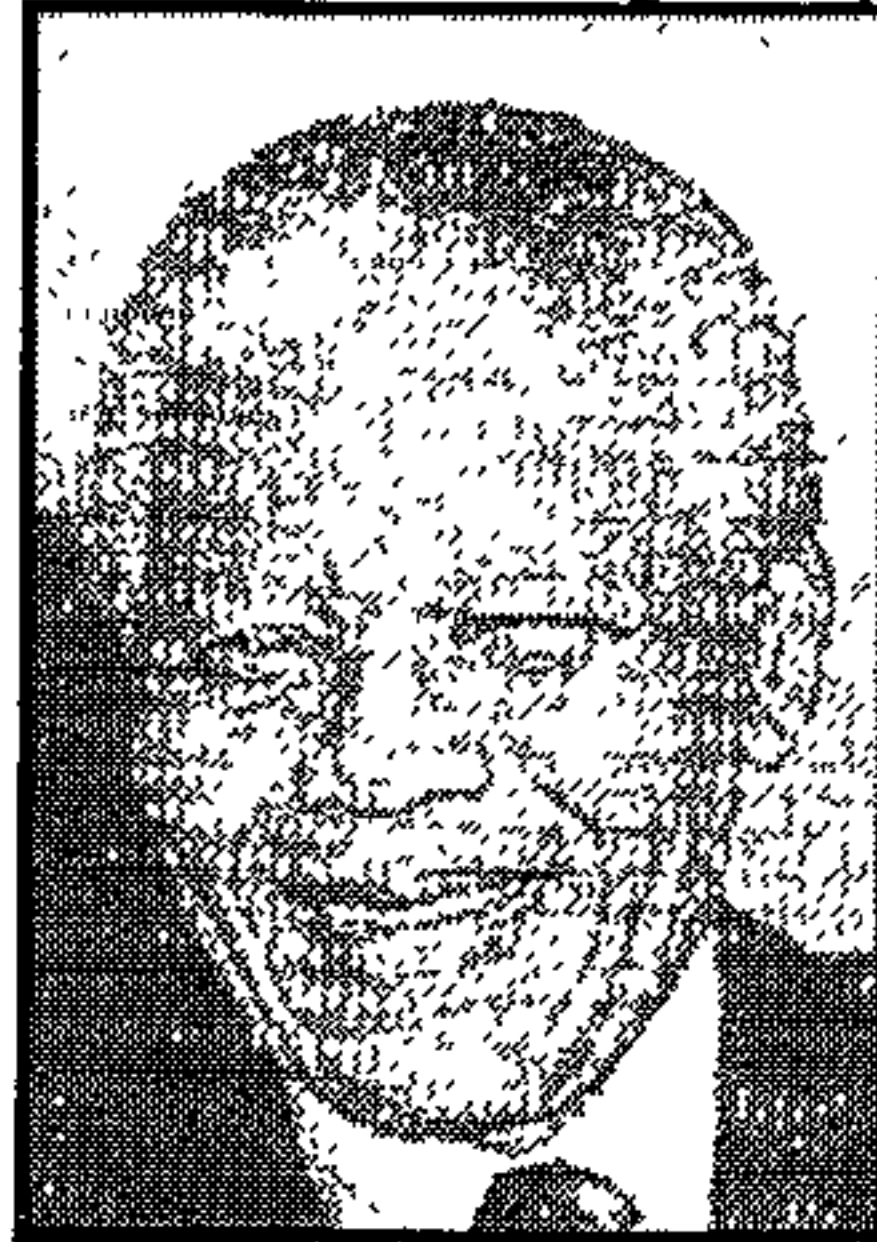
(298) ARC 16/6/95

PARLIAMENT'S ratification this week of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is being sent to UN headquarters in New York, President Mandela announced in a Youth Day address.

He first signed the Convention in 1993, signifying South Africa's intention to put children's rights high on the reconstruction and development programme priority list.

The Convention's 54 articles endorse a spectrum of economic, civil, political and social rights for children. It recognises them as individuals with the right to develop to their fullest potential and express opinions freely.

Parliament's ratification was seen as a commitment by



Mr Mandela.

the government to launch projects aimed at improving the conditions of children's lives in South Africa.

Mr Mandela referred to programmes like free health care for children under six years and pregnant women and a nutrition scheme at primary schools that had already been implemented.

In an address at a National Youth Day rally at Ezakheni township, near Ladysmith, Mr Mandela was expected to urge youth to help combat violence and to be involved in reconstruction and development programme projects.

Mr Mandela will also respond to the threat by KwaZulu-Natal chiefs to take the government to the Constitutional Court over the remuneration of traditional leaders.

He will be accompanied by ANC Youth League president

Lulu Johnson, the Congress of South African Trade Unions president John Gomomo and SA Communist Party chairman and Eastern Cape Premier Raymond Mhlaba.

Another major ANC/SACP-Cosatu alliance event being held at the Mofolo Five Roses Bowl in Soweto was to be addressed by Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Housing Minister Sankie Mthembi-Nkondo travelled to the Northern Transvaal to address a rally at the Pietersburg Rugby Stadium.

Justice Minister Dullah Omar was to lead a ANC-SACP-Cosatu alliance list of speakers at rallies in the Western Cape.

Kathryn Strachan (298)

20/6/95

School feeding is a help, despite hassles

At 10am, pupils at Insingizizi Primary School outside Port Shepstone queue up in the classroom, their faces pressed up against each other in their eagerness to get their daily ration of peanut butter sandwiches and milk.

For many children in this poverty-stricken South Coast area this is the only food they get during the day, and since the government school feeding programme began teachers have noticed a marked increase in attendance and in the children's concentration.

But while it has made a difference to children at schools across the country, the programme is running into difficulty. Organisations are complaining they have not been refunded by government for the food they have supplied over the past six months.

People at Ziphakamisa community organisation, which administers feeding at 20 South Coast schools, blame the confusion on lack of communication between province and local schools. There is no consistent policy, and schools are at a loss to know how to run the programme. They also lack the management and accounting skills to deal with such large amounts of money.

Community participation is emphasised as a key element of the programme. However, it cannot become a reality without training on how to control funds.

There are also allegations of graft, with reports of errant teachers taking food home and of funds being syphoned off into headmasters' accounts.

KwaZulu/Natal MEC for health Zweli Mkhize reported last week that the nutrition programme aimed at pregnant mothers and young children was defrauded by R8m. He also said there were problems in the school feeding programme.

Fraud and lack of financial management capability are not the only problems. The programme is highly fragmented and the fact that the position of chief director of nutrition remains unfilled has also been blamed for a lack of direction in the programme, says Natal University Natal community health acting head Dr Noddy Jinabhai.

The department has inherited three uncoordinated nutrition programmes, and it needs a unified policy to address the mess, he says. The programme has also had to defend itself against questions about its usefulness in fighting chronic malnutrition.

Jinabhai says a mass feeding programme is not the answer to SA's problem of chronic malnutrition. About 30% of children suffer from chronic malnutrition whereas only 2% suffer from acute malnutrition. The cause of chronic malnutrition lies not so much in a lack of food, but in a lack of specific micronutrients such as Vitamin A, in

intestinal diseases such as diarrhoea which sap the body of nutrition, and in access to facilities such as clinics.

For this reason there is a call for the nutrition scheme to be extended into a broader programme. It should be an integral part of primary health care and co-ordinated by the local authorities. Policy should be set at national level and districts should identify their own priorities and strategies.

It should also include screening for sight and hearing problems and dyslexia and educational disabilities.

Critics of the school feeding programme argue that once the children get to school the damage has already been done. If a nutrition programme is to be successful it has to target the under-five age group.

Although its ability to stave off malnutrition is in question, the role of the primary school feeding programme in contributing to the educability of the child is beyond doubt. As Michael Phungula, a headmaster of a Ndunakazi School in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, explains his role in promoting nutrition in his school: "I am like a gardener turning the soil and adding fertiliser so that the seed can grow."

elderly people depend on social pensions. This safety net will have to remain in place until the underlying causes of poverty have been addressed in this country.

I would like to stress to the Minister of Finance the importance of assuring present and future recipients that this safety net will remain in place and will only become smaller as more and more people move out of the poverty trap and are able to depend on other sources of income in their old age. I wish I could share his confidence that mere growth of the economy would address this huge problem of unemployment and poverty. I would again like to repeat that we need development. We need to spread the economy across the population. It is not enough for the existing industries to get larger and larger. They will not necessarily employ more people.

Finally, we urge the Minister that the welfare portfolio committee be briefed in full on the terms of reference and membership of the new committee before these are published. We would also like to see representatives of the recipients of social pensions on the new committee so that their views and interests can be represented there and not only those of the private sector.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the previous speaker for those suggestions.

The hon Mr Saloojee has made the suggestion that we should have a compulsory pension fund. Is that correct? [Interjections.] I do not quite know what the impact of that would be. Whenever you say "compulsory", it starts to look like a tax system. It is because we do not know what the impact would be that we have appointed a committee, under Mr Guy Smith, to research this and come forward with suggestions. As the previous speaker has indicated, I think that in welfare features quite prominently in the terms of reference. If hon members feel that there are issues which we have left out of these terms of reference, I would be delighted to listen to them and take that up with the respective committee members.

We are also very mindful that in some areas, especially the rural areas, it is on pension payment day that the major economic activity takes place. One should be very careful before tampering with that particular activity. We are also mindful of the impact that pensions have on a large section of our disadvantaged community. So far there has been

no suggestion from the Government's side that there would be any changes. It is because we must try to find out how to address the issue in an innovative way and on a sustainable basis in the future that we have appointed the committee. I am sure that I speak on behalf of the Minister for Welfare and Population Development, and surely for myself, when I assure the House that we are very mindful of the need and responsibility of the Government to give consideration to the indigent and the disadvantaged.

Debate concluded

Children living on the streets of towns/cities

2. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development

(1) Whether he or his Department has undertaken an investigation into the incidence of children living on the streets of towns and cities, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details.

(2) whether he or his Department has taken or intends taking any action in this regard, if not, why not, if so, what action?

(298) Hansard 21/6/95 849E INT
The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT, Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the member for putting this interpellation before the House. In terms of our responsibility towards children, in the year of the signing of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the Constitution, it is important for this House to take note of the serious social problem of street children in our country.

In the first instance we need to assist the family in particular. Secondly, the communities should be assisted so as to enable them to address this problem in their own environment. If we do not succeed in this, these are the children who in most cases will become abused, be at risk and then also become involved in crime and the taking of drugs.

It is also not so easy for us as a department to deal with this problem by ourselves. We are very thankful that, in general, the public, NGOs, churches and welfare organisations have up to now assisted the Department of Welfare and Population Development and the Government in addressing the problem of street children.

Children who live on the streets are not always out of contact with their parents. In most cases they

are driven onto the street because of our poor economic climate. They have to assist the family in order to survive in this bad economic climate. Some of them have daily contact with their families and they do go back there at night. The ones at risk are those who have actually broken off all contact with the family. They are the children of the street.

In our society we always find that before children leave home they are usually exposed to factors such as violence, single parenthood, or problems between parents and children. There is also a lack of privacy, economic distress and, in some cases, abuse.

These factors can be called the "pull" factors and also the "push" factors. The "pull" factors refer to unemployment and overcrowding, not only at home but also in the schools, with the result that teachers do not have sufficient control over their classes. Dropping out for one day becomes dropping out permanently. The child does not return home, he goes back to the streets. [Time expired.]

Mr M F CASSIM, Madam Speaker, I am very pleased indeed that I will be scrutinising on the same side as the hon Minister, because if I were on the opposite side, I am afraid of what might happen to me [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Do you want to tackle Lomtu?

An HON MEMBER: Do you want Lomtu on the same side?

Mr M F CASSIM: Of course, not! [Laughter.] If Jonah Lomtu were around I would have to be very sensible and keep my distance altogether [Laughter.] Whatever the case may be, hearing what the hon Minister had to say this afternoon, I think that street children who are generally fatherless and motherless need not despair, because from today I would like to christen them "Abe's babies." Now that Minister Abe Williams has shown the care and the concern he has this afternoon, and now that we are coming to mid-winter, the coldest, cruellest and harshest time, I hope those of us who are comfortable will spare a thought for those children who survive on the streets.

Street children exist on the streets. The streets have adopted them. The dilemma is that we cannot take them off the streets, because we do not have the means. However, we cannot leave them on the streets. While the NGOs and other

organisations are endeavouring to resolve the problem, the Government needs to show in a practical way what it is going to do to try to alleviate the problems of street children.

In this country, the number of street children has grown quite considerably owing to the conflict of the past. As a result, they have lost out on their birthright, which is education. They have also lost out in many other ways. If concerted attention can be given to these children, and if the Minister can actively follow up the commitment he has made today, we will indeed have done a great service to the children of our land. After all, the President of this country has indicated that the children are our future. We need to protect that future. It cannot be a future which excludes an important part of society. The street children have long been neglected and I am happy indeed that today all of us, in fact, the whole of Parliament, can unite on this one issue. Our children deserve the best and we will not in any way desert them.

Mrs P DE LILLE: Madam Speaker, I recently visited two children's homes in Benoni, Gauteng. I found they were overcrowded and that the facilities were poor if there were any. Many of the children there, I was told, had come there on their own. Many of them had been forced to leave their homes because of poor socioeconomic conditions and abuse.

Our children are the victims of the many ills in our society. However, I am not convinced that the responsibility of caring for these children should be left to the Government alone. I feel that, as communities, we must all contribute to the welfare of our children. What kind of society are we if we cannot take care of our own children?

Children, as a group, have been afforded second-generation human rights in the interim Constitution. South Africa is on the verge of signing the UN convention on children. However, all of this will be meaningless unless it is followed up with programmes in which our children can participate and which they themselves can design.

The Department of Welfare must make assistance available to both registered and so-called non-registered homes. We find in our townships that the only groups that care for our children are nongovernmental groups. They are not receiving any assistance at all from the Government. Until such time as we can change the situation around and make the Government responsible for paying for all children's homes, not only for homes in White

areas for White children, the Government must make resources available to the NGOs caring for our children

THE MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT Madam Speaker, I should like to assure the hon member Mrs. De Lille that my department does not discriminate between White, Black or Coloured children. We treat all children equally in terms of the Constitution and in terms of our responsibility to all our children.

She is correct, though, when she says that the Department of Welfare and the Government cannot handle this issue alone. We need assistance. I am grateful that we do get assistance. We cannot provide the care alone. However, we must be very careful with regard to the assistance that is available to the children on the streets. In some cases street shelters have been put up. They do not cater for the emotional or physical needs of all the children. In most cases children use this as an excuse to leave home.

We should have better control over shelters and we must have control over every organisation that deals with children. In many cases, accusations have been made that the children are abused in institutions where they should actually be receiving care. With the change of the Fundraising Act certainly, nongovernmental organisations will be supported. Up to now we have not refused funding to any organisation that has a cause that we could assist.

It is not true to say that we are not doing our best. We are doing our best. We have had a conference, and we are investigating this matter. There is continued discussion on a policy in respect of children. We had the HSRC go into the matter of street children.

Street children are not only a South African phenomenon. On my last visit overseas I read a study of street children in Rio de Janeiro. The problem is the same. One has to get the child back to his family. [Time expired.]

Mr M F CASSIM Madam Speaker, I think the Minister will recognise that if we really take care of our children, that will not only be a benefit in itself, but when one considers that the Minister is so interested in rugby, he will also have an additional source to draw from. Considering how tough and wily street children are, they could be a new and vital component in South African rugby, putting South Africa right on top. [Interjections.]

There have been many conferences, and the universities have done extensive research on street children. The documentation is considerable. However, there is something missing. Where will street children go if they want to have their aptitudes tested? How can they be given an indication of what qualities they possess so that they can exploit them?

If we look at this matter only as a problem that has to be addressed in its entirety, we forget the individual component. Each child in the street is crying out to be given recognition. He does not want to be taken off the streets to a life that will be dull and uninteresting.

Living on the streets, his instincts have become his inclination, and it is by his instincts and his inclination that he survives. However, if children were in a position to have their aptitude tested, many of them could be given guidance on how they could exploit that aptitude for their own benefit. [Time expired.]

THE SPEAKER Order! I consider it might be beyond the capacity of a South African Speaker to suggest that anything concerned with rugby is irrelevant to the matters we are debating, but I will not test that proposition. I call on the hon Mrs Seaton.

Mrs S A SEATON Madam Speaker, the IFP logo depicts a family. There is no doubt at all that street children desperately need a family. I accept what the Minister says, and we are very pleased to hear about the progress that has been made. There is no doubt that many of those children are homeless, and do not have families as such. I believe that Government—not only central Government, but government at all levels—has a role to play. All too often communities—and I speak of local government here as well—do not see taking care of these children as their role, but unfortunately it is, in fact, the community's role. It is the individual community that has to do something to keep our children off the streets, to ensure that our children do not become members of the family of Correctional Services, and create even many more problems for our country.

There is a great deal of concern, as far as I am concerned, about the exploitation of those children. [Time expired.]

THE MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT Madam Speaker, I would like to thank all the members

who have taken part in this debate on street children. I want to thank them for their concern and their assistance in bringing the country to book in terms of this problem.

We need a new dynamic approach in terms of street children. This phenomenon is not going to go away. We have the fact of low economic growth, poverty and urbanisation. We have children who have suffered during the periods of violence, we have children who have left their homes for certain reasons, and therefore we need this new approach.

I would also like to appeal to the Departments of Health and Education, as well as the police and the armed forces. I think we all need to make a joint effort in addressing this issue. However, most of all, we must make the life of these street children interesting. Therefore, we should spend more money on recreation. We should look at how we can alleviate the problem of overcrowding in schools. We should also look at sports programmes. We should think about using our school holidays for leadership programmes. We should look at how school buildings can be used during school holidays.

I do not have the funds to erect school buildings. We need to look at the use of hostels. Therefore, one of the most important things is that we, as the Department of Welfare, be assisted to appoint social workers to work not only on the streets, but also in the schools, so that we can address children's problems before they get onto the street or leave home.

However, as far as the Department of Welfare is concerned, we will address this issue in the new White Paper on Welfare Policy, which will be under discussion in Bloemfontein for three days as from Monday. We will come back with programmes to assist us in dealing with street children. [Time expired.]

Debate concluded

Policy in regard to the release of prisoners

3. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Correctional Services

(1) What is his Department's policy in regard to the release of prisoners;

(2) whether it is the intention to change this policy, if not, why not; if so, what changes are envisaged?

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THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES Madam Speaker, I would like to inform the hon member that previously prisoners were required to serve up to a quarter or even a third of their sentences before they were released. Prisoners who were previously released conditionally or on parole were not subjected to supervision in the community in all instances.

As from 1 March 1994, all sentenced prisoners serve their full sentence as imposed by the court, either in prison or in the community under strict parole supervision.

The system of reduction of a fixed part of the sentence was therefore abolished as of 1 March. Prisoners can now earn credits by observing the rules which apply in a prison and by actively taking part in programmes which can treat, train and rehabilitate them. By creating a system where prisoners can actively participate in programmes to advance the date on which he or she will be released on parole, a climate is created which is conducive to rehabilitation.

I let me give an example of what actually happens. Of all the inmates placed out on parole during 1994, 5% have not served one third of their sentence. At the same time, 32% of them were placed out on parole before they have served half their sentence, and 44% of them were placed out on parole before they have served three quarters of their sentence, and 11% were placed out on parole after they have served more than three quarters of their sentence. Only 8% of them were released after serving their full sentence in prison.

I now come to the second part of the question. There are a number of problems associated with the credit system in prison. It is therefore my intention to revisit the system of earning credits, which is criticised by many people in prison, by those who supervise them, and, in fact, also in the Krieger Report, which was commissioned by the President.

I have asked the National Advisory Council on Correctional Services to investigate the possibility of coming up with a new parole system which will be easily understood by those who are in prison and by those who administer the programme. The release policy will also be referred to the portfolio committee and I hope that in the end we will have a better parole system.

direction, so I am not sure which of you stood up first. As I saw Mr Maree first, I ask him to proceed.

Mr J W MAREE: Madam Speaker, I listened carefully to what the Minister said. He said that the mandate of the Currin Committee was to look at pending matters.

The SPEAKER: Order! Please ask a question

Mr J W MAREE: I want to ask the Minister how matters which have been disposed of can be pending in terms of the ordinary meaning of the word

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: Madam Speaker, when that member's apartheid government was in office . . . [Interjections] . . . and set up its own structures to deal with indemnity matters, a large number of those matters were handled by an indemnity council. Many applications were refused. I was never satisfied that all those cases had been properly handled. Where the Currin Committee considered it necessary to refer to any one of those matters, I considered it entirely justified

Adv J H DE LANGE: Madam Speaker, arising from what has happened here today, I want to ask the Minister whether he can tell us if the Executive Deputy President of the largest minority party or any other NP member in the Cabinet, seeing that they set up the Currin Committee, at any stage raised any problems in the Cabinet in connection with this process. If the Minister can answer this question, we will see whether the hon member is on a fishing expedition or not.

† Dr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: I would just like to know to whom the hon member Mr De Lange directed his question.

Adv J H DE LANGE: Madam Speaker, the question was put to the Minister. I asked if the Executive Deputy President in that member's party or any other NP member at any stage raised any problems in the Cabinet about the process we are talking about, which that member's party has problems with. That is a very simple question, Dr Odendaal.

The MINISTER: Madam Speaker, the committee under the chairpersonship of Mr Brian Currin was set up by me as Minister of Justice. I took the matter to the Cabinet and the Cabinet approved it.

Mr J W MAREE: Madam Speaker, the Cabinet's decision was that the Currin Committee could

only look at pending matters. On what authority did the Minister instruct the Currin Committee to go outside that mandate? Did he take the matter back to the Cabinet? Did the Cabinet reconsider this? Was the Cabinet informed that that Minister gave instructions to the Currin Committee that were completely out of bounds? Did the Minister inform the Cabinet that he was signing documents which were outside the mandate given to him by the Cabinet? We want a clear reply to all these questions [Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Madam Speaker, I am very happy about the work I did and about the work the Currin Committee did. I am very proud of the committee's work. Had it not been for its work, the people who were in prison as a result of that hon member's government would still have been sitting in prison. As far as I am concerned, the Currin Committee acted within its mandate, and I am prepared to defend the work that it did [Interjections.]

Mr J W MAREE: Madam Speaker

The SPEAKER: Order! We have had five supplementary questions. That is the end of this question.

Three persons: investigation by Office for Serious Economic Offences

*10 Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister of Justice:†

- (1) Whether the Office for Serious Economic Offences has instituted any investigation into the activities of three persons, whose names have been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N674E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) and (2) I am informed by the Office for Serious Economic Offences that no investigation has been instituted by it into the activities of the three persons referred to by the hon member. An investigation has been launched into the affairs of a certain institution with which one of the persons has ties. On completion of the investigation a report will be submitted to the Director of the Office for Serious Economic Offences.

Primary school feeding scheme: percentage of budget paid out (298)

*19. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) What percentage of the budget for the primary school feeding scheme had been paid out as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

- (2) whether any problems have been experienced with delays and inefficiencies in the rendering of the service, if so, (a) what problems and (b) what steps have been taken to solve these problems?

Hansard 21/6/95 N683E
The MINISTER FOR HEALTH

- (1) Actual expenditure as on 31 March 1995 amounts to R134 823 786 of the total budget of R472 840 000 for the 1994-95 financial year. The expected total expenditure for the 1994-95 financial year is R329 672 852.
- (2) Yes.

- (a) Some of the problems which are being experienced with the supply of foodstuffs include:

* Delivery problems such as late or irregular deliveries;

* Poor quality of products;

* A unique problem occurred in one of the provinces, where food suppliers to whom contracts were not awarded, in an attempt to obtain contracts, decided to take mass action, take staff hostage, occupy offices, or destroy property;

* Some project committees lack the capacity to meet the requirements of the procurement system and the accompanying financial procedures with the result that the flow of funds to food suppliers is delayed;

* The existing temporary staff component lacks the capacity to deal with the additional workload caused by the Primary School Nutrition Programme with resultant delays

- (b) Standard procedures and requirements are followed in dealing with suppliers when contracts are not adhered to. A basic training programme is offered to local project committees to enable them to comply with the procedures. This is, however, a slow process, because of the lack of staff. The implementation of a permanent staff establishment for the Nutrition Programme should solve the problems around the shortage of staff.

Actuarial deficits in government pension funds

*22. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance

- (1) Whether there are actuarial deficits in any government pension funds; if so, what are these deficits;

- (2) whether the Government is taking any steps towards reducing these deficits, if not, why not, if so, (a) by how much will the deficits be reduced in the 1995-96 financial year and (b) how will this reduction be affected by recent public sector pay negotiations?

Hansard 21/6/95 N687E
The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Yes.

Actuarial valuations are done every three years. The valuation for 31 March 1994 is still in progress, and therefore the figures for 31 March 1991 are still the most recent available. It is anticipated by the actuary that the figures for 31 March 1994 will show an improvement over the following:

	% Funded	With increases	Without increases
Government Service Pension Fund	51.5		82
Temporary Employees Pension Fund	58		93
Authorities' Service Pension Fund	46		74
Authorities' Service Superannuation Fund	84.8		137
Associated Institutions Pension Fund	57		118

- (2) Yes.

A new solution to youth crime

(298) (253) Somerset 21/6/95.
A REVOLUTIONARY justice system which kept youths out of prison and puts them into community orientated programmes had reduced New Zealand's youth recidivism rate by 27 percent since its introduction in 1989.

This was said by visiting prison chaplain Father Jim Consedine when he addressed the National Assembly's prisons committee yesterday.

Consedine, who has worked in five New Zealand prisons and has written a book on juvenile justice, said the system relied on a "restorative" rather than "retributive philosophy". It sought to address the causes of crime and deal with them in a positive way.

"The notion that imprisonment is a deterrent is a myth. It is only really a deterrent to middle class people. Prison is a way of life for certain sectors of the community. It is built into the social

fabric of their lives that either they or a family member goes to prison."

It was a fact that 96 to 97 percent of prisoners were from lower income, "blue collar" groups. This was something any country seeking to enact true justice would have to deal with he said.

Black people were also more likely to go to prison than white people were. In Australia an Aborigine had 29 times more chance of being imprisoned than a white person and in the United States one in every four black people spent time in prison. In the 1970s in New Zealand a number of Maori judges noted that juvenile offenders were repeatedly appearing before the courts even after being sent to prisons and reformatories.

In an attempt to break the cycle they sent the youths back into their communities to decide what punitive measures should be taken. — Sapa.

Also in Angola are about 400 other foreign nationals, including an unknown number of South Africans, assisting UNITA

(a) (ii) Further, it is reported that approximately 50 South Africans are presently assisting with the training of the Government Forces of Sierra Leone

Intelligence has it that other African countries (Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Uganda) may also be interested in contracting the South African company presently involved in Angola

(b) (ii) No reliable information is currently available regarding non-South Africans fighting in other African countries

(2) Although section 121A of the Defence Act prohibits members of the National Defence Force from binding him/herself as a mercenary, legal loopholes exist preventing the prosecution of ex-members involved in training in African countries. Last week in Pretoria my colleague the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that his department was consulting with the Department of Justice about closing these loopholes and recommendations would be made to Cabinet in the near future. Any further comment by me now would be premature

Abuse of schoolchildren: disciplinary enquiries

*12. Sen W F MNIISI asked the Minister of Education (298)

(1) How many teachers were the subject of disciplinary enquiries as a result of allegations of physical or emotional abuse of schoolchildren during the period 1 January 1994 up to the last specified date for which information is available;

(2) whether any of these teachers have been dismissed as a result, if so, how many;

(3) whether his Department is taking or has taken any measures to reduce incidents of physical and emotional abuse of school-

Hansard 22/6/95

children, if not, why not, if so, what measures?

S274E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

(1) 58 according to the latest available information

(2) 10

(3) I made an announcement that I intend to include provision for the abolition of corporal punishment in educational institutions in the new National Education Policy Bill which is currently in preparation. Subsequent to that the Constitutional Court recently ruled that such punishment is unconstitutional. It is hoped that support services such as psychological services and social workers that are already being utilised in certain parts of the education system will be extended to provide education and support against such abuses

Strikes by dockhands in Cape Town/Durban harbour

*13. Sen J SELFIE asked the Minister for Public Enterprises

(1) Whether any dockhands at the Cape Town and/or Durban harbours have recently taken part or are currently taking part in strikes, if so, (a) what percentage of the total number of dockhands employed at these harbours have been or are involved in these strikes and (b) what is the estimated total financial loss to these harbours as a result of this strike action;

(2) whether any temporary workers have been or are being employed during these strikes to replace striking workers, if not, why not, if so, how many;

(3) whether any other measures have been taken to make up for lost production; if not, why not; if so, what measures?

Hansard 22/6/95
S275E
The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

The Managing Director of Transnet Limited furnished the following reply to the hon senator's question

(1) Yes. Industrial action was experienced at the Port of Cape Town only

(a) 24 May 1995 — 19,3%
26 May 1995 — 17,7%
27 May 1995 — 13,0%
28 May 1995 — 10,7%
29 May 1995 — 13,8%
30 May 1995 — 16,4%
31 May 1995 — 11,3%
1 June 1995 — 10,6%
2 June 1995 — 12,7%

(b) None. Ships en route to Cape Town were diverted when necessary to other ports in order to prevent losses

(2) No. Due to the time it would have taken to train them and to prevent any possible conflict, no temporary workers were employed

(3) Yes. Overtime measures were introduced

Activities of self-defence units in KwaZulu-Natal: investigation by special task force

*14. Sen Dr R RABINOWITZ asked the Minister for Safety and Security

(1) Whether, with reference to a newspaper article dated 28 September 1994 and certain information furnished to the South African Police Service for the purpose of his reply, the special task force appointed by him has conducted an investigation into the activities of any members of certain self-defence units in KwaZulu-Natal allegedly involved in the perpetration, fanning and orchestration of violence; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether this investigation has been concluded, if not, why not, if so, what were the findings;

(3) whether any such members have been prosecuted since 28 September 1994, if not, why not; if so, (a) how many and (b) for what offences;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the alleged suppression of reports on the hit squad activities referred to in the said newspaper article?

S296E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

(1) Yes. Investigations have been launched into allegations of such hit squad activity

and possible police collusion in the Midlands Natal region of the ANC.

(2) No. There are still numerous aspects which require further investigation

(3) No. Certain dockets are being studied by a member of the Attorney General's office with a view to making a decision in respect of a prosecution of such members

(4) No. Information has not been suppressed. It is not in the interests of justice to comment on the details of the investigation at this stage

*15. Sen Dr R RABINOWITZ: Public Service and Administration [Question standing over]

*16. Sen Dr G MARAIS: Trade and Industry [Question standing over]

Constitutional Court: disappearance of treasury warrants

*17. Sen Dr G MARAIS asked the Minister of Justice

(1) Whether any treasury warrants disappeared from the safe of the registrar of the Constitutional Court recently, if so, what is the value of these treasury warrants;

(2) whether it has been established how the treasury warrants concerned disappeared; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether any of these treasury warrants have been presented for payment; if so, what are the relevant details;

(4) whether his Department contemplates instituting any measures to prevent a repetition thereof, if not, why not, if so, what measures?

S299E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

(1) Yes. On 21 April 1995 seven and on 11 May 1995 52 blank warrant vouchers were reported missing

(2) The case is still being investigated by the South African Police Services. At this stage it is suspected that the warrant vouchers were removed by an unauthorised person from the safes in the offices of the Registrar and accounts clerk

- (3) Yes. Up to date six warrant vouchers to the value of R49 800, R62 000, R37 000, R24 570, R255 740 and R62 000 were deposited at separate financial institutions on separate dates. At the Department's request no payment was made.
- (4) Yes. The locks of the two safes involved have been replaced and the enforcement of the existing stringent instructions with regard to key control and the safeguarding of warrant vouchers issued to accounts clerks and those in reserve have been intensified.

School feeding scheme: misappropriation of funds/corruption

*18 Sen D M MALATSI asked the Minister for Health:

(248)

- (1) Whether any misappropriation of funds and/or corruption recently came to light in the administration of the school feeding scheme in the Province of Eastern Transvaal; if so, (a) what was the nature thereof and (b) what amount of money is involved therein.
- (2) whether any steps in this regard have been taken against any persons, if not, why not, if so, what steps.
- (3) whether any steps have been taken or are being contemplated to prevent a repetition of the events, if not, why not, if so, what steps?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

(1) Yes

(a) The following cases where fraud was suspected have been reported to the South African Police Services (SAPS):

* Mpheleng Primary School—Moutse Region—Siyabuswa Police CR 49, '94

The suspect, who was a member of the project committee at the school has allegedly defrauded the programme of R400 (four hundred rand). The suspect has already appeared in court several times.

* Kephisi Primary School—Nsikazi Region—Kanyamazane Police MR 23/02/95.

The programme was allegedly defrauded of R9 500 (nine thousand five hundred rand). A signed cheque was allegedly detached from the PSNP cheque book at the school and deposited at the First National Bank in Tzaneen. An amount of R9 000 (nine thousand rand) was withdrawn through an auto bank. No arrests have been made up to date.

* Vulamehla School—Nsikazi Region

The programme was defrauded of R5 400 (five thousand four hundred rand). A cheque was allegedly detached from the PSNP cheque book and the signature, forged. In this case the First National Bank who has effected payment, has refunded the money in full to the school after agreeing that they were careless.

* Khanya Primary School

There is a strong suspicion that the former school principal, now principal of the Mlanbante School, has defrauded the programme of R17 000 (seventeen thousand rand).

* Lobhengula School

The school principal is being investigated for the alleged forging of invoices totalling R1 326 (one thousand three hundred and twenty six rand).

* Mqembeni School

The school principal is under investigation. An amount of R4 200 (four thousand two hundred rand) was transferred to a supplier without the knowledge of the project committee.

(b) The amount involved is R37 426 (thirty seven thousand four hundred and twenty six rand).

(2) Yes. Steps have been taken

All six cases were reported to the SAPS for investigation. Where evidence could be found the accused were to be prosecuted.

(3) The following steps have been taken

* One bank has refunded the money in full

* A permanent staff establishment will be put into place to manage the nutrition programmes more effectively

* Business managers are made aware of the risk they are taking by cashing cheques marked "not transferable"

* Discussions are taking place with Commercial Banks to get as much co-operation as possible to prevent fraud and the mismanagement of funds

* Training programmes involving the staff and the members of the project committees at the school are taking place

* Workshops are being planned to involve the communities and to gain their support for an effective Primary School Nutrition Programme (PSNP)

Taxi organisations in Republic

*19 Sen J SELFE asked the Minister of Transport

(1) (a) How many taxi organisations currently exist in the Republic and (b) what is the estimated membership of each, such organisation.

(2) whether his Department intends introducing any measures aimed at regulating taxi organisations, if not, why not, if so, (a) what measures, (b) when, (c) which persons and/or bodies have been or are to be involved in developing these measures and (d) what process has been or is to be followed in developing these measures?

S301E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(1) (a) The Department of Transport has record of approximately 500 taxi organisations throughout the country

(b) It is not possible to estimate the membership of these organisations as they vary from national organisations with many members to small local organisations with as little as 15 members. It is also important to note that operators often take out dual membership of organisations.

(2) No. The Department of Transport recognises the important role that taxi organisations can play in stabilising the minibus-taxi industry. It is, however, vital to determine the underlying causes of the current situation in the industry before any measures to regulate the taxi organisations can be developed. Measures aimed at stabilising the taxi industry can not be implemented in isolation and therefore the Department of Transport embarked upon a comprehensive and strategic Taxi Process to address all of the problems associated with taxi transport in our country. This process was initiated in conjunction and with the support of the provinces. The details of this process were extensively consulted with all role players at a National Taxi Workshop which took place on 18 March 1995 in Midrand.

A Taxi Task Team, comprising nine officials of the central, provincial and local government levels as well as nine representatives from the minibus-taxi industry, supported by a panel of specialist advisers had been appointed. This Task Team will investigate all problems, consult on a country-wide basis and propose possible solutions to the problems. It is envisaged that the Task Team will address issues such as the regulatory mechanism, "the permit system", the lack of adequate facilities, the need for improved standards of training and the lack of representative unity and the concomitant rivalry in the minibus-taxi industry. The process will, through addressing the underlying causes of violence and intolerance, contribute significantly to the stabilisation of the minibus-taxi industry.

In the short term, the Department of Transport aims to provide extensive training for the minibus-taxi industry. Included in this training programme would be training in organisational management for taxi

associations. It is believed that such training will go a long way towards helping associations to play their rightful role in stabilising the industry

*20 Sen E K MOORCROFT—Sport and Recreation. [Question standing over.]

*21 Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF—Defence.† [Withdrawn]

Private armies in SA

*22 Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

Whether there are any so-called private armies in South Africa; if so, (a) what organisations are involved and (b) what is the policy of the Government in respect of such private armies? S304E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

(a) and (b) The South African Police is not investigating the existence of any private armies at this stage.

If individuals, irrespective whether they

belong to any organisation or not, are involved in crime, the crime committed as such is investigated.

AK 47 rifles seized/surrendered to SAPS

*23. Sen W F MINISI asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(a) How many AK 47 rifles were (i) seized in the course of police action and (ii) voluntarily surrendered to the South African Police Services for reward during the period 1 January 1994 up to the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) in respect of what dates is this information furnished? S305E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a) (i) 2 032

(ii) 26 (The SAPS does not issue rewards for the voluntary surrender of AK 47 rifles anymore)
Latest specified date 31 May 1995.

(b) 1 January 1994 to 31 May 1995

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply.

Serious crimes reported in Sandton/Alexandra

140 Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

(a) How many serious crimes were reported in the (i) last quarter of 1994 and (ii) first quarter of 1995 in the (aa) Sandton and (bb) Alexandra areas and (b) how many of these crimes have been solved in each case? S280E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a) (i) (aa) 4 240

(bb) 1 771

(ii) (aa) 2 179

(bb) 748.

(b) (i) (aa) 22%

(bb) 74%

(ii) (aa) 18%

(bb) 77%

Statistics relating to question (a)(i) and (b)(ii) are only available for January and February 1995, as the statistics for March and April 1995 are presently being processed and audited.

Private security guards registered/killed/robbed

147. Sen J SELFE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(a) How many persons (i) are currently registered and (ii) were registered in 1990 as private security guards and (b) how many security guards (i) were killed on duty and (ii) have had their firearms stolen from them whilst on duty during the period 1 January 1990 up to the latest specified date for which information is available? S286E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

Latest specified date: 20 June 1995

(a) (i) Approximately 211 000

(ii) Approximately 60 000

(b) (i) and (ii) Unknown The South African Police does not have access to such information

Squabbles hurt school-feeding

(298)
SQUABBLES, quality control problems and staff shortages have undermined the full implementation of President Nelson Mandela's school-feeding scheme for poor children, Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma said.

She said in response to a parliamentary question on Thursday the government expected to have spent R330 million of the R473m budgeted for the first year of the scheme.

CT 23/6/95
Sapa-Reuter

Film star donates \$1m to SA children

Catherine Crookes (298)
BD 27/6/95

ACADEMY Award-winning actor Denzel Washington, on an "educational vacation" with his family in SA, has donated \$1m to the Presidential Children's Trust Fund.

Washington, who believes black consciousness is important and who has taken leading roles in controversial films such as Cry Freedom and Spike Lee's Malcolm X, said he was "dazzled by the feeling of hope" which enveloped SA.

"It's a type of hope which I don't feel at home," he said.

This feeling of hope, in his opinion, was born out of the fact that, "SA's freedom was paid for in blood".

He said his trip to Africa, which would include visits to Zanzibar, Kenya and Tanzania, was purely to "replenish my artistic self, to learn and experience the warmth of the African people and to come home".

Washington met President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. ANC national executive committee member Ahmed Katharada took the Hollywood star on a tour of Robben Island.

It was after talking to Mandela and receiving the President's personal assurance that his money would reach underprivileged children that Washington decided to pledge \$1m to the trust fund.

Washington's seven-day visit to the country has been "one experience after another. For example, I watched my first rugby match," he said, referring to the World Cup final held on Saturday between SA and New Zealand.

Boundary row is still unresolved

Edward West

CAPE TOWN — The Cape Metropolitan joint management body (JMB) had been forced to tackle local election issues independent of substructure demarcation because of the Constitutional Court action taken by the Western Cape provincial government against central government, JMB chairman Ashiek Manie said yesterday.

The province has filed papers in the Constitutional Court in support of its view that government acted unconstitutionally in amending the Local Government Transition Act to declare null and void NP MEC Pieter Marais' boundary decisions.

A source said the Constitutional Court was unlikely to address the issue until after August. Resumed negotiations to try and break the impasse between the NP and ANC on the boundary row deadlocked again on Friday after 40 minutes.

Manie said options for juggling time frames for the preparation of the elections in the Cape had already been exhausted.

Because boundaries had not been proclaimed, it was not possible to have electoral rolls for the substructures and official inspection of the rolls had been postponed. An unofficial roll had been made available for the 90% of the registered people in the metropolitan area.

The JMB planned to tackle election issues that were not dependent on demarcation, such as voter education and planning for amenities and resources required for polling, while awaiting the outcome of the court case.

Another hurdle was possible ward delimitation disputes. This could tarnish the credibility of the elections.

Manie said delaying the elections until next April would not make much difference, but would represent a psychological blow to the country.

The only other options were to stagger elections from November 1, to hold party-based proportional representation elections, or simply squeeze more time out of the election process, he said.

ANC accuses IFP of bid to create 'white islands'

Farouk Chothia

DURBAN — The ANC hit back at the IFP yesterday over proposals for the inner boundaries of the Durban transitional metropolitan council, accusing it of being bent on creating "islands of white privilege".

The IFP last week rejected preliminary proposals by the demarcation board, claiming Indians were being discriminated against.

ANC local government spokesman Mike Sutcliffe said the IFP proposals in fact devalued the vote of Indians and blacks. He said the IFP was "racist".

The IFP had objected to the board's proposal that Chesterville be the only black township in a sub-structure including the Indian townships of Chatsworth, Shallcross and Reservoir Hills.

The IFP said the decision to place the bulk of the Indian population in a single sub-structure would reduce their power in the council.

This was because the Local Government Transi-

tion Act stipulated that black areas would receive 50% ward representation in substructures, while the remaining 50% would go to Indian, white and coloured areas.

Sutcliffe said the IFP's proposal would give Chatsworth and Shallcross only four wards while the board's proposal would give the two Indian areas seven wards.

The IFP's proposal would leave Reservoir Hills with one ward, while the board's would give it four wards.

Sutcliffe said while the Indian vote would be devalued 15-20% under such a system, the clout of whites would be bolstered.

Sutcliffe said the IFP was misleading the public by claiming to have the interests of Indians at heart.

Meanwhile, an ANC application to force the demarcation board to hold consultative meetings in 14 tribal areas whose inclusion is under dispute, was yesterday adjourned by the Durban Supreme Court until tomorrow.

'Fight child prostitution'

GAUTENG safety and security MEC Jessie Duarte yesterday called for legislation to allow police to prosecute owners of buildings used for drug dealing and child prostitution.

"If a landlord allows child prostitution and drug selling from his premises he should also be prosecuted," she said.

Current laws did not give police enough power to investigate claims of child prostitution, she said.

Police needed to be empowered to enter buildings to remove children who were being abused.

"Why don't you let the little girls go home, man," she called up to men leaning over the balconies of a block of flats known to house child prostitutes.

A special urban police reaction unit was to be formed in Hillbrow to combat drug dealers.

Duarte said she favoured mass action and a "take back the night" campaign to make Hillbrow safe for its residents, with security committees established on each city block. — Sapa.

'Too young' rapist has nowhere to go

ARG 28/6/95

(298)

LENORE OLIVER
Staff Reporter

A 16-YEAR-old boy who has murdered, raped twice, threatened a man with a pistol and attempted to sodomise him, has his investigating officer in despair because the courts keep referring him to Porter School, from which he has already escaped twice.

And detective-sergeant Gerard Koenze, of the Athlone detective branch, places the blame for the confusion firmly at the door of the proclamation by President Nelson Mandela in May which rules that all awaiting-trial juveniles be removed from prison and taken to places of safety.

According to Sergeant Koenze, the Kewtown boy's reign of terror started in July last year when he murdered a witness in a case in which a friend was involved.

He was found guilty and sent to Porter School in Tokai from

where he escaped in January this year. — safety, is very hard to do.

The boy then brutally raped an 18-year-old girl in Kewtown in March and robbed and attempted to sodomise a man, who he also threatened with a pistol and assaulted.

In April this year a magistrate found the youth guilty of rape and robbery, and sent him to Pollsmoor Prison.

"Then President Mandela announced the amnesty for juvenile prisoners and the boy was sent to Porter School again from where he escaped once again on May 10," Sergeant Koenze said.

On May 16 the youth raped a 14-year-old girl and was rearrested last Friday for this crime. He was referred to Porter School again.

Said Detective Koenze: "I am fed up. I personally interviewed the victims and to have to go back to them to tell them that he is not in jail but in a place of

"It is frustrating when one thinks of the amount of time we spend trying to find him, just to have him released again."

He said the "agony the victims have to go through is great and just because he is a juvenile he is protected".

"If you look at what he's done, can you really call him a juvenile?"

"The system does not protect the community," Sergeant Koenze said

In an earlier trial Wynberg magistrate J van Zyl also voiced concern at the fact that a youth was released from Porter School into society because there was no place for him at the school.

Mr Van Zyl said at the time that jurists were worried about the proclamation because youths who had committed serious crimes were kept in places of safety among young, fragile children.

Orphans may be stranded

CHILDREN at Emndeni Home in Soweto could be stranded if the workers at the institution carry out their threat to down tools.

The workers, who have been at loggerheads with the home's management since last week, are demanding a "living wage" and improved working conditions.

(298) *sowetan 28/6/95*
"If our grievances are not addressed by July 1, we will stop working," says Ms Beauty Gumede.

According to Gumede, who is a driver and a supervisor, the workers have not been registered as fulltime employees and do not have medical aid benefits.

"I am not even sure if I am registered or not, because I have been on probation

for more than six months," says Gumede. She has been employed at the home since September 1992.

The workers said their salary increments were irregular and too low.

"We are told by management that the increases are a favour because the home is not a profit-making concern," said Mr Vusi Motlobo, an administrative officer.

170 juveniles flee custody in Gauteng

CT 30/6/95

PRETORIA: At least 170 juvenile offenders had escaped from four detention units in Gauteng since May 8, when an amendment to the Correctional Services Act prohibited their detention in police or prison cells.

This was said yesterday by Gauteng's Department of Welfare and Population Development.

In terms of the amendment, about 250 juveniles were transferred to welfare facilities. — Sapa

170 child suspects escape

(298)

SPAR 30/6/95

■ BY JO-ANNE COLLINGE

Two-thirds of the 250 children transferred from jail to other Gauteng detention centres to await trial have escaped, but the provincial welfare department does not have the funds to develop a suitably secure facility.

Gauteng welfare authorities believe the Meritum Youth Centre near Randfontein is potentially more suitable for detain-

ing children than other facilities. But it is privately owned and a daily amount of R55 per child would be needed to set up and maintain a detention centre there.

A spokesperson for the department said the prospects for creating a detention centre at Meritum were "grim" because there were no funds.

She said the objectives of the Correctional Services Amendment Act —

which limits to 48 hours the period for which children under 18 years may be held in police cells, — were being undermined because there was no secure accommodation for children awaiting trial.

Although none of the 170 children who absconded after release from prison has been convicted of any crime yet, some were charged with serious offences such as murder.

170 delinquents still on the run

At least 170 juvenile offenders had escaped from four detention units in Gauteng since May 8 when an amendment to the Correctional Services Act prohibited their detention in police or prison cells.

This was disclosed yesterday by a spokeswoman for the Gauteng department of welfare and population development, Mrs Leonie Schoeman.

Under the amendment, about 250 juveniles were transferred from Gauteng prisons to welfare facilities. About 700 juveniles were transferred countrywide.

Schoeman said juveniles were escaping daily and she blamed a lack of funds

for inadequate security at detention centres.

Last year's Cabinet decision to make the amendment law was unexpected, she said.

"It came down on the department as a complete surprise," Schoeman said the successful detention of juveniles would require major improvements in detention centre security.

In a statement last month, the department said detention centre officers were not suitably trained to deal with serious offenders.

It also said an interdepartmental task group had negotiated the construction

Source: *Star* 30/6/95 (298)

by a United States firm of a detention centre to hold at least 500 juvenile offenders.

However, Schoeman said the proposed Meritum Youth Centre was not economically viable. About R55 a child would be needed daily to run the centre.

A statement by the department said: "Although the Meritum facility is believed to be potentially more suitable for detaining children, the future of the project seems grim without urgent and proper funding."

● Unemployed residents in Gauteng could soon earn money and learn skills by working on infrastructural develop-

The province has begun evaluating projects submitted by communities for public works programmes under the Reconstruction and Development Programme, an official said yesterday.

The province has been given R16 million of the R250 million allocated by the programme for community-based public works projects which will create jobs and provide training while repairing and developing infrastructure.

About R70 million has gone to the Independent Development Trust and R30 million to non-governmental organisations. — *Sapa*.

Call to subsidise early childhood development

JOHANNESBURG. — Only one in 10 South African children has access to early childhood development programmes (ECDs) and the government should amend legislation and provide subsidies to address the gap, an education spokeswoman has urged.

Special adviser to the minister of education, Shella Sisulu, said ECDs could address inequalities rooted in poverty and social discrimination.

Education and care of young children must be integrated with health, housing, welfare, schooling and economic development so that children's needs can be met in an integrated way," Ms Sisulu said at a graduation ceremony at the Sagewood Education Centre in Midrand.

"The various education Acts and the 1993 Child Care Act

must be radically revised to provide for the subsidisation of a wide range of ECD programmes targeting vulnerable communities (298)

She also congratulated the Sagewood Centre on its education workers' programme, in which residents of disadvantaged communities in Ivory Park and Tembisa on the East Rand are taught to take care of pre-schoolers.

Every child had a right to comprehensive ECD programmes, she said.

"The task is awesome but we are committed to providing young children with all they need to develop and grow into healthy, well-adjusted and productive adults.

"By doing this we will ensure the future of our country." — Sapa. ARG 3/7/95

Call for 'apartheid' firms to boost RDP

Nicola Jenvey

DURBAN — Businesses which benefited from apartheid should be called on through legislation to donate a percentage of their profits towards the reconstruction and development programme and every government department should set aside a percentage of its budget to further RDP needs, the Umtambo Centre conference on the RDP stated yesterday.

Conference co-ordinator Strini Moodley said it was vital for business "to cough up profits" towards the RDP and it was government's duty to entrench the support from "those who benefited under apartheid".

There was also a problem of private enterprises offering their own definitions of the RDP and gaining funding for projects which only furthered personal aims and not those of the community.

"The government must look into those projects proposed by private enterprises which claim to be RDP in nature but are really only further entrenching the apartheid system," he said.

Referring to government departments, Moodley said the RDP was "a holistic and multi-disciplinary" pro-

gramme, which could not be separated from education, health, housing, water, employment chances and rural electrification programmes.

"If each ministry allocated a percentage of its budget to the RDP, it would become possible to develop an infrastructure for a healthy society. There must be more communication between Jay Naidoo and other cabinet ministers," he said.

Government would also have to evaluate current and future programmes under way with RDP funding and increase the budgets for successful ones, while dropping those not achieving essential RDP goals.

Moodley said SA could learn from the past by looking at those projects which had survived under apartheid. These could be used as case studies and replicated elsewhere.

The conference also called for a simplification of red tape surrounding access to RDP funding. This would ensure RDP effects and benefits reached the communities faster than at present.

Moodley said the RDP was a continuation of the liberation struggle, but it could not become a party-political weapon. There had to be set structures which exposed and eradicated any exploitation.

New approach to young offenders

Bonnie Ngqiyaza
(298 155)

ALTERNATIVE disciplinary methods for young offenders should be considered, since institutionalising alienated children from families and made their return to their communities difficult, Deputy Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said.

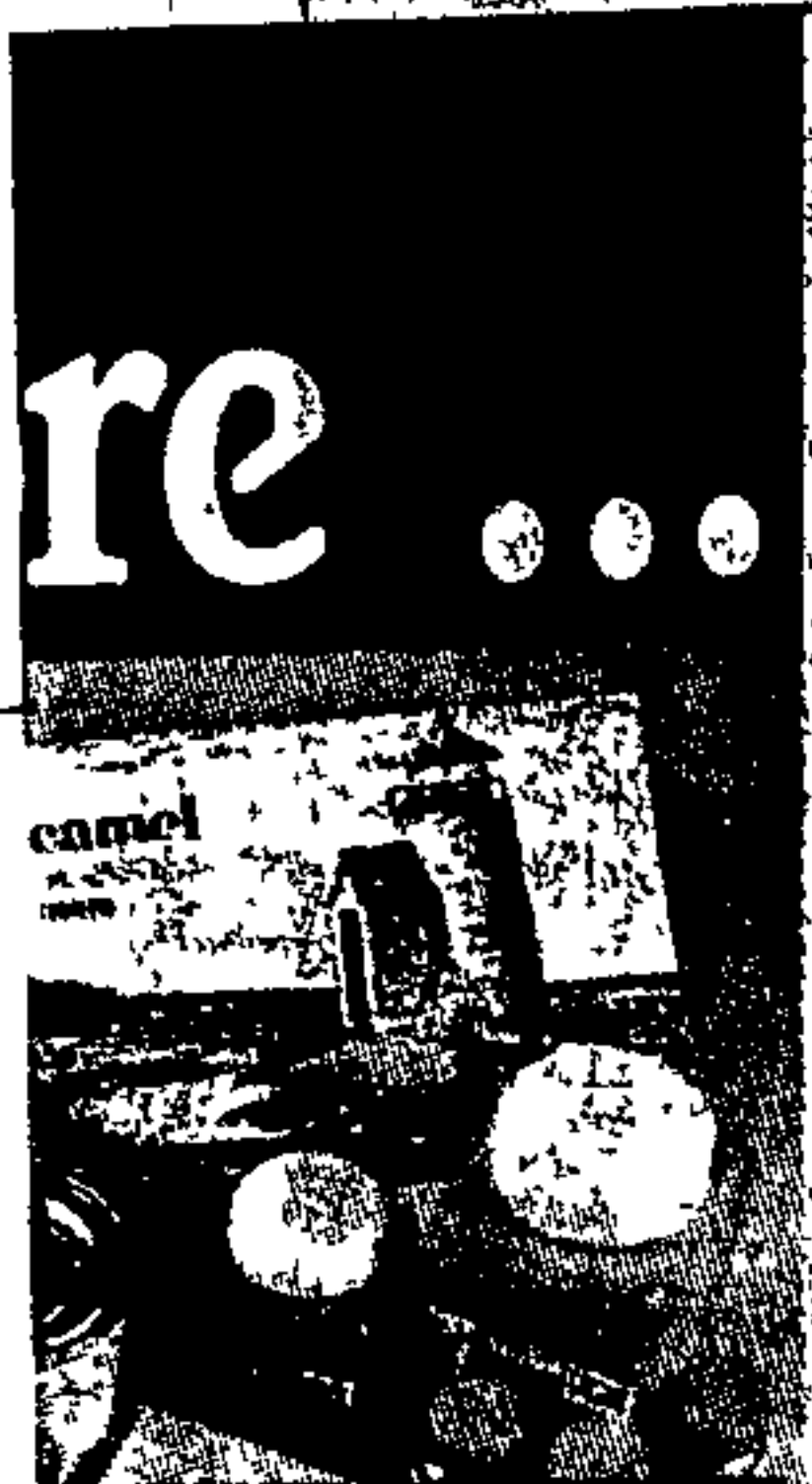
Speaking at Randfontein's Meritum Youth Centre at the weekend, Fraser-Moleketi said: "Some of our residential institutions are not pleasant and I sometimes think it would have been better if those kids had been left in prison."

However, children with a tendency towards crime or who had committed serious offences, needed to be in residential care for their own safety, and more importantly, be made to take full responsibility for their acts.

Staff taking care of such children needed to have "adequate, correct training" to be able to deal effectively with those children and ensure smooth community reintegration.

The Meritum centre, meanwhile, faces a fund crisis, with about R20m needed for annual maintenance.

About 250 children have been accommodated in various detention units in Gauteng since the promulgation of the Correctional Services Amendment Act in May. The Act prohibits the detention of children under the age of 18 years in police cells for longer than 48 hours.



Private sector played role in training

Adrian Hadzima

CAPE TOWN — The private sector had readily accepted responsibility for improving employees' education and training, says the department of education.

According to the 1994 annual report of the department of education and training tabled in Parliament on Friday, the number of learners at centres for adult education had increased from 85 022 in 1993 to almost 115 000 in 1994.

The rising number of new centres — 21 were established during 1994 — and higher levels of enrolment were directly attributable to private sector involvement in employee education and training.

The greatest need had been for literacy training for which almost 16 000 learners had attended classes compared with 13 365 in 1993.

The report said 234 adult education centres were in operation during the year as well as 171 satellite campuses.

Textbooks costing R131m and stationery worth R26m had been purchased.

The report also noted an 8.9% growth in the number of secondary school pupils from 802 410 in 1993 to 874 199 in 1994.

It indicated that 88 new public primary schools, 291 additional instruction rooms for existing primary schools, 61 new public secondary schools and 204 extra rooms had been built during the year, accommodating about 182 000 pupils.

MD may be allowed

Public hampers war on child sex

OWN CORRESPONDENT

PRETORIA: Public pressure has temporarily crippled policemen fighting child prostitution.

Child protection unit (CPU) detectives have been ordered to suspend most of their anti-child prostitution operations owing to the public outcry against the

method used to trap clients.

National CPU commander Colonel Anneke Pienaar confirmed yesterday the method of using under-age agents to lure customers had been suspended.

She said the police had received many complaints after a clean-up operation earlier this year.

"Advice from our legal services

supported the complaints based on the way in which under-aged persons would be exposed to the realities of child prostitution."

National priority crimes head Major-General Suiker Britz said the use of under-aged agents contravened the basic human rights of a young individual and could not be condoned

(298) CT 6/7/95

Thursday July 6 1995

THE N

We can't fight for children — vice squad

ARG 6/7/95 (298)

□ Outcry over underage police traps

The Argus Correspondent

PUBLIC pressure has temporarily crippled policemen waging the war against child prostitution.

Child Protection Unit (CPU) detectives, acting on orders from police headquarters, have had to suspend most of their anti-child prostitution operations due to a public outcry against the method used to trap clients.

National CPU commander Colonel Anneke Pienaar yesterday confirmed that the current method of using underage agents to lure customers to make a police controlled sex-for-pay transaction had been suspended.

Colonel Pienaar said the CPU units, herself and National Crime Investigation Service Head Lieutenant-General Wouter Grove had been flooded with complaints

from the public after local CPU members acted against clients in a clean-up operation earlier this year.

Advice from our legal services supported the complaints based on the immoral way in which an underaged person (acting as a police agent) would be exposed to the realities of child prostitution, she said.

National Priority Crimes head Major-General Suiker Britz said the use of underaged agents contravened the basic human rights of a young individual and he could not condone policemen using them as agents.

There are plenty of other methods employed by our members to apprehend these criminals, said General Britz.

One of the alternative solutions being looked into was to remove the children off the street with the aid of the wel-

fare department and put them in places of safety, he said.

It's a Catch 22 situation, our hands have effectively been cut off said one disgruntled CPU member.

The public complains about the rise in child prostitution and we (CPU) in an attempt to bring the offenders to book undertake these operations, but the moment we arrest the clients our methods are branded as immoral by the very same public, another detective said.

According to detectives the alternative to trapping a client and a real prostitute in the process of a deal is also fraught with pitfalls.

"If we arrest the client, there is no guarantee that the prostitute will provide evidence in court against the client, and besides, she too is breaking the law, he said.

New home for kids

Sowetan 6/7/95

By Isaac Moledi

PREPARATIONS are at an advanced stage to begin construction of a new R1,5 million home for handicapped children in Katlehong, on the East Rand.

The construction of Tshepong Stimulation Centre, to accommodate more than 35 handicapped children from Katlehong, Tokoza, Vosloorus and the surrounding informal settlement, has been geared to start as soon as building trainees have completed their training.

Tshepong's principal Sister Doreen Selekan, who has been looking forward the event for many years, says completion of the school will "turn a dream into reality".

Since 1986, she has been catering for handicapped children aged between

three and 14 from the Katorus area from a pre-fabricated building in Katlehong.

Money for the project has come from the Development Bank of South Africa (R1,2 million), South African Breweries District East (R200 000), Rotary International (R91 000) and the local community (R54 000).

The Department of Manpower is training the builders and will build the centre while the Germiston Rotary Club will manage the project.

Besides assessing a child's mental disability before being admitted, the centre will also provide self-care skills such as dressing, brushing teeth, washing and self-feeding.

The children will be helped with physical exercises and the development of movement co-ordination.

~~(297)~~ (298)

Union queries man's death

**Nomavenda Mathiane
and Vusi Khoza**

THE SA Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Saccawu) met the Molopo Sun management yesterday to clarify why a member of the union, Sammy Magano, was arrested at the hotel on July 2 and was later reported dead.

Saccawu's national publicity officer S'thembele Tshwete said Magano, a shop steward at the Molopo Sun, was arrested with two of his colleagues for allegedly being involved in a spate of robberies at the hotel's slot machines division, where he was employed.

Tshwete said his union wanted to know why the police were called, why Magano and his two colleagues were the only employees singled out and why Magano's body was found in a bush near Majemantso village.

Tshwete said he had seen photographs of Magano's corpse and it had bruises with blood stains on his nose and uniform.

"We further call for an independent inquiry into his death."

The Molopo Sun is tense after Magano's death. Sources fear a strike may break out at the hotel if management's explanation about Magano's death is not satisfactory.

Meanwhile Northwest safety and security MEC Satish Roopa has ordered an investigation into Magano's death.

"A murder docket has been opened and 17 policemen suspended pending the results of the post mortem performed by an independent pathologist from Medunsa.

"Should the result of the investigation show evidence of any wrongdoing on the part of the police there shall be no cover-ups and those found guilty will have no room in the new police service," Roopa said yesterday.

Sapa reports the labour ministry gave its full support to the investigation. Labour spokesman Shareen Singh said the minister was "shocked at the alleged circumstances" of Magano's death. The ministry urged management at the hotel and Saccawu to co-operate.

● Comment: Page 14

NATION BUILDING COMMUNITY BUILDER

Out of the suffering comes hope

Sowetan 11/9/95

Young man tries his best to uplift a war-torn community (298)

By Russel Molefe

SPHO MZUBE (21) saw all the suffering brought on by political violence on the youth in the conflict ridden province of KwaZulu-Natal and decided to do something about it.

Staying in KwaMashu, Durban, which featured prominently in violence, Mzube tired of witnessing his peers preparing to go to a battlefield almost everyday.

He dreamt of starting a project which would appeal more to his peers than "fighting a war which would not take us anywhere".

"We the youth have been in the forefront of violence and we ended up being confused about what role to play in society."

"The most hurting thing was when we were referred to as the 'lost generation', he says.

Fighting

He says the youth want to prove that "we are not good only at fighting political wars that were not created by us. We the youth can use our energies constructively like bettering our communities". Mzube, who holds a matric certificate



Mzube's project knocked some sense into the youth in KwaMashu.

and is unemployed, then started work on taking his peers out of the "political war."

This paid off when the KwaMashu Community Advancement Project (K-CAP) was launched in October 1993.

The K-CAP, which has a membership of more than 500, comprising mostly of school pupils, enjoys support from all members of the local community and outside the township.

The K-CAP is the hope for peace and unity for many people in and outside the township because it has also managed to bridge the gap between parents and youth. The youth in K-CAP promote

Sowetan
Building the Nation



We the youth have been in the forefront of violence and we ended up being confused about what role to play in the society

peace, call on parents not to neglect their responsibilities and discourage child abuse through their musical dramas which are very touching.

Entertaining

Their gunboats dance not only entertains but also raises awareness about protecting the environment. The gunboat dancers appeal to communities to respect the environment in which they live while at the same time providing entertainment.



Thy Kingdom come...K-CAP members appealing for the end of violence.

At weekends, members of K-CAP visit street kids to comfort them and also assist in finding them homes or alternative accommodation.

Most of the youths in K-CAP are also trained in first-aid and life-saving skills. During school holidays they assist lifesavers at beaches and in other emergency activities.

They also meet with a parents committee in the township to share ideas on how to develop and build the local community and to find guidance.

Their funds, which are received through donations, are handled by a committee appointed for such a purpose and includes well-known actor Henry Cele.

Most people in KwaMashu who spoke to Sowetan agreed that K-CAP, Mzube's brainchild, has "knocked sense" into the heads of many youth in the township and succeeded in encouraging them to learn.

Watch *Cosmo-Life* on CCV-TV at 7.30pm tonight.

Street kids survive by prostitution

(298) Sowetan 12/7/95

By Charity Bhengu

BESIDES scraping crumbs from filthy garbage bins, scores of destitute street children can only get a meal by sleeping with men in Johannesburg's suburbs and hotels, an investigation by *Sowetan* has found.

For many of these children in the streets of Hillbrow, prostitution has become their only means of survival.

They are picked up mainly in Pretoria Street by white clients and taken to either the clients' homes or to cheap hotels in the area.

A number of these children told *Sowetan* that they try to escape the emotional trauma by taking drugs and sniffing glue. In the process, a number have died from overdoses.

The Human Sciences Research Council has said that the present Child Care Act should be amended to protect both homeless and runaway children from sexual abuse.

● See Page 9

Bisho cuts primary school food schemes

(298) WM 7-13/7/95

Shadley Nash

LESS than a week after the Eastern Cape government repeated its promise that 1995 was the year of delivery, it endorsed proposals that will take food out of children's mouths.

Cutbacks to the provincial government school feeding schemes have been announced by the province's Health and Education Ministry in the face of acknowledgments of corruption and maladministration.

By the next school term, up to "two million" children in primary schools currently benefiting from the feeding scheme could be affected, if the proposals, endorsed by the province's RDP Unit and the Education Ministry, go through.

In a statement this week, Health and Education MEC Dr Trudy Thomas' department said overall "budget constraints" forced the re-evaluation of the government's primary school feeding programme.

Ministry spokesman Khululekile Bata said in reports that the programme currently benefited an estimated two million children in 1 200 schools. He said substantially less money was allocated to the programme for this year's budget than last year, slashing funds from R179-million to R134-million.

The government proposes that feeding at schools currently benefiting from the programme be changed in the following manner: "That feeding will take place twice weekly for all the pupils currently being fed; or that feeding takes place thrice weekly for Sub A to Std 5 pupils or that all Sub As and Sub Bs be fed daily."

The latest price on per head among rural children for a meal of either bread, peanut butter and full cream milk; or bread and "high protein soup"; or fortified biscuits, is 65 cents for rural children, 15 cents more than for their urban counterparts.

The Eastern Cape government has called for submissions on these proposals to be made to Bisho in the next two weeks. — *Ecna*

A question of survival in Hillbrow

Sowetan 13/7/95

A growing number of child prostitutes sell their bodies to white customers, **Charity Bhengu reports (298)**

SIPHO STANDS THERE in tattered oversized trousers, his dirty face staring into nothingness. Patches of lightness show on his face, but because no water passes over it he looks darker than he is.

His shirt is dirty and much too large for him. In fact, he looks as if he was dropped into these clothes. However, he is wearing new shoes — courtesy of the clients he sells his body to.

Sipho (11) is one of the growing number of streetkids who sell their bodies to white clients in the streets of Hillbrow, Johannesburg, to survive.

He has just crawled out of his slumber from a busy street corner in Hillbrow to look for food — but it is much easier for him to make money from selling his body than eating from dustbins.

"I don't mind sleeping with them. It is the only time I get to eat hot food from a plate and not cold leftovers from a garbage can," he says.

Sipho remembers a night when a middle-aged white man picked him up. He had stopped at the spot where they are usually picked up and Sipho climbed into the BMW. He was blindfolded and driven off to a house in the suburbs.

"He gave me delicious food. He took me to the shower and asked me to scrub myself. He then sprayed me with perfume and we had sex."

When asked how many times he sells his body a day, he said not as often as he wanted to because "they prefer good-looking boys".

Pule (13) of Carletonville said he was picked up with two friends by three white men near a cafe in Pretoria Street.

"They made us watch blue (X-rated) movies and told us to perform oral sex as we had seen on TV," he says.

I don't mind sleeping with them. It is the only time I get to eat hot food from a plate and not cold leftovers from a garbage can.

"Later in the evening they gave us cocaine. Then my partner had sex with me. I don't remember what happened after that. I woke up in some passageway in the morning where they had dumped us."

When *Sowetan* approached Mpho (13) of Mohlakeng, he refused to disclose his dealings.

"You are going to make us lose business. Our clients won't come for us if they find out that we are speaking to the Press," he says.

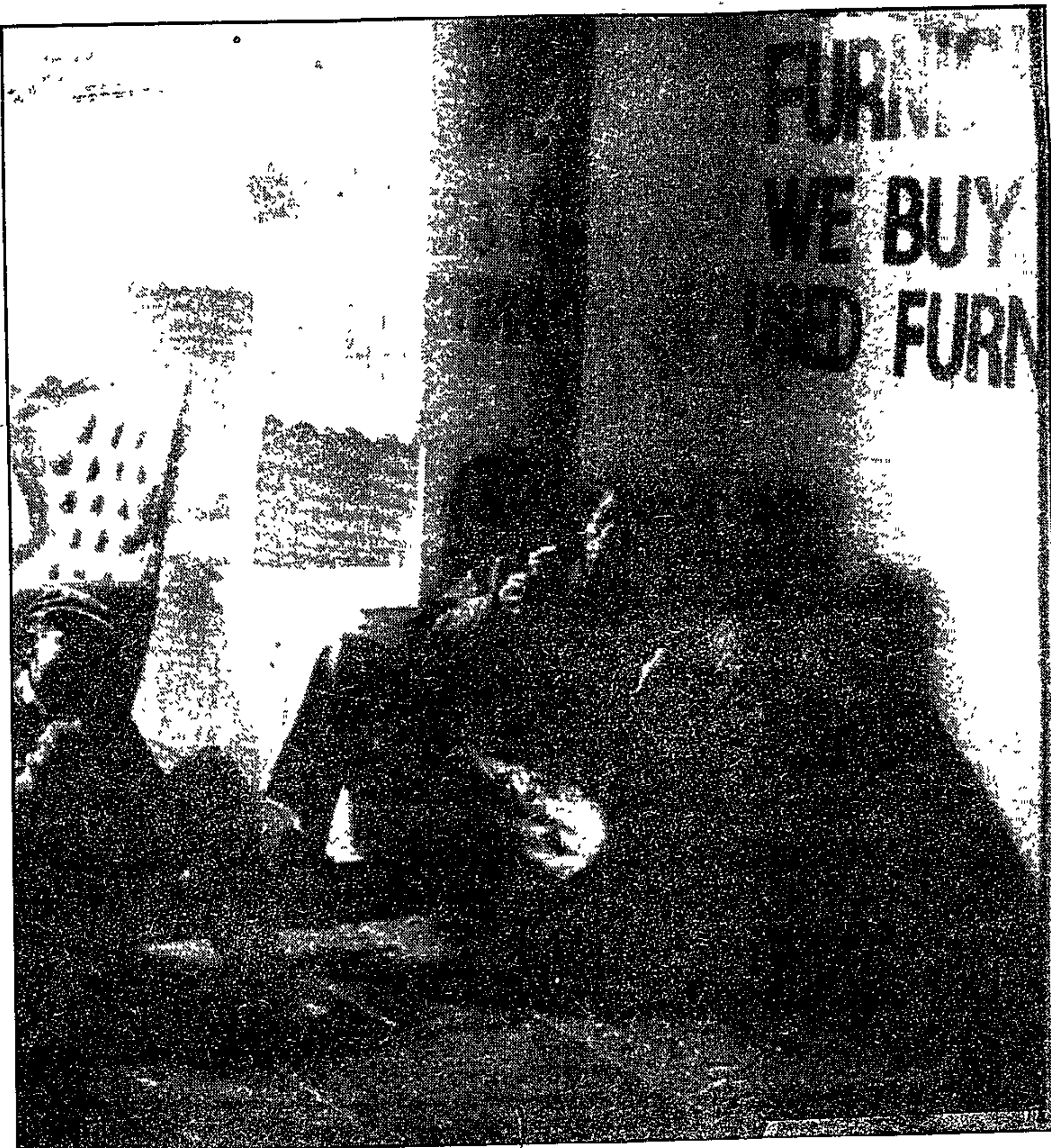
When asked why they left home, Pule said he was lured by his friends.

Sipho says: "I got tired of going to bed without food because my mother was either too drunk to cook or had forgotten to buy groceries. Eventually I ran away from home."

The Braamfontein Child Protection Unit said they often received reports from concerned residents about men picking up street-kids for sex.

Mrs Shelly Bainbridge of the Child Action Group says: "These children are picked up by prominent men in big flashy cars who seem to be attracted to poor black children."

The organisations Childline and Twilight both said they were aware of these crimes.



TARGETS ... Streetkids in Hillbrow are being picked up by men for sex in exchange for money.

PIC: PAT SEBOKO

A haven for abused kids

By Ruth Bhengu

ZAMOKUHLE CHILD CENTRE in Soweto is a much-needed community resource.

Although there are no statistics to prove that child abuse — especially sexual abuse — is on the increase, more and more cases are coming into the open, according to the centre's Dr Nobulembu Mwanda.

Since its inception in March, the centre has treated 87 children from the ages of five to 13 years who have been abused physically and emotionally.

Files reveal abuse

Mwanda's file shows that out of the 28 patients seen at the clinic in March, 26 were victims of sexual abuse. In April, 24 out of 26 were sexually abused.

One of Mwanda's biggest concerns are children who come to the clinic only once and then disappear.

(298) Sowetan 14/7/95
"If the child is abused by a family member, sometimes the parents will be reluctant to press charges because it will have an adverse effect on the family, especially if the abuser is a breadwinner," she says.

The centre, which is run on a shoestring budget, services all 13 health centres in Soweto.

Three doctors, two psychologists, two social workers and two nurses and the police Child Protection Unit are crammed into a small wing of the clinic.

Little privacy

There is little privacy because the doctors have to share one room. The play centre is shared by the children and the police, and there is a serious lack of equipment as well.

"We need to create a warm and safe atmosphere for the children to open up," says Mwanda.

"We also need more toys for the centre because sometimes it is necessary to let a child take away a toy. We need equipment and space. We are bursting at the seams as it is. Had it not been

for donated equipment, we would be in a more serious situation."

The staff is trained to detect signs of abuse, and is sensitive to the culture and traditions of the community around them.

"For instance, spanking is an accepted form of punishment in black society so we have to be careful about what we refer to as abuse," says Mwanda.

"We also try to encourage offenders to come for therapy because we do not believe that punishment will help them or their families.

"We would like to put in place mechanisms where the offenders and victims are really helped."

She added: "We are noticing a trend where offenders are getting younger and younger. We have heard of children raping others at gunpoint."

Sensitised nurses

Mwanda says some cases of abuse are picked up during routine check-ups or treatment for other ailments. Since nurses have been sensitised to child abuse, they can often detect the signs.

But, in most cases, it is the children themselves who report abuse.

While Zamokuhle Child Centre has to make do with scarce resources, the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society runs a well-equipped child abuse centre in Main Street.

Its inviting and cheerful decor is in sharp contrast to the almost bare Zamokuhle. This centre, sponsored by Liberty Life, has a staff of eight: four social workers, two part-time psychologists, a community worker and a student social worker who comes in twice a week.

The centre's manager, Ms Zelda Kruger, says its major focus is the treatment of sexually abused children and the prevention of such occurrences.

Safety measures

They train professionals and community members to deal with sexual abuse and to teach children about their rights.

"We give talks at schools and any other place where we are invited to help communities put in place safety measures against child abuse," says Kruger.

"For instance, we had a project in Soweto last year where we identified safe houses where children could go to if they felt threatened.

"Some of the children have to walk through the veld when they go to school. This is often where they are raped. So if a child felt she or he was being followed, they could go to a safe house and talk to somebody."

Part of the organisation's outreach programme in Soweto and Alexandra is to work with nursery schools and child-minders to raise awareness on the sexual abuse of children.

It offers a nine-week training course for social workers, nurses, priests, teachers and anybody else.



Dr Nobulembu Mwanda of Zamokuhle Child Centre in Soweto.

Adoption procedures redefined by draft Bill

Kathryn Strachan

BD 17/7/95

(298)

THE draft Child Care Amendment Bill, which extends the circumstances in which a child may be adopted without the consent of the parents, has been gazetted and is being circulated for public comment.

Under the draft Bill, when parents fail to maintain a child when they are able to do so — or are serving a prison sentence of two or more years — and the court is satisfied that the termination of the parent's rights is essential for the well-being of the child, the child may be adopted without parental consent.

Another change is the criteria which qualify a person to adopt a child. In the previous Act a person could only adopt a child when they had adequate means to maintain and educate the child. However, this is no longer considered to be a factor in the best interests of a child and this provision has now been deleted.

Currently a children's home or a place of care under state control may not be inspected. In view of the policy of transparency this provision has also been deleted.

Furthermore, the previous Act did not provide for the care of a child in a children's home beyond the age of 18 years. As a result many of these children could not complete their education and training. The draft Bill extends this period to enable a child in a children's home to continue his or her studies up to the age of 21 years.

The draft Bill also provides for legal representation for children and for an assistant of a children's court. It further regulates child detention.

Threat to feeding scheme

(298)

SPAN 17/11/95

This year the African Children's Feeding Scheme's community nutritional education and feeding project commemorates 50 years of providing meals for hungry township children.

The scheme was launched in 1945 by a group of concerned individuals and organisations under the leadership of advocate Robin Stratford, KC, and cleric Father Trevor Huddleston.

Without further support of individuals and organisations,

the scheme will not be able to continue feeding the 20 000 children it is at present helping daily.

It was originally intended to operate during school holidays to supplement the Government's school feeding programme, but rapidly expanded to rural schools where no State feeding took place.

The scheme's seven nursing sisters examine 140 000 children every year to check for signs of malnutrition. Children are given supplementary

food five days a week. In addition, 1 150 families are given food parcels every month.

From the 13 permanent centres in Gauteng, from Krugersdorp to Springs and Brakpan, daily food deliveries take place using nine vans and seven cycles to cater for children who live too far from feeding centres.

Any interested sponsors or donors are asked to contact Darrell Masters on (011) 837-4841 or fax (011) 839-2637. — Staff Reporter.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS: Children wish President Nelson Mandela well and present him with cars made of wire on the eve of his 77th birthday. Mr Mandela treated 2 000 children to food and clothes at a party at an old gold mine outside Johannesburg.

New plans for juvenile care and justice system

ARG 18/7/95

(298)

Political Staff

JOHANNESBURG. — The government and the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund used the president's birthday celebrations to announce two new deals aimed at transforming the lives of South Africa's underprivileged children.

The announcement was made at Johannesburg's Gold Reef City pleasure resort — the place where President Mandela got his first job as a mine policeman 55 years ago — and where he celebrated his 77th birthday yesterday.

A drawing competition was held and four children between the ages of seven and 16 years stand a chance of winning 12 years of free education.

The estimated 2 500 children who attended yesterday's cele-

bration had to draw their impressions of yesterday's festivities. The winners will receive bursaries from the president's children fund.

Donations to the President's Children Fund has swelled by R1 million over the past few months, taking it to more than R4 million.

The government announced it is to spend R6 million on a new deal aimed at transforming the lives of underprivileged and homeless children.

Deputy Welfare and Population Minister, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, revealed plans to transform the residential care programmes and the juvenile justice system. She said the money would be spent on human resource development in residential care facilities for

children.

She said a ministerial committee, established to set up, design and implement an integrated child and youth care system, had recommended the urgent development and implementation of alternative sentencing and youth programmes to replace whipping and imprisonment.

She said particular attention would be paid to militarised youth, including former self-defence and special protection units or gang members.

"Young people should no longer be allowed to carry guns or other weapons of destruction. They need support. They need jobs. And they need counselling. We can no longer take revenge on our children for the wrongs of the society."

New committee for child care

Kevin O'Grady

(298) 18/7/95

A HIGH-level inter-ministerial committee had been set up to design and implement an integrated child and youth care system for SA, Deputy Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi announced yesterday.

Speaking at President Nelson Mandela's birthday party she also said R6m had been set aside to develop childrens' residential care facilities. One aspect that would come under scrutiny by the committee was the "urgent" development of alternative sentencing and youth programmes.

She said the committee would also be charged with managing the current "crisis" and implementation of several steps would take place. These were: the resourcing of youth care programmes to support young people and those who care for them; the employment and training of specialist youth justice workers and probation officers for young people; and the rapid expansion of pre-trial diversion programmes.

Help on way for E Rand child victims of violence

■ STAFF REPORTERS (298) 5/10/95

The violence-stricken East Rand areas of Katlehong, Tokoza and Vosloorus, collectively known as Katorus, are soon to get a special counselling centre for traumatised children.

The Psycho-Social Educational Services for Schools, which is due to be launched on Saturday, will provide training for teachers to enable them to identify children suffering from emotional difficulties as a result of political violence.

Gauteng deputy chief education specialist in auxiliary services, Ludumo Magangane, said there was a need to establish a counselling centre in Katorus, making it more accessible for the youngsters.

"Children can have the best education, but if they are not mentally and psychologically ready it will not succeed," Magangane said.

Tshidi Maseko, an educational psychologist for the Johannesburg Parent and Child Counselling Centre, which initiated the project, said play therapy was important in allowing children to express their traumatic experiences.

"Play therapy enables the children to enact their trauma. Therapists will help them to ver-

balise what they experienced. It is a slow process but rewarding because the children can then cope with their day-to-day lives," Maseko said.

The centre had had a case of an 11-year-old girl who was brought for counselling after she had been sexually abused.

"After four sessions she started to open up and express her experiences verbally," Maseko said.

He added that teachers would be trained to look for symptoms such as lack of concentration, poor performance, changes in behaviour or withdrawal.

The project is sponsored by Caltex Oil. Corporate community investment manager Poppie Baloyi said Caltex could not wait for the Government to finance community projects when it was possible for the private sector to get involved.

Baloyi said the project was aimed at reaching about 100 schools in the area. She said Vista University psychology students would also be involved in counselling the children.

All the people involved in this project were optimistic that the mission to help heal the "deep emotional and psychological scars" of children would become a nationwide campaign.

Nicro project for teens backed

Staff Reporter

(298) (25)

CAPE TOWN attorneys have voiced their support for a programme by crime prevention organisation Nicro to rehabilitate teenage criminals rather than punish them.

Attorneys' association president Michael Radomsky handed over a R5 000 cheque to Nicro yesterday, praising the organisation's role in re-examining the justice system.

With the consent of magistrates, Ni-

cro has taken hundreds of teenagers guilty of petty crimes out of the conventional criminal justice system and placed them in counselling programmes aimed at rebuilding their self-esteem and alerting them to the dangers of crime.

ARG 20/2/95
The organisation has claimed a high success rate for its programme, saying few of the youths who have completed it have been brought before the courts again.

THE

Child-care workers 'duped' protest

HENRIETTE GELDENHUYS
Staff Reporter

(298)
CHILD-CARE workers have mounted a protest outside the Wynberg courts to demand that violent juveniles be removed from places of safety.

It was unacceptable that they were "expected to control gangfights, riots and mutinies within dormitories" without the necessary protection, equipment or training, they said.

They claimed they had been "duped" into doing the dangerous job of prison warders.

About 20 child-care workers — who are also members of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) — waved placards during the picket yesterday.

Nehawu shopsteward Alfred Harris said children accused of violent offences such as murder, rape or armed robbery belonged in special children's institutions with strict security, not in a place of safety or in prison.

Places of safety were meant for first offenders, street kids and children with

behavioural problems, he said.

Children were moved to places of safety after the proclamation by President Mandela on May 4 that all unsentenced children be released from prison.

"We want to give effect to this, but we are not prepared for this decision," said Mr Harris.

The statement said child-care workers were "unarmed men and women who have been duped through legislation into doing the work of prison warders. This is unacceptable and downright dangerous".

The children's actions were not determined by their youth, but by their level of exposure to crime and involvement in gangsterism, said Mr Harris.

"Experts" refused to believe a 14-year-old could be a hardened and violent offender, but "we see 14-year-olds who have committed murder and are hardened criminals who feel nothing to kill".

"We believe if someone has committed murder, he's a murderer, irrespective of whether he is 10 or 20," he said.

298 (43)
Seven
CT 21/7/95.
juveniles
escape

STAFF REPORTER

SEVEN "hardcore" juveniles awaiting trial, arrested on charges of murder, rape and armed robbery, are back on the city streets after escaping from a Wynberg place of safety.

Altogether 18 awaiting-trial juveniles escaped from a locked first-floor dormitory by tying sheets together and climbing from an attic window at Bonnytoun.

Re-arrested

Eleven were re-arrested soon afterwards. The children were placed at Bonnytoun after their recent release from prison in terms of a proclamation signed by President Nelson Mandela.

Meanwhile, child-care workers at Bonnytoun are becoming increasingly demoralised and frustrated as they battle to control the large numbers of juveniles awaiting trial or sentencing whom have been entrusted to their care.

On Wednesday this week child-care workers picketed outside the Wynberg Magistrate's Court to highlight their problems. A similar protest is planned outside St George's Cathedral this morning.

Assaulted

It was disclosed yesterday that besides having to thwart numerous escape attempts by the 100 or so inmates, staff had been assaulted and had threats to their lives by some of the more "hardcore elements" who had been arrested on charges including murder, rape and armed robbery.

Bonnycastle staff are also questioning the ages of certain so-called juvenile offenders who they claim are far more "grown-up" than their recorded ages.

Child care worker Mr Dennis Baker said: "We are not trained or equipped to work with these boys, some of whom are clearly hardcore criminals."

Crying out for love... sweet love!

(298)

ARL 22/7/95

TASLIMA VILJOEN
Staff Reporter

BY the year 2000 about 1,3 million children will be abandoned, including 40 000 orphaned by Aids.

Cape Town's Child Welfare Adoption Centre in Claremont has made an urgent appeal to the public to open their hearts to abandoned children. The adoption centre is desperately short of adoptive parents.

The centre's unit manager, Sian Hasewinkel, said the number of mothers visiting the centre to give up their babies was increasing steadily.

The centre provides a specialised service, undertaken by experienced social workers to deal with adoptions.

It is part of a well established and well managed private welfare organisation which has been in existence since 1908. The centre has been accredited by the South African National Council for Child and Family Welfare.

The centre also provides a counselling service to mothers who are thinking about giving up their babies. It recently became responsible for the placement of black babies for adoption and it has embarked on a campaign to make the services known to the black community.

Anthony Poorter, chairman of the centre's fundraising committee, said about 80 percent of babies now up for adoption are from disadvantaged areas and there is a great shortage of

■ The days are over when childless couples desperately sought children to adopt. Now growing numbers of abandoned and orphaned children are in need of mothers and fathers.

black adoptive parents.

Ms Hasewinkel said although people of all races can adopt black or white children, "we believe the child should be placed in the cultural background he was born in. We are trying to create a real family situation".

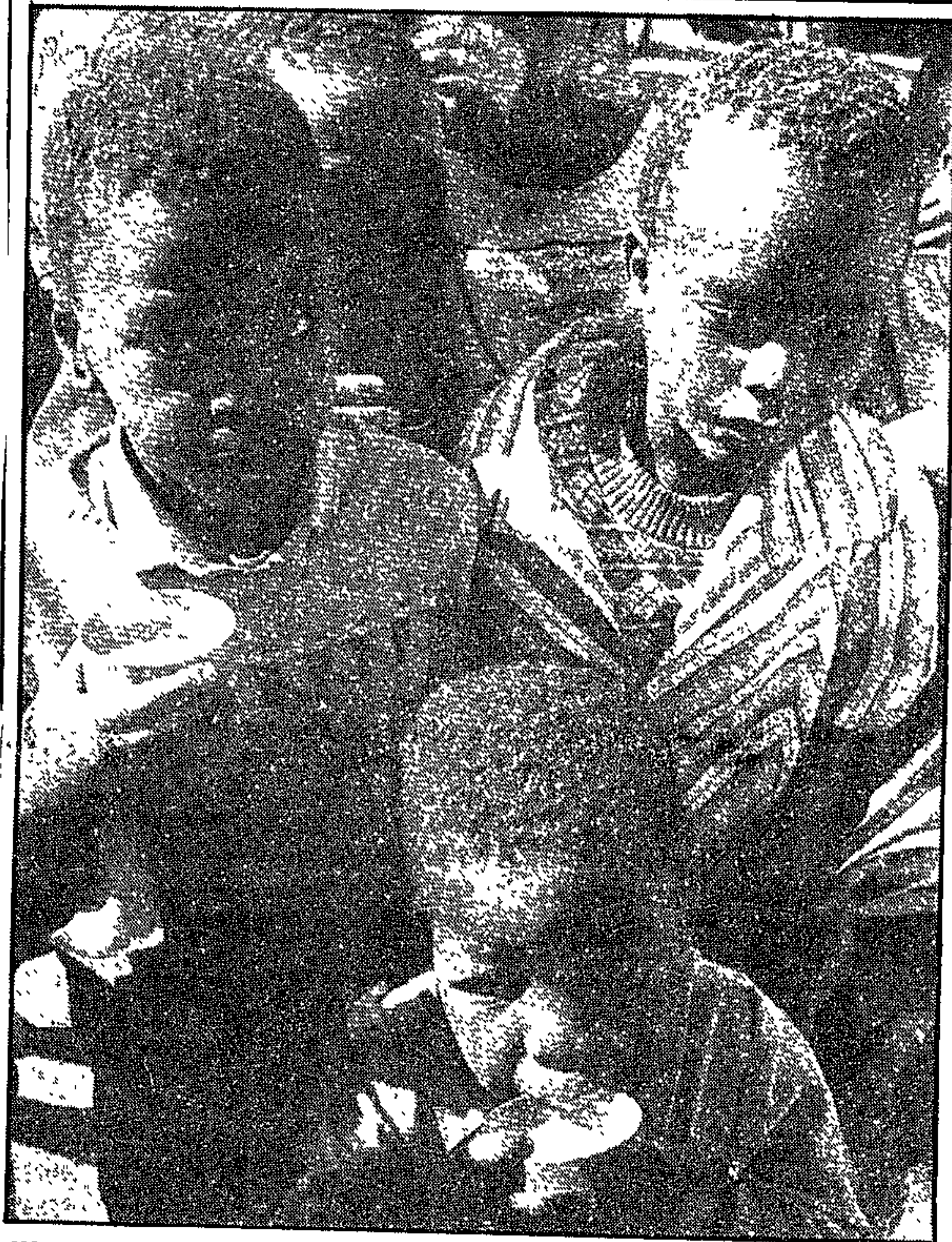
If this cannot be done the child will be placed with white parents.

The situation depends on the mother because she wants to place the child in a secure and loving environment — something that she is unable to provide.

When prospective parents indicate their willingness to adopt a child, the centre will screen them and they then go through a training course.

This course entails insight into the birth mother's situation, how to tell children they are adopted and how to deal with different parenting issues. The centre allows single parents to adopt children.

It takes three months for the adoption to be finalised and it costs R2 400 for an adoption to take place. Ms Hasewinkel said she would like to



WE NEED YOU . . . These hungry children patiently wait their turn for food from the feeding scheme which, after 50 years, may have to close down if no support is found

■ Pic: THULANI SITHOLE

These kids are CP 23/7/95 (298) hungry for help

By NOMVULA KHALO

THE HUNGRY will go hungrier if nothing is done to help the African Children Feeding Scheme.

The scheme, which has fed close to 20 000 children in Gauteng for the past 50 years, will soon be unable to continue if no further support is found.

Sister Zodwa Molefe, who has been employed by the scheme for 31 years, said these children were everyone's responsibility. With the help of every adult these children won't go hungry.

The scheme was launched in 1945 by a group of concerned individuals and organisations under the leadership of Advocate Robin Stratford and Father Trevor Huddleston.

This week a City Press team spent a day with Molefe in Tsakane. Martha Cindi and Beauty Mavimbela, who have been employed by the scheme for 15 years, said

they woke up at 5 am and met at the centre at 6 am. "At 7 45 am the sliced bread is delivered and we spread peanut butter and prepare milk and cheese," said Cindi.

She said they then packed everything in boxes and feeding scheme workers Simon Sibanyoni, Lucas Skosana and Rueben Thloaele went their separate ways on their bicycles to feed the children at the schools.

"Cindi and Mavimbela stay to feed those not at schools, including the adults who depend on the scheme.

Adults are not only fed, but also taught skills – men are taught how to plough and women to knit – to promote self-sufficiency. The scheme's 52 nursing sisters examine children every year to check for signs of malnutrition. Children are fed five days a week, in addition 1 150 families who are given food parcels every month.

400 released youths have fled 'safe' places

CT 24/7/95

(298) (25)

STAFF REPORTER

NEARLY 400 awaiting-trial juveniles, who were freed from prisons and police cells in May and accommodated in places of safety following a presidential decree, absconded from the shelters in the first month of their release.

This was revealed in the latest statistics compiled and released by the department of welfare.

The figures show that from May 4 until June 8, a total of 396 child offenders, many of them regarded as "hardened criminals", absconded from places of safety in the Western Cape, Gauteng and kwaZulu/Natal.

Topping the list of abscondments was kwaZulu/Natal with a total of 214 awaiting-trial juveniles escaping from custody. Places of safety in Gauteng experienced 133 escapes while the Western Cape totalled 59. It is unknown how many were re-arrested.

The Western Cape figure does not include subsequent escapes, including the latest incident last Monday when 18 juvenile offenders escaped from Bonnytoun in Wynberg.

Eleven of the youths were immediately arrested, while seven "hardcore" youths are still on the loose. Most of these suspects were arrested on charges of housebreaking, a child-care worker said.

'Terrorised'

Department of welfare spokeswoman Ms Nicolene Beyers said extra security was being made available to places of safety.

"Children who abscond are usually the older children, many of whom are hardened criminals. They terrorise staff. In future these institutions will only be able to accommodate 'mainstream' juvenile offenders and not Schedule 2 offenders," Ms Beyers added.

ARB
24/7/95



IN THE COLD: Homeless, unemployed people gather around a fire in the foundations of the old power station site on the Foreshore.

Pictures: OBED ZILWA, The Argus

30 beggars, including

children, arrested

(298) # AR 4 24/7/95

"lowering the standard of our hotel in the eyes of tourists".

Angry beggars said they were not prepared to move because they begged to support their children.

Mrs Krampe said it was time for "action to be taken against these homeless people and keep them out of the city and the Foreshore".

She accused Cape Town City Council of "not caring about the problem".

But the council said it was not responsible for controlling people begging and loitering on the streets.

Mrs Krampe said the beggars, mainly women with children, were "littering" the streets and pavements, cooking on the street, sending young children to beg for money from motorists, sleeping on pavements and hanging up their washing on the streets.

"The problem has become rife and totally out of control," Mrs Krampe said.

"This is lowering the standard of our hotels and other businesses in the city

"We have tourists in our hotel who come from Europe and we have had numerous complaints regarding this problem."

The beggars said anyone who wanted them out of the city should give them jobs.

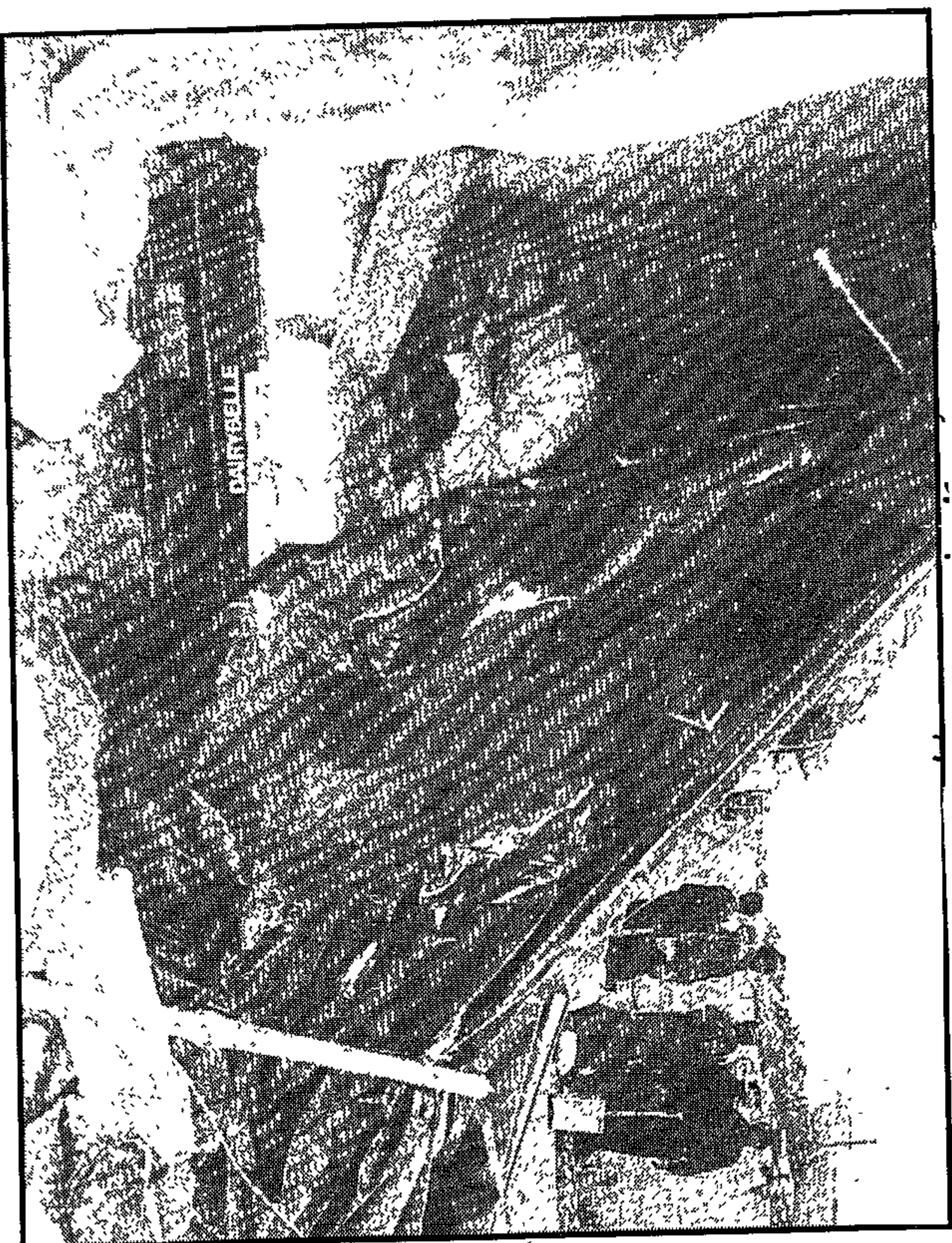
They said they were forced by circumstances to beg. "We are unemployed, we have nothing to eat and our children are hungry," said Shireen Ohlson from Manenberg.

"If anyone could be in our situation, feel the pain and hardship, one could understand better why we are here"

Miss Ohlson said she had been begging for five years.

"We use the money to support our children. If there is no food they cry," she said. Her son, Leroy, who is always with her, is a year old.

The women said their boyfriends had "left them in the lurch" and they had no alternative



MAKESHIFT: A Fore-shore squatter sleeps under plastic covers in the bitter cold.

SABATA NGCAI, Staff Reporter

ABOUT 30 beggars, including young children, have been arrested by police for trespassing on a Foreshore parking lot.

The arrests were confirmed by police spokesman Wicus Holtzhausen.

The remaining beggars now fear further arrests could take place in what they call "harassment and an attempt by the police and traffic officers to cut our throats".

"They are messing up the lives of peaceful people who make a living by washing cars and begging, not stealing," one of the beggars, Alexander Petersen, said.

They vowed to remain in the lower Long Street area, because "we have nowhere to go".

The beggars, who have been operating in the

area for many years, said they were chased away from the streets by traffic officers last week.

But Traffic Manager Wouter Smit denied this, saying traffic police took the beggars to the welfare department to get help, and took the small children to shelters.

Mr Smit said some of them decided to run away and went back to the streets.

He said the beggars were not wanted on the streets. They sometimes got drunk and stood in the middle of the road with babies on their arms. "That is dangerous to them as well as motorists."

The removal of the beggars followed a complaint by a Cape Town hotelier about their presence near her hotel.

Infuriated Tulbagh Hotel general manager Petra Krampe demanded a few weeks ago that the beggars should be "removed" because they were

(248)

ARG 24/7/95

Cross-race adoptions planned as centre faces parent shortage

Staff Reporter

ARG 24/7/95 (298)
A SHORTAGE of adoptive parents for black babies may soon open the way for cross-race adoptions.

Although couples of the same race are preferred, the Western Cape Child Welfare Adoption Centre may not have a choice.

It has been struggling to place an increasing number of black babies since taking on cases formerly handled by the Cape Provincial Administration.

But there are also other factors.

"Economic hardship and the breakdown of traditional family life through increasing urbanisation has resulted in more black babies being available for adoption," explained Sian Hasewinkel, unit manager for the adoption centre.

"However, not enough black parents have come forward to adopt babies, possibly because they have not known who to approach or are unsure how formal adoption fits into traditional systems."

If black parents cannot be found, babies will be placed

with single parents or couples of a different cultural background.

"Ideally we wish to place children with families of the same culture as the birth mother.

"We believe that every child has the right to a family life and therefore all attempts will be made to find a family rather than place a child in an institution."

At present babies who cannot be placed with suitable adoptive families are placed in emergency foster homes until suitable parents are found.

More parents for "coloured" babies are also needed, but the predominant problem at the moment is finding potential parents for black babies.

As a result, the centre has embarked on a campaign to attract potential black parents.

This includes employing a public relations agency, media coverage, a planned poster campaign and possible coverage on radio and television.

Child Welfare social workers are also helping to spread the message in the townships.

"This campaign is important,

as the concept of formal adoption — as opposed to the informal adoption of the children by relatives — is not well known in the black community," said Ms Hasewinkel.

"We hope to reach parents who have been unable to have their own children or who would like to increase the size of their families."

In addition to the problem of finding adoptive parents, the centre is also struggling to raise funds.

It is currently running at a deficit and an appeal is being made to the corporate sector and other institutions for either sponsorship or donations.

A target of R30 000 has been set in a bid to set off this deficit and enable the centre to continue to run efficiently.

Potential donors and couples wishing to adopt babies can contact the Adoption Centre on ☎ 644 170.

Other enquiries about donations can be made via Rosemary Hare Public Relations on ☎ 685 7862 or Anthony Poorter on ☎ 083 600 4313.

After hours and weekend calls can be made to Ina von Guérard on ☎ 960 150.

Juvenile criminal issue to get Cabinet attention

Bophile Ngqiyaza

(298) 17/24/95

SEVEN Cabinet members from different ministries would transform the juvenile criminal system, Deputy Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said at the weekend.

The plan follows the transfer of awaiting-trial juveniles from prison and police cells earlier this year.

Nearly 400 of the 792 released had escaped from places of safety to which they had been sent.

Fraser-Moleketi said the committee, which would also comprise representatives from seven national organisations, was a "powerful symbol of the partnerships between the highest levels of government and civil society".

She said R6m had been allocated "to design and implement an integrated child and youth care system".

Militarised youth in special defence units and in gangs had also been given "particular attention".

"Young people should no longer be required or allowed to carry guns."

The first task of the committee, which would be in existence for six months, was "to draw up a programme to kick-start the transformation of secure residential care programmes and the juvenile justice system".

Pilot schemes to test the committee's plans would begin this month, she said.

Fraser-Moleketi said government should "reduce its own retributive responses" to wrong-doing if it wished to reduce violent behaviour by young people.

About half the children in the country were living in families with an income below the household subsistence level.

Of more than 50 000 children under the age of 18 sentenced by the courts every year, 30 000 needed to be housed in residential care facilities, Fraser-Moleketi said.

Recommendations by the committee included:

- ☐ employment and training of "specialist youth justice workers and probation officers" for juveniles;
- ☐ "resourcing" of child and youth care worker programmes to support young people and those who looked after them; and
- ☐ urgent development and implementation of alternatives to whipping and prison.

A plan being piloted involved community, family, victim, peer group and the offender.

The committee, to be known as the National Transformation Forum on Correctional Services, will be launched on July 24.

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Urban children to join feeding scheme

(298) (20) Stan 24/7/95
■ BY LEE-ANN ALFREDS
EDUCATION REPORTER

The Gauteng schools' feeding scheme is to be extended to thousands of children at schools in urban areas.

The extension of the scheme, which currently provides daily high-energy snacks to 70 000 pupils throughout Gauteng, will be introduced from the end of next month, according to Mother and Child Health and Nutrition Director Dr Carol Marshall.

At present, the scheme is operational at 295 schools on farms and at informal settlements.

Marshall said the extension of the scheme followed the increase to R27-million, from R12-million, of the amount initially budgeted for the programme.

The proposed inclusion of schools in urban areas follows teething problems which have resulted in the implementation of the

scheme being delayed by four months.

Marshall said that while problems were still being experienced in ensuring that the snacks were delivered to schools daily, the service had improved greatly since its disastrous start in September last year.

"However, in a scheme of this size there are always going to be problems, especially when it comes to delivering snacks to schools in peripheral areas," she said.

Marshall said that the scheme provided for a high-energy peanut butter sandwich and glass of milk or fruit juice to disadvantaged pupils before 9.30am every day to help with their school performance.

"The high-energy snack is just a way to help increase their active learning capacity, because hunger has been proved to have a negative effect on the ability to concentrate and learn," she said.

Places of safety staff 'need danger pay'

(298) (25) CT 25/7/95
STAFF REPORTER

DANGER pay should form part of the remuneration package of child care workers expected to work with awaiting-trial juveniles, the Democratic Party said yesterday.

DP spokesman on safety and security Senator James Selfe said places of safety faced a crisis unless pressing issues were urgently dealt with by the government.

This followed a fact-finding visit by Mr Selfe to the Bonnytoun place of safety in Wynberg on Friday after last Monday's mass escape by 18 youths.

Eleven were immediately re-arrested but seven are still at large, according to a child care worker.

The Department of Welfare said that close to 400 awaiting-trial juveniles absconded from

places of safety in the first month of the release of about 700 awaiting-trial juveniles from prisons and police cells following a presidential decree in May.

It is not known how many have been re-arrested.

The department said many of the escapers were "hardened criminals".

Changes

Mr Selfe said that under a new provision in the act awaiting-trial juveniles, some charged with murder and rape, were removed from prisons countrywide, to be placed in alternative or more suitable care. Structural changes at places of safety and retraining of staff were urgently needed, he said, but there was a chronic shortage of funds.

Street kids, beggars back after arrests

(298)

ARG 25/7/95

Staff Reporter

DEFIANT city beggars who were arrested for trespassing at a Foreshore property and released on a warning have returned.

The police swooped on about 30 beggars and street children on Friday, accusing them of sleeping illegally on private property.

About 11 returned to the building after they were released and the rest moved to the Grand Parade.

They said they were better off in the city than anywhere else. They easily got waste material to sell to make a living.

The beggars are living on the stairs of what appears to be an unused part of a building. The stairs are filled with clothing and other belongings. There is one old mattress on which some of them sleep.

Street dweller Shemmone Williams from Paarl, one of those arrested, said they had returned to the building because they had nowhere else to go.

Ms Williams, 22, started living on the street when she was seven.

She was raped when she was six, by which time her mother had died and her father was married to another woman.

"No-one seemed to care about what happened to me and I felt the only solution was to leave home."

Ms Williams said she was better off on the street than at home.

She and other street children wake up every morning and walk to the Streets Community Service Projects in Woodstock where they wash and are given breakfast and lunch.

The organisation said it could provide food for them but not accommodation.

Young people showing enthusiasm and willingness to aspire to their full potential.

Positive thinking Path to success

Sowetan 25/7/95 (298)

Joe Mdhlela reports on a new project aimed at youth assertiveness

HAD it not been for a religious conversion at the age of 14, Dr David Molapo would probably not be where he is today. Molapo, thanks to the conversion, is now a teacher, motivational speaker and business consultant. In a jail cell which he occupied for being involved in student politics in 1976, Molapo experienced a vision that brought him closer to God.

Having embraced religion and God, life became more meaningful for him. He began setting goals and objectives that eventually led him to initiate the "I CAN" programme.

It is somewhat paradoxical that he started the "I CAN programme" in the United States of America, helping not South African blacks but the more affluent American youth to survive the rigours of American life.

Molapo maintains that the "I CAN" programme is aimed at making youths realise their potential, and aspire to achieve goals.

Molapo argues that to just have potential is not good enough. He maintains one has to be positive to succeed in life.

Born in KwaTema near Springs,

Molapo is often regarded as the "apostle of optimism", a man who has devoted his life to helping the youth realise its potential.

He holds a doctorate from the United States.

He taught mathematics at Pholong High School in KwaThema.

Nothing pains Molapo more than seeing youth drifting aimlessly in life.

"I really do not care whether a person is born in a squatter camp. I always insist we all have aspirations and goals to achieve," Molapo says.

Molapo's ambition is to inculcate a spirit of self-sufficiency and self-pride among youth, "so that even when everything seems bleak, our people should believe in the concept that they are the architects of their destiny".

The programme places a lot of emphasis on the need for youths to be assertive and believe "they are first class citizens of this country".

The concept discourages the youth

from hiding behind man-made barriers for failing to achieve goals. The concept does, however, recognise that artificial barriers do exist.

"With the programme 'I CAN', these barriers can be overcome," he says.

The programme has been structured in such a way that it is phased in over a period of five years. Areas earmarked for the programme include Gauteng, Orange Free State, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal.

In Gauteng 330 000 students will be selected from 180 high schools to participate in the programme.

The leaders will undergo a rigorous three days aimed at preparing them for positions of leadership in the future.

Realising that the Government of National Unity will not on its own cope with the training of the youth, Molapo believes the 'I CAN' leadership programme can alleviate the problem.

Molapo insists that his organisation remains "politically neutral".



The converted David Molapo

"This non-partisan status allows us easy access to all political parties," he says.

Molapo believes South Africa, by training its youth, will be doing itself a great favour "South Africa must learn to invest in its young people. It is the young people who will shape the destiny of this country," he says.

He argues it is not possible to produce leaders by simply hoping a miracle will happen. "In post-apartheid South Af-

rica, our young people should be regarded as a precious resource requiring special cultivation. "The 'I CAN' programme has the ability of releasing potential from our young people," he says.

Molapo has been appointed chairman of the youth section of the National Health and Population Development Department. His contract is for a five years period.

For more on Molapo, watch NNTV at 7.30 tonight.

Sowetan 25/07/95 (248)

NEWS NATIONAL



CT 26/7/95
**Caning
banned
in schools**

STAFF REPORTER

(298)

MISCHIEVOUS schoolboys no longer need to fear being sent to the principal's office for "six of the best" following a recent Western Cape education department decision to suspend all forms of corporal punishment.

The acting head of education, Dr Francois Knoetze, said the department's decision was taken after the Constitutional Court ruled on June 9 that corporal punishment was a breach of the interim constitution. The court said caning showed "an element of cruelty has been incorporated in the judicial system". The government is already drafting legislation to officially prohibit corporal punishment in schools.



HUNGRY SMILES : Cape Town mayor the Rev William Bantom joined children from the Beacon View Primary School in Mitchells Plain yesterday in enjoying a meal provided by the Peninsula School Feeding Association.

PICTURE: ANNE LAING

Association feeds 290 000 hungry kids

LINDIZ VAN ZILLA

CT 26/9/95

A SANDWICH with jam and peanut butter plus a glass of soya-based milk is served up every day to 290 000 children in 764 schools by the Peninsula Schools Feeding Association programme.

The meal is "quite appetising and very nutritious", according to city mayor the Rev William Bantom who had a taste yesterday.

The mayoral couple visited the Beacon View Primary School in Mitchells Plain and the Umman-galiso Primary School in Khayelitsha, to see for themselves the work done by the association.

The cost of feeding the children is R145 000 a day, the annual cost being more than R27 million.

The association has a full-time staff complement of 15 people who run the entire operation. It caters for primary school children as far away as Graaff-Reinet and Rietpoort, on the West Coast.

Although the association has for the past two years received funding from the Reconstruction and Development Programme, public donations and support are crucial to the continued success of the operation, Mr Bantom said.

Township parents upset at ending of school caning

SABATA NGCAI
Staff Reporter

TOWNSHIP parents are up in arms over the decision by the Western Cape Education Department to ban caning in schools.

The decision was taken after the Constitutional Court ruled last month that corporal punishment in schools was a breach of the interim constitution.

The court said caning showed that "an element of cruelty has been incorporated in the judicial system".

But angry parents have rejected the decision as "undemocratic".

Parents of children at Vuyani Public School in Guguletu accused the department of applying a "top-down" approach.

At a meeting at the school parents decided to collect signatures for a petition showing

their "objections and displeasure" at the decision and also to demand caning in schools be reinstated. It will be sent to the department.

The school principal said: "No child has been killed at my school because of caning."

Parents in favour of corporal punishment said that in their school days discipline was enforced by the cane.

"Even today we are still disciplined because we were caned in our school days," said a parent.

But not all parents are for the cane, some saying the department's decision represented the dawn of a new era. But they said they were afraid to voice their objections because those in favour had the full backing of the principal.

The decision has also caused controversy at other township schools. Teachers said they

feared pupils would become undisciplined.

Lizo Sokufudumala, deputy principal of Luzuko Higher Primary in Guguletu, said pupils would be caned when they broke the rules like stabbing each other with pens and knives.

"Now the pupils will do the same thing repeatedly knowing that they will not be caned," said Mr Sokufudumala.

"If a pupil inflicts pain on another, he must get the same."

Mr Sokufudumala said teachers caned pupils to instil discipline and prepare them for society.

Lwazi Junior Secondary School principal Nomakhaya Monakali said she feared alternative means of punishment would not be effective.

"It would be better if caning is left at least in the hands of a principal," Mrs Monakali said.

(298) ARG 27/7/95

Traffic Dept to join talks on street children

Staff Reporter

THE Cape Town Traffic Department is to join a working group seeking long-term solutions to problems involving street children in the city.

The decision came at a meeting last week between traffic manager Wouter Smit and roleplayers working with the homeless, and follows the

traffic department's controversial clampdown on beggars and street children acting as informal parking attendants.

In a press statement yesterday, Co-ordinated Action with Street People (Casp) said. "Everyone agreed that while criminal behaviour such as the harassment of motorists or stealing from parking meters was not acceptable, it was felt that a two-month clampdown

was not the solution.

"After much discussion it was unanimously agreed that a working group consisting of representatives of the different parties be formed, and steered by Alan Jackson, director of Child Welfare."

The group will look at long-term solutions "with a strong possibility of turning this problem into a job-creation project".

Casp co-ordinator Debi Diamond said of the traffic department: "They refused to stop the clampdown but agreed to join the working group. We feel this is a step in the right direction."

The working group would welcome proposals on the subject from interested members of the community. Address correspondence to Casp, Box 18746, Wynberg.

● See page 9

A12427/7/95

(298)

Clampdown on initiation schools

■ BY PATRICK PHOSA

Northern Province police will clamp down on unauthorised initiation schools following the death of three young men after "bush circumcisions" and a fourth after he fled from an initiation school, a provincial government spokesman said.

A spokesman for Premier Ngoako Ramathlodi, Jack Mokobi, said police would not "fold their arms" while young men were being abducted to initiation schools.

"We cannot dictate to the people what traditional rites to follow, but at the same time we have to save the lives of our young men who are taken to these schools against their will. We cannot sacrifice them in the name of tradition," Mokobi said.

He added that three young men had died from septic wounds and gangrene on their penises and severe bleeding after being circumcised at these schools, and many others had been admitted to Siloam, Donald Fraser, Tshilidzini and St Ritas

hospitals.

"We will not allow our young men to be abducted and circumcised by bush doctors under unhygienic conditions because of diseases like AIDS. They should be circumcised by medical doctors and later attend the school to acquire rituals if they want to," he said.

Mokobi said initiation had lost its traditional value and had become "a business venture" for some traditional leaders.

Arrested

Northern Province police communications officer Ronel Otto said a young man was killed over the weekend by villagers in Bushbuckridge after he fled from an initiation school before the graduation ceremony.

Three men had been arrested in connection with his death, she said.

Otto said the deaths of the other three were being investigated.

She said initiation, like witchcraft, was "inherent in the people", and that police would not try to stamp it out, but "monitor the situation and end abductions".

(298) STAN 28/7/95

White farmers make it impossible for unions to operate

By Khathu Mamaila

AT THE TENDER age of 14 Patrick Mabasa was forced to leave his Mhinga village home in the former Gazankulu homeland to become the family's sole breadwinner.

The boy, who has never seen the inside of a classroom, said he decided to look for a job on a farm outside Pietersburg to support his mother and three young sisters. He said his father died a few years ago.

He obtained his first job, which paid him R150 a month, last year. However, he had to quit after a few months as the job was too demanding. "On that farm, I did everything," said Mabasa.

After quitting, his uncle helped him to get another job on a vegetable farm, about 30km north of Pietersburg. His new employer offered him R100 a month.

"Every month I send all my money home. I depend on the rations of porridge and mushrooms. We only eat once a day. I do not keep a cent for myself because I know my mother and sisters will starve if I do not send them money," said the boy.

Asked what his ambitions were, Patrick said: "I am not educated. What can I aspire to except to be assured of a plate of food every day?"

Patrick is not the only boy forced to leave his home to work on the farm. There are dozens of others, some as young as 10 years, selling their labour to the farmer.

A farm labourer on the same plot, Mr William Lebea, said there was a primary school for farmworkers' children. "However, children can only go to school until they pass the highest class — Standard 2.

"They can then no longer continue with their education no matter how smart they are, as there is no higher primary school. After passing Standard 2 or reaching the age of 14, the children are forced to work on the farm."

Meagre wage

Lebea, who has been working on the farm since 1963, has reached a ceiling and occupies the highest position ever to be attained by a farmworker — a foreman.

Although he earns a meagre wage of R12 a day, the figure is a huge difference from the R4,40 a month he used to get in the sixties. And for a man like him, who has two wives and four children, he can hardly survive with the money.

"I am not religious but I do not like the idea of extra-marital affairs. I have been forced to leave my wife and children at home. I only visit my wife once a month if I am lucky.

"Subsequently, I moved in with another woman."

Lebea said he believed a union could improve his working conditions. However, the farmer has allegedly fired dozens of workers who cooperated with union organisers.

"The employer has made it clear that if

White farmers make it impossible for unions to operate



Child labourer Patrick Mabasa ... his family's sole breadwinner.

PICS: ABDUL MILAZI

we want a union, we are in the wrong place. Associating with a union is tantamount to applying for a dismissal," said Lebea.

While a number of labourers wanted a union to operate on the farm he said their efforts were frustrated by Mozambican labourers who were prepared to work for "anything".

He said most labourers on the farm were illegal immigrants from Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and added that it was difficult for the union to get a majority membership.

National Union of Farmworkers regional organiser Mr Kidox Mogale said the farmer was "very arrogant" because of his perceived support by illegal immigrants.

"The white farmer knows that immigrants are prepared to work for food, as they are desperate. He exploits the situation and makes it almost impossible for the union to organise labourers," said Mogale.

He said he has been chased off the farm several times and even threatened with death. But he has vowed to continue organising the labourers.

A Zimbabwean illegal immigrant, who requested anonymity, said he left his wife and four children in a desperate effort to get a job to support his family.

He said he has been working for five months, but has not saved enough money to send home: "I earn R5,43 a day. How much can I really save? I would not be surprised if I find that my wife is staying with another man when I return home. I have failed her.

"I cannot even complain to the employer

because not only will he show me the gate of his farm, but he will also take me to the police and I will be deported."

He said he could not go to town to look for another job, as police would arrest him because he does not have a South African identity document.

The sad stories of these labourers made Mogale wonder whether the rays of hope dawning in the new South Africa will also reach farms in Northern Province.

FOCUS ON FARMWORKERS



Sheleni Tsotetsi ... working for a living instead of playing with clay. PIC: ABDUL MILAZI

At 12 ... the man of the house

By Abdul Milazi

SHELENI Mokoena (12) should be playing with clay like all rural young boys. But he is not — he has to work to supplement his family income.

Sheleni is one of hundreds, if not thousands, of black children who work as child labourers on South African farmlands.

He works on a dairy farm in Heilbron, Free State.

His day begins at 4am at the dairy before spending the rest of the day herding cattle, for only R4 a day.

"I would like to go to school like other children but my family needs the money. Sometimes I dream of being a teacher or a doctor," he says.

His grandmother, Mrs Selima Tsotetsi, says she is too old to work and she needs all the money she can get. Her two teenage sons also work on the farm.

"Sheleni's mother left him with me and went to Johannesburg. We have not seen her since," says Tsotetsi.

She says many parents would like to send their children to school, but conditions on the farms did not allow it.

She says although there are

farm schools, people cannot afford school uniforms and fees.

"The most important thing is to get food into our mouths, then we can think about other things."

"We can't even afford clothing for ourselves. I've never owned a pair of shoes in my life," says Tsotetsi.

Sheleni's uncle, Daniel (21), dropped out of school at the age of 10 and his other uncle, Bofane (19), at the age of 12.

Daniel and Bofane were among the 600 people who were dismissed for taking part in a strike early this month, leaving 12-year-old Sheleni to fend for the family. He works on a neighbouring dairy farm and is one of the lucky few who still have jobs.

Tsotetsi says: "We don't like our children to work on the farms. We would like them to have a future like children in the townships, but here we do not do what we like."

"Their only future is to work on the farms, grow up and marry and support their children. If your child has a job, you are happy because you will have food."

IAL

Call to punish child exploiters

Sowetan 28/7/95 (298)

By Abdul Milazi
Labour Reporter

CHILD labour and exploitation is alive on South African farmlands, a Sowetan investigation has found.

Thousands of children who sacrifice their future, not by choice, to support or secure accommodation for their parents have one thing in common — they are all black.

Farmworkers Research and Resources Project Labour Land Tenant Programme spokesman Mr Signet

"The farmers do not want their workers' children to go to school because they want to keep them illiterate so they could remain on the farm forever as slaves," said Mashego.

Black Lawyers for Human Rights spokesman Mr Tom Lediga said soon after the April 27 election last year, cases of abuse on farms soared.

Lediga said: "Farmers dismissed workers for aligning themselves with black political parties. They often gave them seven days to vacate the farm. Workers who fail to meet the deadline

are arrested and charged with trespassing. Parents may allow their children to work on farms because they themselves began working at a tender age and to them it is a matter of survival."

Azanian People's Organisation spokesman Mr Vuyisa Qunta said child labour whether in Europe or Africa was a crime against humanity.

"Just because here it is happening to black people, it is taken lightly by everyone," said Qunta.

The South African Agricultural Union was not available for comment.

Way sought to curb parking attendants'

(298)

STAFF REPORTER

A WAY to curb street people acting as parking attendants is to be sought, after the failure of a two-month clampdown on unofficial attendants.

This was decided at a meeting last week of traffic manager Mr Wouter Smit, representatives of the traffic department and people working with street people.

It was agreed that a working group of representatives of the different parties be formed and that it be steered by the director of Child Welfare, Mr Alan Jackson.

The co-ordinator of Co-ordinated Action with Street Children, Ms Debi Diamond, said this group would draw up a long-term strategy that might create jobs.

"We agreed that law-breakers should be punished, but these street kids earn their money by being parking attendants. It's their job," she said.

Mr Smit said it was "premature" to talk of creating jobs.

CT 31/7/95

Apartheid spectre dogs children's rights in SA

(298)

ARG 31/7/95

ON November 20, 1989 the United Nations General Assembly, recognising the vulnerability of children, adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The convention, already signed by about 170 countries, establishes universal standards for the protection of the civil, political, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian rights of children.

On September 2, 1990, the convention became international law and thus binding on the countries that signed it.

The uniqueness of this human rights treaty lies in the fact that it not only protects civil and political rights but also extends protection to the child's economic, social, and cultural and humanitarian rights.

The convention supplements the approximately 80 international instruments that have regard to the situation of children in one way or another.

It is based on three major pre-

misses: participation, protection and survival.

It is also the first legally binding international instrument which provides for the wide protection of children from sexual exploitation.

The implementation mechanism set up by the convention provides for a committee of 10 independent experts of "high moral standing and recognised competence in the field" who serve in their personal capacity.

Every country party to the convention is obliged to report to the committee within two years of ratification and every five years after that.

One problem is that the committee can only make recommendations and lacks the authority to receive petitions alleging a violation under the convention.

By JEREMY SARKIN, Senior Lecturer in Private Law at the University of the Western Cape.

Appropriate implementation of the convention is required in the "best interests of the child".

South Africa signed the convention on the Rights of the Child on January 29, 1993 and ratified it on June 13 this year.

However, this is still a country where children suffer some of the worst effects of the dehumanisation and disregard for human rights that characterised the old apartheid order.

Unfortunately, legislation affecting children has significant shortcomings, such as a focus on the "unfit parent" rather than the "child in need".

There are also insufficient individuals required to report the maltreatment of children, lack of coverage for many categories of neglect, and inappropriate and scant legal aid for children.

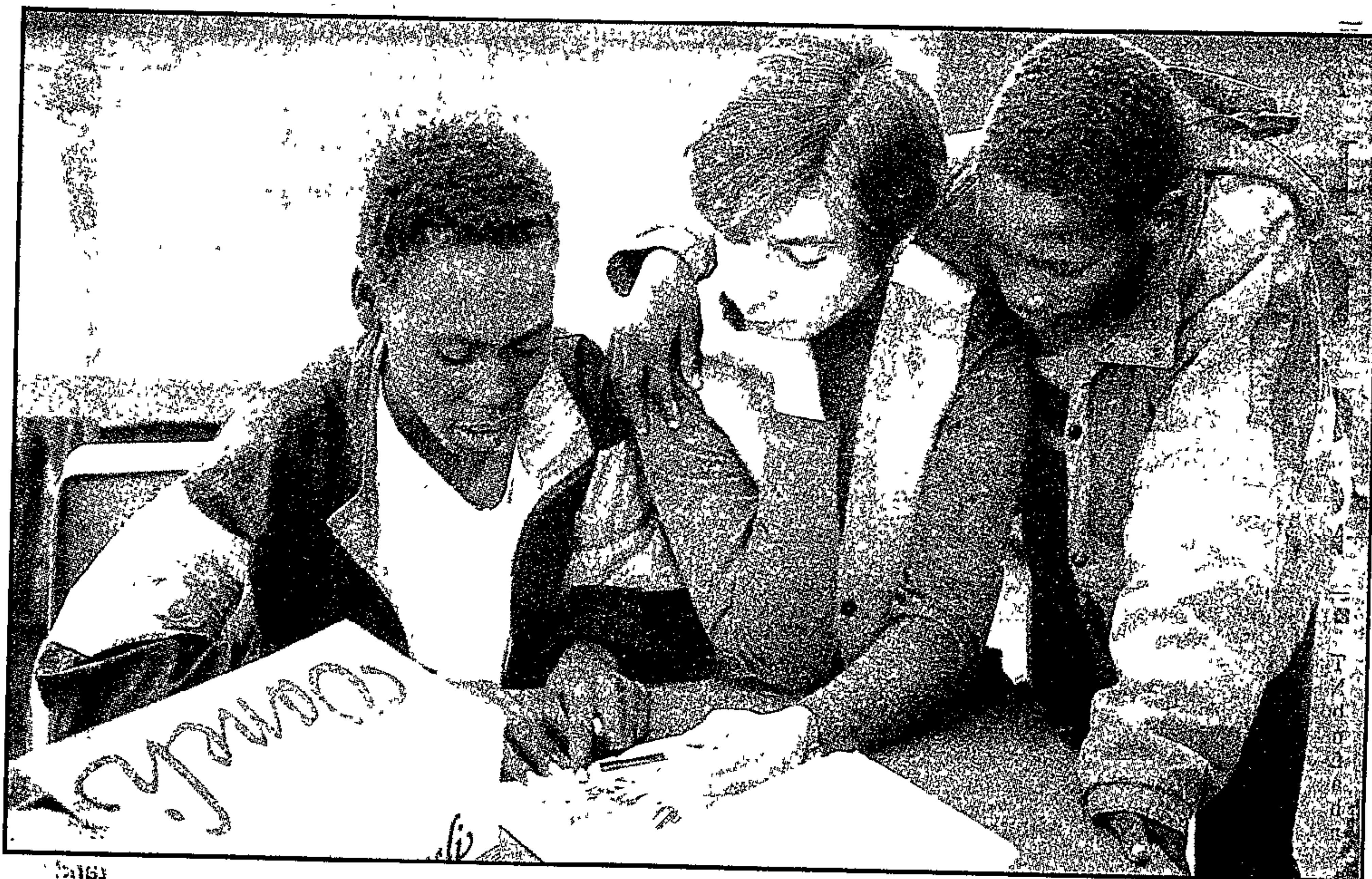
While there are moves afoot to amend the laws affecting juvenile justice, many other laws affecting children have yet to be examined.

All of South Africa's children, but particularly black children, are directly or indirectly affected by the current crisis in crime, housing, poverty and unemployment, all of which contribute to family disintegration, a problem which has forced at least 10 000 children to live on the streets.

The new South Africa cannot simply adopt the United Nations Convention and other international human rights instruments.

It must enact legislation and put programmes into operation which specifically safeguard the rights of children.

Abuse, exploitation, fear, misery and hardship cannot be allowed to shape the lives of so many South Africans. Otherwise the "new" South Africa may well be indistinguishable from the old.



Joy of learning . . . a volunteer at Lesedi School in Midrand guides the "street adults" (as the children demand to be called) through their lessons.

PICTURE MOTLHALEFI MAHLABE

School for 'street adults' defies the cynics

■ BY LEE-ANN ALFREDS
EDUCATION REPORTER

At Lesedi School in Midrand, it is not unusual for the pupils to go to sleep on the floor or shriek or jump about.

But this lack of strict discipline does not faze the four teachers at the school. For they know that the children's mere presence at the school is something of a miracle . . . something every other organisation dealing with "street adults" (as the children demand to be called) said was not possible.

After all, nowhere else in Johannesburg have authorities managed to convince "street

adults" that they should attend school regularly.

"When we first investigated the possibility of starting a school for the 12 or so street urchins we had fed regularly for years, we were told that such projects had never worked unless the children were in some sort of shelter.

"But what else could we do when it was the children themselves who had asked that we start a school? So we decided to go ahead and it has been tremendously successful so far," senior social worker at Midrand's Child and Family Care Association, Crystelle Coleman, said.

She said the school had start-

ed in May this year and that, despite slightly erratic attendance in the beginning, the 12 children now arrived without fail for their three-hour sessions three times a week.

"Even last week during their 'week holiday' they were in here asking for pens and paper so that they could practise their writing or their maths. It was incredible how much they missed school," Coleman said.

She said that, while many of the children had arrived at the school with little or no education, all of them could now read and write their names.

"And although the structure of

our school is not rigid, the children are now fairly attentive throughout the three-hour session. They have also made their own rules regarding discipline and they adhere to them," Coleman said.

She said that the children also received training in stone and wood carving every Saturday to help them become self-reliant.

However, a shortage of adequate funds and manpower — at present the four workers are all volunteers — is preventing the expansion of the school. Their ideal is to also start a shelter. Anyone willing to help is asked to contact Coleman on (011) 315-3522 or 315-3525.

(298) Star 31/7/95

We are still beaten at school, say pupils

□ Teachers 'defying ban on corporal punishment'

ARC 2/8/95

SABATA NGCAI
Staff Reporter

PUPILS at Peninsula schools are still being beaten in spite of a ban on corporal punishment by the Department of Education

This emerged during interviews with children at several high schools and in all classes.

While principals at a number of schools said they had obeyed the ruling after being informed of the ban, some pupils claimed they were still beaten for minor infringements such as being late or not being able to pay contributions to school funds.

The Department of Education said it had "suspended" caning to protect teachers and principals against potential lawsuits after a constitutional court ruling against corporal punishment.

Communications director Orland Firmani said the legal implication of the verdict had re-

sulted in the department "suspending all forms of corporal punishment in schools with immediate effect".

"In the light of the court decision, we are of the opinion that if a parent takes a principal to court over corporal punishment, there is a strong possibility the court will decide in favour of the parent."

Dr Firmani said the department was trying to protect teachers and principals until the matter was resolved.

It was "a temporary measure" and schools would be given further information "in due course", he said.

But reports of infringements came from Masiyile High School in Khayelitsha which has just sent its choir on a trip to Japan.

Pupils claimed they were sometimes beaten on the feet and were threatened with corporal punishment if they could not come up with financial con-

tributions for the school.

One pupil said they were asked recently to contribute R5 each towards the choir's trip to Japan and, soon afterwards, for R2 contributions to a pupil's funeral.

When they returned to school with the message that their parents could not afford the money, they were given a deadline.

"We know that once a deadline is set, when it expires those who do not pay will be beaten," said a pupil.

This was denied by the school's deputy principal, Vuyelwa Ratsibe. She said pupils used to be beaten on the hands and were never forced to pay money they could not afford.

Mrs Ratsibe said pupils were no longer beaten since the school got the circular.

But the pupils interviewed insisted they were still being beaten indiscriminately and a

teacher confirmed that corporal punishment was still being used, because "to us it's just hearsay, we have not received anything official from the department".

Mrs Ratsibe said the teacher who said this could not have been at school when the circular was read.

At Manenberg High School, which has stopped beating pupils since the circular in July, pupils claimed that in the past they were treated harshly.

A standard 6 pupil recalled being beaten by a teacher earlier this year after a quarrel with a classmate.

Pupils interviewed spoke with emotion about caning.

Most felt it should not be allowed because it was against regulations.

The South African Democratic Teachers' Union is still formulating an official statement on the issue

Jo'burg Child Abuse unit is overworked

(298) Star 2/8/95

■ BY ANSO THOM
CRIME REPORTER

Each member of the Johannesburg Child Protection Unit (CPU) is currently handling an average of 50 cases a month while sexual crimes committed against children are on the increase, police said this week.

Countrywide, 338 members of the SAPS are assigned to CPUs and last year alone saw a 86% increase in cases reported to the unit. About 44% of the South African population is made up of children.

At one stage several members at the Johannesburg CPU were each faced with the huge task of following up more than 70 dockets piled on their desks, Warrant Officer E J Hutcheons of the Johannesburg CPU told The Star.

He said the unit currently consisted of 13 members with one member on call having to handle all incoming cases, 24 hours a day.

Up until last month the unit consisted of only eight members.

In comparison, Cape Town had 23 members, Port Elizabeth 12, Pretoria 20, Benoni 21, Krugersdorp 14, Soweto 15, Vanderbijlpark 20 and Pietersburg eight.

Unit commander Captain Pi Pretorius himself handled several incoming cases and drove daily to scenes to take statements.

"There is only one court with a monitor, so there is a long queue of cases waiting to be heard. The investigating officer has to be present at the hearing, so all his other cases are put on hold while he is in court," said Hutcheons.

"The stress level is extremely high as we all lack sleep and the workload is incredible. One of the members put in 102 hours overtime last month."

■ Reports by
MAX GEBHARDT

In the first three months of this year, almost 7 000 cases of child abuse were reported to the SAPS Child Protection Unit. Last year 22 911 cases were reported, a 36% increase on 1993's figure of 16 809, according to Colonel Anneke Pienaar, head of the Child Protection Unit.

During the period 1993-94, officially reported child rape cases increased from 4 736 to 7 559 (62,7%), common assault cases from 2 364 to 3 246 (72,9%) and attempted murder from 175 to 213 (82,2%).

But, according to the White Paper on child abuse and neglect drafted by the Department of Welfare, the true extent of child abuse and neglect in South Africa is unknown because there is no centralised database or co-ordinated reporting system in place at the present time.

What figures are available may be hopelessly inadequate, and represent only the tip of an iceberg.

According to Dr Louise Olivier, Director of the Centre for Child and Adult Guidance at the HSRC, between 30% and 40% of South Africa's children are, or have been, sexually abused.

Neglect

Social workers contacted by Spectrum in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape agree with this.

To illustrate the problem, the Development Bank of South Africa estimates that children under 15 constitute more than a third (37,3%) of South Africa's total population of 43,9-million. This means that, if social workers' calculations in any way reflect the true position, up to 4-million children might have been, or are being, physically or sexually abused, a figure substantially higher than the 22 911 cases reported to the Child Protection Unit last year.

The SA National Council for Child and Family Welfare say they deal, on average, with 2 000 cases of child abuse every month nationwide, of which 50% involve sexual abuse. The problem, according to the White Paper, is that SA has no clear strategy to deal

with burgeoning child abuse and neglect.

Zelda Kruger, manager of the Child Care Centre at the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, says she would not like to venture a guess on the number of children sexually abused in SA. But an estimate for the US, that one in every four children is sexually abused, is often used as a guideline for South Africa. However, she concedes that the figures for SA may be substantially different.

Social workers feel that if SA's child abuse problem is not given urgent attention, it could soon develop into a crisis. They complain that there has been no systematic research to measure the extent of the problem or to determine what services are required. They feel this hampers their efforts to create effective structures to protect the children of SA.

This means it is extremely common for abused children to be let down by the prevailing child protection system. In short, there is no guarantee that a child entering the system will be protected from further abuse.

Submissions on the White Paper are calling for a complete overhaul of the existing services which, it says, are fragmented and under-resourced, leaving large parts of the country, especially rural areas, unserved.

Marianne van der Merwe, spokesman for the Department of Welfare, says the department considers it an urgent priority to set up a national information system for Social Welfare to collect all data on child abuse from SA's nine provinces for a centralised computer database.

The establishment of a uniform system in the past, she says, was hampered under the former dispensation because the various own affairs departments each kept separate child abuse registers on manual systems.

Van der Merwe says the department has embarked on a three-pronged approach to deal with the crisis. "These include a national working group on the prevention of child abuse and protection against neglect.

The initial step will involve research. Then there are proposed

amendments to the Child Care Act to adequately protect children, and a proposal to organise a Child Protection Week to intensify public awareness about child abuse," she says.

The department feels, according to Van der Merwe, that crucial to the success and operation of the National Child Protection Plan is the establishment of a directorate of child protection services at national level in the office of the president, and in each province in the office of the premier.

Jackie Loffell, a social welfare consultant, says while the White Paper is helpful, she would have liked to have seen a stronger input on child abuse and neglect in the paper. "There is an enormous worry that while the White Paper is beginning to help set us in the right direction, welfare organisations are being weakened by continuing funding cutbacks," she says.

Crisis

Loffell believes we are already in a crisis situation and it is becoming worse daily. "Services nationwide are inadequately funded and understaffed. Funds at the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society are being very seriously reduced, and as a result, they are having to retrench 20 staff members."

Although there has been enormous public alarm at individual cases of child abuse, Loffell says very little attention is being focused on what is happening to the child protection services.

The Department of Welfare allocates R1,7-billion each year to the nine provinces, which are responsible for the funding of services. Gauteng's Department of Welfare allocates R203-million towards child and family care, the Western Cape R345-million and KwaZulu-Natal R139-million.

Even though the Department of Welfare does not plan to cut government funding of services for welfare organisations, Loffell says they are facing reduced funding at a provincial level.

"There is a need to commit government towards providing services, and this has to be translated into money," Loffell strongly believes

Minors assaulted, raped, neglected

SA's shocking child abuse toll 'tip of iceberg'

SAW 31/2/95

(298)

R5-m nutrition scheme scam rocks E Cape

(298) (247) ARG 4/8/95
The Argus Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — A network of government officials, schools and private organisations, including banks and food suppliers, is suspected of being involved in a multi-million-rand school nutrition scheme fraud in the Eastern Cape.

This was unearthed during a

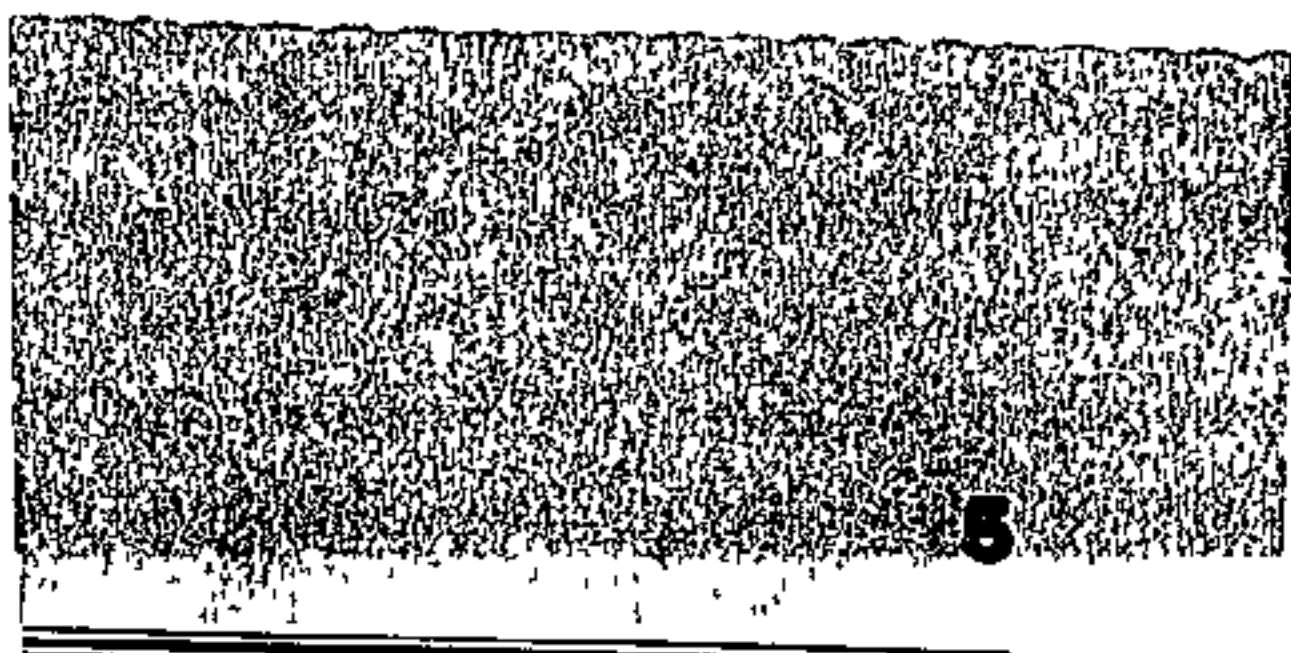
provincial investigation into corruption and fraud in the government concerning funds for RDP projects.

The uncovering of the network was confirmed today by provincial health and welfare deputy permanent secretary Simphiwe Stamper after a disclosure yesterday by the national RDP of-

fice in Pretoria that more than R5 million in school nutrition funds had been swindled from the Eastern Cape government.

Dr Stamper said the investigation was in an advanced stage and arrests were expected soon.

"The investigation has unearthed a wide network of corruption," he said.



School feeding for 6 million

(298) CT 4/8/95
PRETORIA: Six million pupils
now benefited from the presiden-
tial school feeding programme —
up from last month's 5,6m, the
RDP office said yesterday.

● The Eastern Cape's school
feeding scheme has been defraud-
ed of R5 million, RDP Minister Mr
Jay Naidoo said yesterday during
an update on RDP delivery in SA.

"The police have been called
in," he said.

Mr Naidoo said the scheme
had been suspended on the dis-
covery of the fraud. — Sapa

School meals and property scams

Scandals cost State millions

(298)

Star 4/8/98

STAFF REPORTERS

The lid was lifted on two areas of in Government and to wisdom property which

involving force and also the service costing in each year.

Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo said yesterday the Eastern Cape's school-feeding scheme had been defrauded of R5-million and "police have now been called in".

The scheme was suspended after the fraud was found through a financial audit.

About 5,6-million children are being fed a daily supplementary meal at school around the country — the scheme which was launched by President Mandela. Approximately R473-million had been budgeted for the first year of the scheme, which ended last March.

Minister of Health Nkosazana Zuma has said the schemes have been defrauded

at six schools but in which provinces: three principals were gated for theft.

property scandal, Department of general Siphon in Pretoria yesterday Government had no idea what fixed properties it owned anywhere in the world. The Government was now establishing a fixed property register and would be selling off unwanted assets.

While not directly blaming the PWD, Shezi — who took up his post two months ago — said mismanagement had taken place, with no control over State assets.

Shezi said that "every day we find out that we own a block of flats or an office building which we didn't know about. We need to take stock of what we have".

The State properties included a World War 2 bomb site in Berlin, land in London and also houses and flats in most cities and towns in South Africa. The Government also rent-

ed blocks of flats and big office buildings — some utilised by people who had not paid rent for a long time.

Shezi said the taxpayer was also paying for office accommodation and housing which had been rented and then vacated before leases expired.

The Government is responsible for 2,7-million sq m of space owned by various State departments. At least 1-million sq m is in Pretoria.

Shezi revealed that the State is known to own 120 000 properties in South Africa and overseas, but if properties owned by the former provinces and the old TBVC states were taken into account, "it would probably be closer to 140 000".

Shezi, named the Department of Defence and the police as the two main culprits taking advantage of "the convenience of the times to hire offices, then simply vacate them".

Shezi also disclosed that a team had recently visited Britain to investigate building better prisons in the light of criticism about our jails.

Welfare policy will assist AIDS orphans

(43) Star 4/8/98 (298)

■ BY PATRICK PHOSA

A new social welfare policy would seek ways of accommodating the needs of AIDS orphans, Welfare and Population Development Minister Abe Williams said yesterday.

He was speaking at The Salvation Army's Bethesda AIDS orphanage in Soweto. The orphanage was established in 1993 to accommodate 12 AIDS-infected children, but now houses 20.

Williams said accommodation would be sought for AIDS-infected children and that they would be given fostering and other care. He urged people to take part in AIDS awareness and community projects to help those who are infected.

"It is home-based, family-oriented and community-care strategies that are preferred options for coping with social consequences of this disease and the need for care," he said.

He appealed to pregnant women who were HIV-positive not to "simply discard their

babies, but to consider the alternatives that are being made available to assist them in caring for their babies".

He said a representative of his department would visit Sweden soon to get knowledge on up-to-date methods to tackle AIDS and other chronic diseases.

The AIDS-infected children at the orphanage, aged from 6 months to 3 years, had been abandoned in hospitals, rubbish bins and other places after birth, said Major Denis Lorimer of The Salvation Army.

Lorimer said the Adcock Ingram company had contributed R400 000 for the establishment of a new centre in Doornfontein, which would house 60 children and 30 mothers with their babies. He said the organisation could not wait for government policy "while children are already suffering from AIDS".

Joyce Mampua, a nurse at the orphanage, said she was happy to help children who were infected with HIV and regarded them the same as others.

Campaign to stop abuse of children

(298)

By Mokgadi Pela

Sowetan 4/8/95
Residents of Tsakane break the silence on child molestation

TSAKANE TOWNSHIP COULD soon be a shining example of a community bent on fighting child abuse by means of providing sex education for everyone, young and old, while insisting that there should be no compromise with abusers. The message was made loud and clear at a recent seminar at the local Methodist Church.

Notices on the walls urged the government to be merciless against child abusers. "No mercy for thieves of childhood", "No bail for child abusers", were some of the messages.

Many speakers stressed the importance of educating children and the community about child abuse so as to end the scourge.

"Providing sex education in schools would go a long way towards protecting children from abusers", Pretoria-based psychiatrist, Professor Michael Simpson, said.

He said the problem lay in finding a "sensible middle ground in teaching children about child abuse".

"You don't want the child to be too scared of everybody, yet you don't want it to be so trusting that it can be abused. We want our children to be able to distinguish between a good touch and a bad one," Simpson said.

He said it was a mistake to put a lot of emphasis on stranger-danger.

"The ugly truth is that most people who are abused are victimised by people they know."

Simpson called on residents to spread the gospel and continue with the campaign against child abuse.

"We need to enlist the assistance of

You don't want the child to be too scared of everybody, yet you don't want it to be so trusting that it can be abused

teachers, nurses, police and the community at large. Abuse is not a private matter. It affects us all. There's strong evidence to suggest that those who are abused often go on to become abusers themselves," Simpson said.

He said some of the signs and symptoms that show that a child might have been abused were:

- Physical things like movement;
- If you notice a big change in the child's behaviour;
- If the child suddenly becomes excessively aggressive;
- Where you notice regression in the child's development;
- Where the child who was speaking normally starts talking like a baby; and
- Where the child begins to show interest in sexual things.

Simpson said once the family became suspicious that the child might have been abused, it was extremely important to have someone "she's comfortable with to talk to her".

"We should not allow our own emotions to cause more problems for the child. I have often seen children

getting more damage from reaction of the family than from abuse itself. If we don't control our own emotions, we may go overboard," Simpson said.

Speaking on violence as a global issue, Miss Sonti Gumede of the department of community health at Medunsa said the time had come for the nation to speak out against TV soapies which promoted violence, drug use and moral decay, "especially CCV".

"Soapies, especially those shown at 8pm on this channel, give an impression that black people are only capable of prostitution, violence and wrecking their lives. It does not help us to preach against abuse when these soapies send contrary messages," Gumede said amid a round of applause.

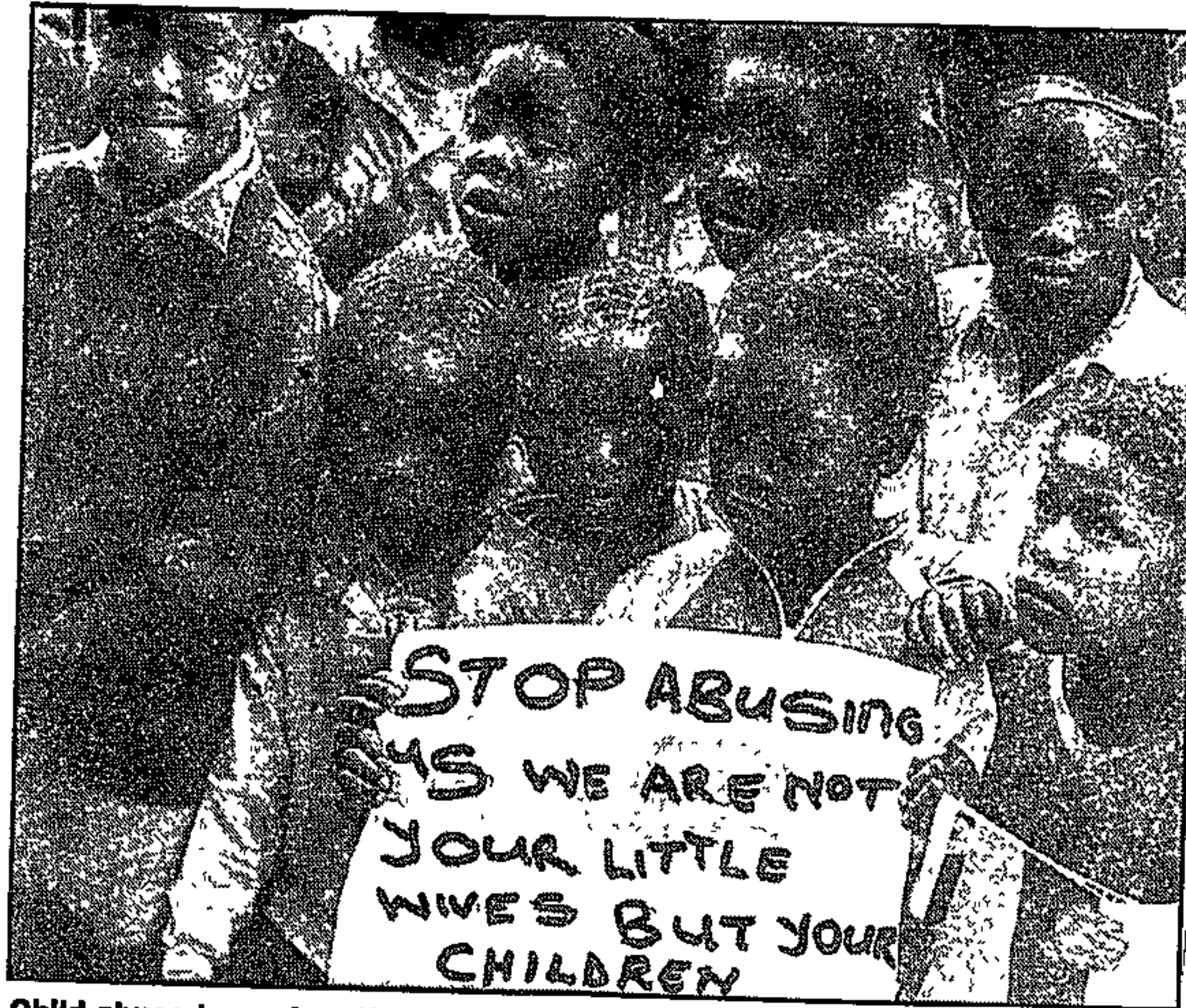
Master of ceremonies Reverend Hobson Mxasa called on parents to rise up and fight "these molesters before it's too late". He said it was encouraging to see people uniting against those who wanted to deny children their childhood.

Matron Lorraine Masinda of Pholosong Hospital said not even six months' old babies were safe from child abusers. "What sort of nation are we going to become 10 years from now? Abused children can't even sleep. They suffer from hallucinations. Why are we so silent?"

The thread running through the messages delivered at the seminar was for a continuous campaign against child abuse. This probably shows that the entire community of Tsakane, except abusers themselves, believe no stone should be left unturned to end the scandal that's tearing the nation apart.

Sowetan 4/08/95

(298)



Child abuse is a crime that society needs to rid itself of.

(298)
**Western
Cape pilots
new school
food projects**

WM 4-10/8/95

Pat Sidley

IT'S not all bleak on the school-feeding front. Western Cape experts have piloted several projects they hope will nourish children, involve communities and assist the families of schoolchildren in nutrition education.

The type of meal the province has settled for consists of a mealie-meal porridge with a sandwich and a soya-based flavoured milk, said David Sanders, professor of public health at the University of the Western Cape and chairman of the province's school feeding scheme.

It provides 33 percent of the children's daily energy requirements and more than 50 percent of their micronutrient needs (vitamins and minerals). And it's hot. It's prepared by mothers and other women attached to the schools and kept warm over night in a "wonder box"-like contraption, requiring no extra energy expenditure.

There are about 1 000 primary schools in the Western Cape.

Questionnaires are being sent out to all schools so that the feeding scheme planners know who is at the school, which PTAs (Parent Teacher Associations) want to be involved in school feeding and how they would like to be involved. A database is being prepared from the information gathered.

The Western Cape's team, says Sanders, is also trying to educate slightly older children so that they can help monitor nutrition in their families and communities. The slightly older children (in standard four and five) are being taught how to weigh children, chart their progress on graphs, and then chart the growth of their younger siblings.

Some 345 000 children are being fed in the Western Cape. Over the past 30 years, before the RDP was put in place, about 345 000 children were fed by the Peninsula School Feeding scheme and other NGOs.

Concerned by the fact that small black businesses are not represented among contractors to the scheme, National Federation of African Chambers of Commerce (Nafcoc) has sent a deputation to the province to ask for a piece of the action. Negotiations are now underway.

WM 4-10/8/95

The R500-million allocation for 1995/96 is:

(298)

North-West	R35 360 413
North Cape	R6 727 932
Northern Province	R120 997 623
Eastern Cape	R113 882 360
Western Cape	R17 597 832
Free State	R25 830 004
KwaZulu Natal	R103 498 904
Eastern Transvaal	R33 370 353
Gauteng	R27 734 579

R15-million was set aside for aspects such as parasite control (de-worming).

disappeared into thin air." People have boasted of making R28 000 in one week, he said, and contractors were "using the scheme to line their own pockets".

According to Kloka, however, corruption was not the only agent at work. There has been no effective evaluation of which children most needed the programme, so an attempt was made to feed all children — this was more than the budget allowed for.

Different provinces had used different methods of evaluating the needs of children, Kloka said.

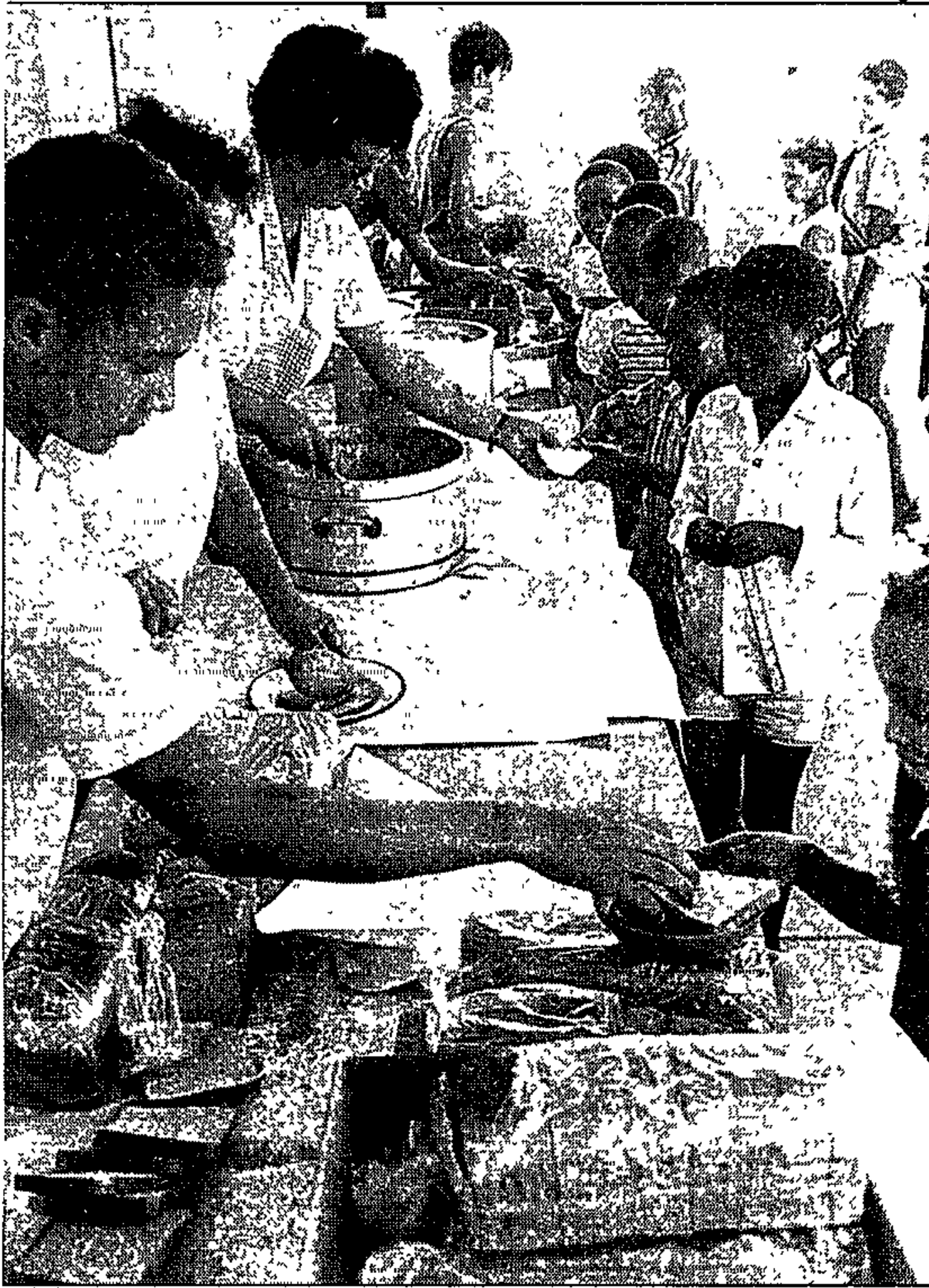
The amounts provinces had been allocated was arrived at by calculating how many people were below the bread-line and how far below it they were (called the "aggregate poverty gap method").

In addition, the Department of Education's database was not up to date and chronic understaffing made it difficult to monitor both how the programme was working and how the needs of children were being met.

Roy Page-Shipp, the RDP office's national programme manager, said the nutrition programme has some perceived defects including that it was not community-driven and some of its developmental aspects had not worked very well.

His office regarded the first year as "a learning experience". A new business plan from the Department of Health — which co-ordinates the national feeding programme — was expected to be handed to the RDP offices this week to set the programme back on track.

"It is part of the climate of the RDP that if you don't get it right the first time, you get a second chance." — Staff reporter, *Ecn-DNA*



Going hungry: Fraud puts paid to Eastern Cape schools' food scheme

another two provinces may have the same problem.

She said the government had ordered a "rapid audit" of randomly-selected provinces to assess the problem. The Eastern Cape and Western Cape were chosen.

They have confirmed widespread fraud in the Eastern Cape and ordered a thorough audit of the province, due to be completed soon.

Several Grahamstown primary schools, which have had no food since the beginning of the third term, have reported lower attendance rates. School staff surveyed this week reported that lack of nutrition threatened children's performance. Up to 50 percent of children did not bring lunch-boxes to school and depended

on schools for a major portion of their nutritional needs.

Eastern Cape Ministry of Health and Welfare spokesman Khulilekile Bata said: "The method of tendering out contracts used by the scheme left it open to large-scale robbery, swindling and fraud."

Some contractors inflated the numbers of schoolchildren needing feeding, and some food deliveries were not made, or food arrived stale.

Phumlani Ximiya, regional co-ordinator of the National Progressive Primary Health Care Network (NPPHC), a non-governmental organisation (NGO) helping to evaluate the programme, said: "There was a lack of accountability in the programme and vast amounts of money seem to have

Presidential school food scheme collapses in the Eastern Cape (298)

School feeding schemes in the Eastern Cape have collapsed due to fraud and mismanagement, report **Pat Sidley and Rod Amner**

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela's flagship presidential project, the school feeding scheme, has ground to a halt in the Eastern Cape. Fraud and incompetence has consumed the province's R114-million budget for the year in just four months.

All feeding in Eastern Cape schools has been suspended pending investigations and decisions on how to manage the problem. The Eastern Cape's allocation of R113 882 360 for this year was the second largest provincial feeding scheme allocation. Only the Northern Province received more: R120 997 623. The money was intended to last until April next year.

The collapse in the Eastern Cape has deprived some 1.9-million children of food at school.

But this is not the only trouble the national feeding scheme has faced. This year's R500-million budget, drawn from the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) Fund, was down 30 percent from last year. This means the number of children fed decreased from five million in some 13 000 schools to 3.3-million in some 8 900 schools. In some areas, the quality of food has also dropped.

The showpiece Primary School Nutrition Programme was a presidential lead project, one of the first "100-day" projects and a strong political drawcard for the African National Congress (ANC)-led government. This placed pressure on its planners to deliver in haste without any clear sense of what was required or how to go about it, said Dianne Kloka, the national co-ordinator of the programme.

The target was to provide 25 percent of children's daily energy requirements so they could get more from their education.

While the Eastern Cape situation is the most dire in the country, severe corruption was also discovered in the Eastern Transvaal and, said Kloka, there are indications that

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Protection for the protectors?

ARL 5/8/95

(298)

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

Staff Reporter

A TASK force which will investigate the controversial release of children from prisons to ill-equipped places of safety has been set up under the authority of regional Minister of Health Ibrahim Rasool.

The plight of childcare workers, who have protested against violent juveniles being sent to places of safety, is being given priority in the investigation.

Mr Rasool told Saturday Argus certain budget funds originally earmarked for increasing security at places of safety would now be spent on training staff.

"What we are saying is we

■ Grievances of childcare workers who have had to control gang fights and riots at places of safety are being given attention.

have to invest first in staff rather than invest in buildings and security," said Mr Rasool.

The children were moved to places of safety after the proclamation by President Nelson Mandela on May 4 that all unsentenced children be released from prison.

The release of the children has proved a headache for Western Cape authorities as many of these children have managed to escape from the places of safety.

Childcare workers have claimed they are expected to

control gang fights, riots and mutinies without the necessary protection, equipment or training.

The task force was also looking at remuneration, danger allowances and uniforms for staff, said Mr Rasool.

Mr Rasool said there would now be a "sifting" of the children.

Mr Rasool said the Department of Health was "starting to get our house in order" at the places of safety.

Allegations against childcare

workers of abuse and assault were being investigated, he said.

"We are now creating a culture where this can be freely talked about," said Mr Rasool.

Meanwhile Alan Jackson, director of Child Welfare, said attention should be given to building small places of safety to accommodate dangerous children.

"Childcare workers, working with dangerous children, have not received adequate remuneration, despite being expected to undertake this arduous task effectively," he added.

Children were being re-turned to their families without the necessary family support services, said Mr Jackson.

Greed puts paid to Mandela's school feeding project in the Eastern Cape

By ROD AMNER

Grahamstown - Extensive fraud and maladministration has caused the collapse of the primary school feeding programme - one of President Nelson Mandela's showpiece projects - in the Eastern Cape.

The annual budget of the province's R114-million programme has been consumed in just four months, depriving 1.9-million young children of food. The money was intended to last until April next year. All feeding has been suspended pending investigation.

RDP Minister Jay Naidoo said this week that an audit had "shown up fraud of R5-million in the feeding scheme in the Eastern Cape". Three school principals were under investigation for theft, Naidoo

said.

East Cape Ministry of Health and Welfare spokesman Khulekile Bata said: "The method of tendering out contracts used by the scheme left it open to large-scale robbery, swindling and fraud." Contractors had cooked up "inflated estimates" of the numbers of children at some schools and that some deliveries - to places like Tsitsikamma's rural areas - had not been made or food had arrived stale.

Needy children in 1 200 East Cape schools have not received food at school since the start of the third term two weeks ago - and will not be fed in the immediate future.

But corruption is not the only reason for the crisis. The Health Ministry's community liaison officer, Alan Levy, warned last month that by

feeding all schoolchildren was more than the budget would allow for. The programme had spent money on "the children of fairly well-off middle class families".

He said the implementation of the programme had been hampered by the previous government's failure to draw up statistics which identified the neediest areas.

Phumtani Ximiya, regional co-ordinator of the National Progressive Primary Health Care Network (NPPHC) - which has been contracted by the government to evaluate the programme - said: "There was a lack of accountability in the programme and vast amounts of money seem to have disappeared into thin air." He said some individuals had boasted of earning as much as R28 000 in one week, without doing any work. Some

people were "using the scheme to line their own pockets".

Ximiya said he wanted "the entire co-ordinating structure of the programme to be fired".

He said: "It is unfortunate that the poorest of the poor have been made to suffer, but the problems confronting the scheme are so great that it was necessary to suspend it. But according to Bata, the committee of co-ordinators responsible for the programme - drawn from the province's Education and Health and Welfare departments and the RDP Unit - declared Sanco's proposals "unworkable" and said it would be "impossible" to access more money for the scheme.

Bata said that a full investigation was being conducted by the central government's Ministries of Health

and Welfare and Education along with representatives from the RDP, the President's Office, the Auditor General and the police. A full report should be tabled next month.

NPPHC's Ximiya said that a key weakness of the scheme was that it was "imposed from the top and did nothing to transfer skills and build local economic capacity".

In response, Bata said the government was keen to overhaul the scheme and involve parent-teacher associations (PTAs) in the administration of the project.

"PTAs, along with community-based organisations at the local level know exactly who can be relied on to make and distribute the food - they also know the exact numbers of children in a school and nobody would give inflated numbers." - Eena

Star 5/8/95 (298)

Hungry for honesty in E Cape

(298) CP 6/8/95

EXTENSIVE fraud and maladministration has allegedly resulted in the collapse of an Eastern Cape primary school feeding programme, which was one of President Nelson Mandela's showpiece development projects.

The annual budget for the province's R114 million programme has been used up in just four months, depriving 1,9 million young children of food at school.

The money was intended to last until April next year.

All feeding has been suspended pending investigations into the mismanagement of the scheme.

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Three school principals were being investigated for theft, Naidoo said.

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ilies".

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Ximiya said he wanted "the entire co-ordinating structure of the programme to be fired."

The programme first came

under financial pressure in April when its budget was slashed from R138 million - allocated for a start-up period of six months - to R107 million for the current financial year.

With money running out fast, the Ministry of Health and Welfare last month proposed a number of changes to the programme. It suggested feeding take place only twice a week or that just Sub A and Sub B pupils be fed daily.

These proposals met with opposition from the South African National Civics Organisation and from businesses which had secured feeding contracts.

Meanwhile, an intensive investigation is being conducted by central government ministries for health and for welfare and education along with representatives from the RDP, the President's Office, the Auditor General and the police. - Ecna-DNA

Prior to the commencement of the final Industrial Court hearing on 25 March 1991 the parties entered into settlement discussions. The matter was eventually settled on the basis that:

- (a) The employee withdraw his claim in terms of section 46(9) of the Labour Relations Act for permanent re-instatement in his post;
 - (b) Eskom withdraw its review application in respect of the section 43 ruling;
 - (c) He retain all benefits which he received from Eskom during this temporary re-instatement;
 - (d) He obtain a letter of recommendation from two Eskom managers, Messrs Webb and Britten, and
 - (e) The settlement constitutes a final settlement of all his claims against Eskom.
- During all the relevant times, he was represented by an attorney.

Audits of all Eskom's assets

379. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

- (1) Whether Eskom conducts audits of all assets owned by the corporation; if so, (a) how often and (b) by whom are such audits conducted;
- (2) whether these audits have shown any losses; if so, what was the extent of the loss (a) in respect of each audit conducted in each year from 1984 up to the latest specified year for which information is available and (b) in total during this period;
- (3) whether any investigations have been conducted into missing stock during this

period; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many, (b) who conducted the investigations in each case and (c) what were the findings of these investigations in each case;

- (4) whether any disciplinary action has been taken against any persons in connection with missing stock during this period; if not, why not; if so, what action in each case;
- (5) whether any cases of theft of stock were reported to Eskom by employees during this period; if so, (a) how many, (b) what was the total value of thefts so reported and (c) what action was taken as a result in each case?

N779E

THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

- (1) (a) and (b) Eskom conducts audits of all its assets. For the last five years the following audit timetable was followed.

	Assets	Stores	Cash	Total
1990	24	28	24	76
1991	28	28	28	84
1992	15	12	18	45
1993	19	19	15	53
1994	20	20	12	52
	106	107	97	310

The audits are conducted by Internal Corporate Audit and the External Auditors viz. KPMG Aitken and Peat and Deloitte & Touche.

- (2) The undermentioned table highlights the number and value of major investigations conducted internal on Eskom's staff and against external persons:

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Number of Fraud & Theft incidents investigated by Confidential Investigations	67	60	72	79	109
Value of Fraud & Theft incidents investigated by Confidential Investigations	R1 686 025	R1 709 280	R10 698 620	R25 987 795	R10 756 623

The organisation maintains records in respect of irregularities for five years and only in exceptional circumstances are older records maintained. This is per the retention of records as outlined by the Companies Act.

As stated above the threats against the organisation could be from external, internal or a collusion of the two. In all cases, confidentiality and anonymity of persons reporting the cases is maintained. The details of persons are never divulged. Cases are not differentiated by the source of information.

- (3) Yes. A total amount of 310. Suspected losses and irregularities of a serious nature are reported to the Confidential Investigations Department for further investigation. The less serious issues are reported to the Protective Services Department for further investigation.

Threats against the organisation are also reported from employees or external persons. All investigations are logged, investigated and feedback given to Management whose responsibility it is to take appropriate action. It is Eskom's policy to refer all irregularities of a criminal nature to the relevant authorities.

The audits highlight shortcomings in controls which could lead to possible financial loss to the organisation. The shortcomings are reported to Management who take corrective measures. Shortcomings not corrected are reported to the Management Board and to the Audit and Financial Committee of the Electricity Council.

- (4) The following disciplinary action cases were decided:

Actions	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Suspended	15	8	10	12	15	12	2
Dismissed	10	12	18	22	27	44	12
Demoted	3	2	10	2		1	1
Resigned	9	7	8	11	4	5	1
Warned	21	22	34	38	64	17	31

Management are on an ongoing basis endeavouring to improve the control systems. An environment of control is being established by virtue of the conduct of the directors.

- (5) Please refer to (2) above. **(298)**

Children detained in places of safety

383. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development:

- (1) (a) How many children (i) are currently being detained in places of safety and (ii) were detained in such places of safety prior to 4 May 1995 and (b) what is the maximum number of children that can currently be accommodated in places of safety;
- (2) whether his Department has determined whether existing facilities are adequate; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether these facilities have been found to be adequate; if so, what are the relevant details, if not,
- (4) whether it is the intention to (a) build any new facilities, and/or (b) make existing facilities available as places of safety; if not, why not, if so, in each case, (i) when, (ii) how many at (iii) how many children will such facilities be able to accommodate?

Hansard 8/8/95 N783E
THE MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

- (1) (a) (i) 2 200 and (ii) 2 122 and
- (b) 2 572;
- (2) yes,
- (3) no,
- (4) (a) yes, according to the provinces specific needs and
- (b) yes, according to the needs as identified by the various provinces—

- (i) when funds are available,
- (ii) the number is unknown at present and
- (iii) the number is unknown at present.

Children escaping from places of safety

384. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development:

Anglo American Farms Ltd	7,4	Langeberg Foods Ltd	46,2
Kynoch Fertilizer Ltd	7,3	Unifuco	27,6
Sea Harvest Corporation Ltd	7,2	Columbus Stainless	22,6
Aeci Ltd	6,3	Mondi Paper Company Ltd	22,2
Consam Engineering (Pty) Ltd	6,3	Ngodwana Mill Ltd	19,3
Appletiser SA (Pty) Ltd	6,1	Naschem—A Division of Denel (Pty) Ltd	19,2
Hulett Aluminium Rolled Products (Pty) Ltd	5,9	Sanchem (Pty) Ltd	18,4
Sanchem (Pty) Ltd	5,9	Amalgamated Beverage Canneries (Pty) Ltd	17,2
<i>Period 1 April 1993 to 31 March 1994</i>			
<i>R (million)</i>		Highveld Steel and Vanadium Corporation (Pty) Ltd	17,0
Iscor Ltd	164,0	Ashton Canning Company (Pty) Ltd	16,1
Trencor Services (Pty) Ltd	76,3	Sappi Manufacturing (Pty) Ltd	15,8
Denel (Pty) Ltd	58,1	Indian Ocean Fertilizer (Pty) Ltd	15,0
Unifuco	57,4	Grinaker Electronics Ltd	12,4
Mondi Paper Company Ltd	45,4	Klein Karoo Co-operative Ltd	11,5
Langeberg Foods Ltd	44,3	Sea Harvest Corporation Ltd	11,2
Highveld Steel and Vanadium Corporation (Pty) Ltd	27,8	Bell Equipment Co SA (Pty) Ltd	9,8
Scaw Metals Ltd	23,0	Sasol Oil (Pty) Ltd	9,8
SA Preserving Co (Pty) Ltd	22,9	Kentron—A Division of Denel (Pty) Ltd	8,8
The South African Breweries Ltd	22,4	Somchem—A Division of Denel (Pty) Ltd	8,3
Klein Karoo Co-operative Ltd	13,9	The South African Breweries Ltd	8,3
Telkor (Pty) Ltd	13,4	Hulett Aluminium Rolled Products (Pty) Ltd	8,0
Techserve CC	10,0	IPX International (Pty) Ltd	8,0
Siemens Ltd	10,7	Cape Gate (Pty) Ltd	7,4
Foskor Ltd	10,5	Haggie Rand Ltd	7,0
Beacon Sweets and Chocolates (Pty) Ltd	9,8	Welfit Oddo (Pty) Ltd	6,9
Distor Yacht Exports	9,8		
Kooperatieve Wijnbouwers Vereniging (K.W.V.)	9,4	(3) Yes	
Nampak Products Ltd	9,1	(4) Yes. Benefit levels under the revised GEIS are being scaled down systematically, particulars of which have been published and circulated to all registered active GEIS claimants during September 1994. The Scheme terminates on 31 December 1997.	
Bell Equipment Co SA (Pty) Ltd	7,6		
Ashton Canning Company (Pty) Ltd	6,6		
Naschem—A Division of Denel (Pty) Ltd	6,6		
Moxwood (Pty) Ltd	6,2		
Sasol Chemical Industries (Pty) Ltd	6,1		
Tosa Exports—Division of Dordyl Ltd	5,7		
Hulett Aluminium Rolled Products (Pty) Ltd	5,5		
Sulzer South Africa (Pty) Ltd	5,5		
Bateman Project Holdings Ltd	5,1		
Lenings Manganees (Pty) Ltd	5,0		
Rex Trueform Clothing Ltd	5,0		
<i>Period 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995</i>			
<i>R (million)</i>			
Iscor Ltd	120,6		
Sappi Saiccor (Pty) Ltd	56,2		
Trencor Services (Pty) Ltd	46,2		

(a) How many houses were built with the aid of State funds in the (i) 1992-93, (ii) 1993-94 and (iii) 1994-95 financial years, (b) what was the total amount of such State aid in each of these financial years and (c) how many of these houses were built in the metropolitan area of (i) Cape Town, (ii) Port Elizabeth, (iii) Durban, (iv) Johannesburg and (v) Pretoria?

N769E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING:

(a) and (b)

Year	Units	Even	Funds expended R million
1992/93	20 677	84 063	1 168
1993/94	20 069	103 169	2 197
1994/95	10 736	±70 000	1 428

The above-mentioned funds include expenditure in respect of the First-Time Home Buyers Subsidy Scheme, Home-Owners Saving Scheme and Relief Measures for Mortgagees.

(c) (i) 3 174.

(ii) 968.

(iii) 3 486.

(iv) 2 162.

(v) 1 731.

Certain person employed by Eskom

376. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister for Public Enterprises.

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to her Department for the purpose of her reply, was previously employed by Eskom; if so, (a) when did this person join Eskom and (b) in what capacity was the said person employed;

(2) whether this person's employment was terminated; if so, (a) when and (b) what were the circumstances surrounding the termination of this person's employment;

(3) whether an Industrial Court hearing was held on the question of whether this person had been unfairly dismissed; if so, what was the outcome of the (a) first and (b) final hearing?

N776E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(1) (a) and (b) He was employed by Eskom. He was appointed as a technician on 10 September 1975; he became Engineer on 1 August 1976 and he became Senior Engineer on 1 October 1982.

(2) (a) and (b) Yes, his employment was terminated on 14 May 1990.

Certain management short-comings were

identified regarding the employee and, although attempts were made by his Manager to improve his management style, this proved to be unsuccessful. It was then decided, during January 1990, to transfer him to another post on the same level (with the same benefits) where he could utilise his technical skills but would have limited, if any, managerial responsibilities. He initially accepted this transfer but a few days later he was dissatisfied therewith and he employed an attorney to advise him. Eskom met with his attorney to discuss the matter in an attempt to resolve it.

It was agreed that he could return to his previous position provided that he undergo a performance enhancement exercise to improve his managerial short-comings. Certain alternatives were also discussed.

Numerous attempts by Eskom to obtain a final response regarding his future from either himself or his attorney proved to be fruitless. During this time it had become impossible to manage him. On 11 May 1990 he was given an ultimatum to indicate which option he wanted to choose by 14 May 1990. On the last-mentioned date he met with his manager but refused to discuss the matter. However, he made it clear that he would not accept either of the two posts in question. His manager indicated that by refusing to do so he was repudiating his employment contract. He agreed that that was indeed the case. His manager accepted the repudiation and his employment was terminated.

(3) (a) and (b) On 7 September 1990 the Industrial Court considered an application by the employee in terms of section 43 of the Labour Relations Act for his reinstatement. He was temporarily reinstated on 20 September 1990, pending the final resolution of the dispute in terms of section 46(9) of the Labour Relations Act. Eskom initiated review proceedings in the Supreme Court with a view to overturning the section 43 ruling on the basis that the presiding officer erred in his application of the Labour Relations Act in a number of respects. The employee was cited as second respondent, the first respondent being the presiding officer. He opposed the review application.

It's 'caning' on caning' at Khayelitsha school

Parents have given us a mandate, says principal

SABATA NGCAI
Staff Reporter

MASIYILE Secondary school in Khayelitsha will continue "to punish children and cane them if necessary", in spite of the circular to schools from the Department of Education suspending all forms of corporal punishment, says the school principal.

Principal Nozipho Ngele said the teachers "will continue to follow and abide" by the mandate given to them by the parents — "to punish and cane if necessary" — until the parents advise them otherwise.

"I won't say whether we are still caning the children or not, but I say we will continue with the mandate given to us

by the parents to punish the children," Mrs Ngele said.

"The people will decide because we are dealing with their children," she said. "The people shall govern and they will tell us what to do."

Education Department spokesman Orland Firmani warned that those who transgressed the suspension were "running a risk of prosecution".

He said the suspension was instituted to protect teachers and principals against possible prosecution.

Dr Firmani said the parents and children had the right to report any transgression to the police and the police would investigate the matter.

Mrs Ngele said caning was a "common form" of punish-

ment practised throughout the world.

Caning was "a culture of black children".

Mrs Ngele said the parents' decision was reviewed every year. Now that the circular had been distributed, the school would bring it to the attention of parents, who could make a decision.

A Parent-Teacher-Student Association meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, and the matter will be discussed further at a parents' general meeting on Sunday.

Mrs Ngele emphasised that the school would abide by whatever decision the parents took at the meeting.

● Masiyile Secondary School's choir is at present on a tour of Japan.

Bursary named after late MP

Staff Reporter

A BURSARY has been launched in memory of Feroza Adams, 34, the youngest parliamentarian in the government of national unity, who died in a car crash last year.

The scholarship will go to a disadvantaged woman student of exceptional ability to study at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Contributions to the Friends of Feroza Adams Fund can be sent to Cheadle Thompson and Haysom, Box 308894, Braamfontein 2017. Cheques must be made payable to Cheadle Thompson and Haysom (in trust for Adams).

Another scheme collapses

(298)
Sowetan
10/8/95

Northern Province hit by massive fraud and misappropriation

By Khathu Mamalla

NORTHERN PROVINCE is the latest region where feeding schemes for primary school pupils have collapsed.

Sowetan has found that many schools in the former homelands of Venda and Gazankulu have not benefited from the scheme for more than three months.

This coincides with revelations by Minister for Welfare and Population Development Mr Abe Williams that funds intended for welfare projects have been stolen. He said more than R15-million had been misappropriated in the past three years.

Huge losses

Eastern Transvaal is said to have suffered the greatest loss of more than R4-million. More than R2-million was stolen in the Northern Province.

Minister Without Portfolio Mr Jay Naidoo revealed last week that the school-feeding scheme had been defrauded of R5-million in the Eastern Cape.

Earlier this week, Northern

Province premier Mr Ngoako Ramatlhodi conceded there were problems regarding the scheme.

"The province received R130-million last year for the feeding scheme but there was no further injection of funds," he said.

He said that in some schools feeding had been reduced to three times a week.

The principal of Tshififi Primary School, Mr Mukondeleli Rampfumedzi, said feeding at his school, which started in November last year, stopped in April. He said 10 pupils had to share a loaf of bread as only 73c was available to be spent on each child.

A primary school teacher in Mukula village near Thohoyandou said the feeding scheme had collapsed totally in the area.

In Giyani, principal of Sukani Primary School Mr Joel Nwankoti said feeding had stopped before the winter school holidays.

Mrs Maria Mamabolo, a teacher at Dorothy Langa Primary School in Seshego, also said feeding had stopped at the school several weeks before they closed for the holidays.



YOUNG PROTESTERS: These two children joined hundreds of adults who marched on Parliament yesterday to focus attention on child abuse. A petition was handed to Minister of Welfare and Population Development Mr Abe Williams.

PICTURE: ANNE LAING

Marchers protest at child abuse

(298) CT 11/8/95

ABOUT 200 protesters marched on Parliament yesterday in a one-day campaign to focus on the rocketing incidence of reported child abuse which they say has more than doubled in the past year.

A memorandum from 33 national social and child welfare organisations handed to Health and Welfare Minister Mr Abe Williams said the increase in child abuse was "appalling". It slammed the cutbacks in government subsidies to welfare organisations and the child protection unit.

Last year the police child protection unit alone dealt with 23 664 cases of child abuse, it said.

No services

The campaign, directed also at the nine provincial governments, was organised by the National Working Group on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Protection against Neglect.

Director of Child Welfare Mr Alan Jackson said children made up 50% of society, but only 16% of funding was spent on families and children.

"The cases reported are just the tip of the iceberg and do not reflect what is really happening. There are virtually no services in the rural areas," he said.

The national chairwoman of the Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Ms Rose September, said incest in some areas was "beyond control". — Staff Reporter, Sapa

Angry demonstrators hand memo to minister

'Appalling' rise in child abuse

Cape Town — Reported child abuse cases had more than doubled in the four years between 1990 and 1994, which was "appalling", a memorandum from 33 national social and child welfare organisations handed to Welfare Minister Abe Williams yesterday said.

In 1994 the SAPS Child Protection Unit alone dealt with 23 664 cases of child abuse, an increase of 103,4% since 1990, it said.

Yesterday marked a one-day national campaign to focus attention on the crisis in services for abused and neglected children and culminated in the memorandum being handed over to Williams in his office.

The campaign, also directed at the nine provincial legislatures, was organised by the National Working Group on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Protection against Neglect.

It embraces the staff and



Abe Williams . . . I'm doing my best.

members of a wide variety of departments, bodies and private organisations concerned with all aspects of child welfare.

During 1993/94, officially reported child rape cases rose by 62,7%, common assault by 72,9%, offences under the Child Care

Act such as child neglect and abandonment by 73% and attempted murder by 82,2%.

"It is well known that only a very small percentage of crimes against children is reported," the memorandum added.

Existing services were fragmented and underresourced, while subsidies continued to be cut and staff retrenched.

Williams, who was heckled by some demonstrators, said. "I don't need to be abused. I'm on your side."

"I'm doing my best to assist you in the workplace and on the issue of child abuse."

The Welfare Ministry had taken the lead in the effort to combat child abuse, he said. This was greeted with "Why the cutbacks?" from the crowd.

National Working Group chairman Rosie September stressed the need for more resources and manpower, but Wil-

iams replied: "I can only work within my budget."

Child abuse and neglect were not only a welfare problem, September said. The Government and those with power needed to respond.

Williams said in a statement his department was developing a national child protection plan, including national and local minimum standards for child treatment. A central database on child abuse and neglect, and a national register for victims and offenders was being established.

The department was also preparing a national plan of action for children to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and new legislation for children was envisaged.

The group also handed over memorandums to Western Cape Premier Hernus Kriel and the MECs for health and welfare and for safety and security. — Sapa.

Star 11/8/95

(298)

Bisho to take feeding crisis

grievances to government

(298)

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — The Bisho government, under fire for poor handling of a school feeding programme, plans to take up its grievances with the national government.

The Eastern Cape's director-general, Thozamile Botha, announced yesterday that he had arranged for a meeting on August 21, adding that provinces felt aggrieved at having to endure criticism for failing to implement policies passed haphazardly by the government.

His statement followed his startling admission that Bisho had failed to prepare properly for the implementation of the ill-fated feeding scheme.

The admission came amid reports that the provincial R107 million Primary Schools Nutrition Programme (PSNP) — which has been temporarily suspended — had been defrauded of between R2,34 million and R5 million.

Mr Botha said yesterday that provinces, and the Eastern Cape in particular, were being criticised for mistakes they were "not really responsible for".

He said: "The problem faced by provinces is directly related to the manner in which policy is introduced by the national government.

"They introduce a policy today for implementation tomorrow without adequate provision for an enabling process to facilitate implementation

"Yet, when things do not work out as envisaged, an impression is created that provinces are not planning properly," he said.

Mr Botha gave two examples: the feeding scheme and recent legislation outlawing the detention of juvenile offenders in jail for longer than 24 hours.

He said: "Thousands of juveniles were released from jail by the national government recently without so much as a warning or proper provision for the establishment of the alternative accommo-

APR 12/8/95
■ Eastern Cape director-general Thozamile Botha has lashed out at the government for introducing policies impossible to implement, then accusing provincial governments of bad planning and corruption.

dation recommended for juveniles.

"Now, in our region, we are faced with a situation where the places of safety used to keep the juveniles are overcrowded.

"Our police, who are required by law not to keep the juveniles in jail for longer than 24 hours, are battling because we do not have enough of these homes, or the funds to build more," Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha's statement yesterday coincided with a call from President Nelson Mandela for an extensive audit of feeding schemes throughout the country.

A government spokesman said Mr Mandela would "quite soon" ask for audits of all presidential programmes, including the Eastern Cape feeding scheme, which has been plagued by fund shortages and allegations of corruption and mismanagement.

The PSNP national directorate said the number of children benefiting from the scheme had dropped from 5,4 million early this year to 3,1 million.

The figures were confirmed by the programme's national co-ordinator, Dianne Kloka.

The lack of funds at the end of the last school term causing the collapse of the Eastern Cape scheme had resulted in 1,9 million of the children not getting food, she said.

Mrs Kloka said that while the Eastern Cape was the only province where the project had halted, cutbacks in funding from the RDP office were hampering progress in all provinces.

She said the RDP office had allocated R472 million for the scheme between last September and March this year and R500 million for the entire 1995/96 financial year.

"This obviously means we can't continue feeding children on the same scale," she said.

She said there was also a concern that fraud uncovered during a rapid audit in the Eastern Cape "might be going on in other provinces" and had not yet been detected.

An investigation into the Eastern Cape feeding scheme involving external auditors, the national reconstruction and development programme office and the police commercial crime unit was under way, she said.

Investigators are expected to hand a full report to the government soon.

Haggling holding back the truth commission

It is likely President Mandela will take into account the positions of various lobby groups on the appointment of commissioners to the truth commission, writes **BRONWYN WILKINSON**

While the process to set up the truth commission overcame a major obstacle this week with a pledge of support to President Mandela from former security chiefs, it is now being held back by haggling over the appointment of the commissioners.

Although the legislation gives the final decision on an appointment process to Mandela and the Cabinet, several lobby groups have voiced their positions on the matter and it is likely Mandela will take these into consideration before he announces a decision in the next couple of weeks.

Sue de Villiers, a spokesman

for Minister of Justice Dullah Omar, told the *Saturday Star* that the commission was to be set up by October, but that the infrastructure would not be fully in place by then.

Once the commissioners had been appointed, she said, they needed to find offices and employ staff.

Consensus

On the issue of decentralisation of the commission, De Villiers said consensus had finally been reached that the commissioners would have to travel to reach the people instead of the other way around.

Graeme Simpson, a spokesman for a coalition of non-governmental lobby groups, said the haggling over the commission's appointment process had been intense, but the decision was now up to Mandela and the Cabinet.

Mandela this week met former security chiefs who, after

being assured there would be no witch-hunt, gave their support to the commission and pledged their co-operation.

Retired police commissioners Mike Geldenhuys, Hennie de Witt, Johan Coetzee and Johan van der Merwe, and former South African Defence Force chiefs Jannie Geldenhuys and Constand Viljoen, met Mandela and Omar in Pretoria this week and requested equal treatment for politicians and security personnel before the commission.

The meeting was also attended by Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi and Defence Minister Joe Modise.

Mandela assured the generals that the commission would be handled fairly, but he rejected a call from the generals for a moratorium on criminal cases pending against soldiers and police.

He said everybody, including former security personnel, was welcome to apply for amnesty.

E Cape takes up school feeding scandal with Govt, slams 'haphazard policies'

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Port Elizabeth — The Eastern Cape government, which in the past week has come under strong public and official criticism for its poor handling of its multimillion-rand school feeding fund, is planning to take the matter up with the national Government on August 21.

Provincial director-general Thozamile Botha yesterday said provinces felt aggrieved at having to endure criticism for failing to implement policies passed haphazardly by the national Government.

Botha's statement on discussions with the Government followed his startling admission on Wednesday that Bisho had, indeed, failed to prepare properly for the implementation of the ill-fated feeding scheme. The admission came amid reports that the provincial R107-million pri-

mary schools nutrition programme (PSNP) — which has been temporarily suspended — had been defrauded of amounts estimated at between R2,34-million and R5-million.

An investigation involving external auditors, the national RDP office and the police Commercial Crime Unit had been launched and was expected to report to the Government soon.

Criticised

Botha's statement also coincided with a call from President Nelson Mandela for an extensive audit of the PSNP throughout the country.

Botha said yesterday that provinces, and Eastern Cape in particular, were being criticised for issues that they were "not really responsible for".

"The problem faced by provinces is directly related to the manner in which policy is intro-

duced by the Government. They introduce a policy today for implementation tomorrow, doing so without adequate provision for an enabling process to facilitate implementation. Yet, when things do not work out as envisaged, an impression is created that provinces are not planning properly."

Presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana said in Pretoria that Mandela would "quite soon" ask for audits of all presidential schemes, including the feeding scheme, which has been plagued by fund shortages and allegations of corruption and mismanagement. The call came amid reports by the PSNP's national directorate that the number of children benefiting from the scheme had dropped from 5,4-million early this year to 3,1-million. The figures were confirmed by PSNP national coordinator Dianne Kloka.

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Soweto child unit barely coping with heavy load

By ABBEY MAKOE

Star 12/8/95

(298)

The Soweto Child Protection Unit is grappling with a gross shortage of staff and the ability of the few officers to move from one section of the community to the other is being hampered by a lack of transport, the *Saturday Star* has found.

The unit, which is supposed to investigate cases across the whole of Soweto, is staffed by only 14 officers, mostly women, sharing four State vehicles.

The fifth vehicle, a minibus, was recently involved in an ac-

cident and has just come back from the garage. It is usually shared by at least five officers on different errands at the same time, officers said.

The offices of the unit, which lies behind the Jabulani police station, are old and walls have begun to crack.

Morale among unit members is low and female officers expressed anger that they were sharing toilets with their male colleagues.

A senior officer, who asked not to be named, told the *Saturday Star* this week "We

have been asking for more vehicles and more staff, but to no avail. We cannot do follow-ups on cases because of either a lack of manpower or transport.

"In most cases we cannot attend to complaints in time. And if we do, we are always late," she said, adding, "Child abusers are doing well in Soweto."

The head of the unit, Lieutenant Alfred Virtue, when asked how he managed to attend to more than 3-million residents with only 14 officers, said, "We try to do everything possible. The officers have a positive atti-

tude and don't mind putting in an extra effort." Pressed to explain how they coped, he confessed, "We barely manage."

The record of success for the first five months of the year at the unit did not look good. In January there were 108 cases opened and 44 arrests made.

In February, 95 cases were opened and only 16 arrests made. In March there were 123 cases and 31 arrests made. In April, 89 cases were opened and 27 arrests made. In May, 100 cases were opened and only 28 arrests made.

Arrests ordered in feeding scam

Star 12/8/95 (298)
Alice - President Nelson Mandela has called the defrauding of the Eastern Cape school feeding scheme "scandalous" and ordered the arrest of all involved in the R5-million scam.

Speaking in Alice yesterday, Mandela said it was scandalous for anyone to deprive children of the opportunity of being fed. He said he had ordered the police to work 24 hours a day to bring the culprits to book.

Mandela said he had ordered Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg and Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo to make resources available so feeding was

not suspended indefinitely.

The Eastern Cape government suspended the feeding scheme at the start of the third school term following allegations of widespread fraud and corruption. Naidoo recently revealed that a routine audit of projects undertaken by the RDP office had uncovered the fraud.

The audit had been commissioned by the RDP office and the Department of Health after problems were picked up through the feeding scheme's monitoring process. - Ecn

SEE PAGE 5

Nothing on the plate

(298) CP 13/8/95
of children were likely to resume soon.

THE PRESIDENT'S pride – the provincial school feeding schemes to which R500 million was allotted for the 1995/96 financial year – is becoming one of his biggest headaches.

While a furious President Nelson Mandela ordered a police crackdown this weekend on a "scandalous" scam that allegedly robbed the collapsed Eastern Cape school feeding scheme of R5 million, a new storm has broken over allegations that the Northern Province school feeding scheme – the country's largest – is also on the verge of collapse.

Failure

■ Meanwhile, the Free State health department yesterday denied a claim made on Friday by provincial speaker Motlalepule Chabaku that the province's school feeding scheme had to be suspended to meet pay demands by nurses, teachers and police.

Dr Craig Househam, head of the Free State department of health and welfare, said the feeding scheme was well off the ground and no funds had been suspended.

■ The Northern Province government – which received a school feeding budget of R120,9 million – was sharply criticised and accused of misappropriation and fraud on Fri-

Alarm bells are sounding as feeding scheme theft spreads

day following allegations that its school feeding scheme was on the verge of collapse.

Schools in the former homelands of Gazankulu, Venda and Lebowa have not benefited from the scheme for more than three months, according to principals and teachers.

The scheme was criticised from the start – when money allocated to the national nutrition and social development programme was used to get it off the ground.

Every school had to estimate the number of children who were to benefit, whereafter schools received 25 per cent of the money allocated to start the project.

At one school, this money was allegedly used to buy steaks – while children were fed sugar drinks and dry bread at another school, said a senior local government official who wished to remain anonymous.

In some schools, this money was spent within weeks, he added.

Food contractors allegedly refused to provide food at some schools because they had not been paid for months.

"Premier Ngoako Ramathlodi owes an explanation with regard to the allegations of massive fraud, maladministration and misappropriation," National Party provincial leader André Fourie said on Friday.

He accused the ANC of announcing "grandiose schemes" while lacking infrastructure and proper control. The ANC could not hide behind apartheid from these allegations, he said.

■ Free State speaker Motlalepule Chabaku said on Friday the province's feeding scheme had ended when provincial money had to be diverted from its R25,8 million budget to meet pay demands.

Premier Patrick Lekota acknowledged funds for the feeding scheme had dried up – but said money had been obtained from other sources and daily meals for thousands

■ The Eastern Cape school feeding scheme budget of R113,8 million ran out within four months of the new financial year – at the start of the third school term – amid allegations of widespread corruption and incompetence.

Minister Without Portfolio Jay Naidoo recently revealed that a routine audit of projects undertaken by the RDP Office had uncovered fraud of R5 million.

■ Mandela on Friday condemned the alleged defrauding of the Eastern Cape school feeding scheme as "scandalous" – and ordered the arrest of all those involved in the R5 million scam.

Scandalous

He said it was scandalous for anyone to deprive children of the opportunity of being fed.

He said he had ordered the police to work 24 hours a day "to solve the problem and bring the culprits to book".

Mandela said he had ordered Finance Minister Chris Liebenberg and Naidoo to ensure the feeding of children was not suspended indefinitely.

The ministers were to make sure there were enough resources for the scheme to continue. – Sapa and Ecna

Abee gets in a huff

(298)

CP 13/8/95

Minister faces fury over cut in childcare budget

By RAFIQ ROHAN

A SMILING Abe Williams strutted forward to greet a group of protesting child care workers outside Parliament on Thursday morning - but stormed off to his office after getting an angry reception.

"I changed my schedule to be with you today. I at least expect you to be polite," the now furious minister of welfare and population development said before turning his back on the protesters, who were angry because of ministry cutbacks in the childcare budget.

"Run back inside and get onto your gravy train!" one of the protesters shouted.

protection units are better equipped to undertake proper investigations;

- Speeding up proceedings of the criminal justice system so that all cases of child abuse and neglect receive priority;
- Establishing safe houses for children in all communities;
- Developing therapy programmes for child abusers; and
- Making funds available to speed up the development of a National Programme of Action for Children.

In a press release Williams said his department was developing a National Child Protection Plan. "The Department is preparing a National Plan of Action for Children in South Africa to implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, while new comprehensive legislation for children is envisaged," he said.

One poster read: "Stop your overseas joyrides and attend to your work." As Williams stormed off, September quipped: "That's the response we get from someone on our side."

The National Coalition has proposed a twenty-point "emergency steps" programme, which was presented to the Welfare Ministry.

- Stopping all cutbacks and increasing the number of social welfare staff;
- Setting up national and local minimum standards for treatment of abused and neglected children;
- Making a 24-hour child protection service available and accessible to all abused and neglected children;
- Ensuring that child

She asked Williams to explain how it was that crimes against children had increased by 103 percent, yet crimes against adults had been reduced by 34 percent. "He was heckled as he answered: 'If there's someone on your side, it's me... but I need not be



EXPECTED POLITE PROTEST . . . Welfare and population development minister Abe Williams says he is on the same side as those opposing a smaller childcare budget.

Call for probe into feeding scheme

(298)

THE South African Democratic Teachers' Union has called on the government to launch an urgent commission of inquiry into the allegations of the misappropriation of funds earmarked for the school feeding scheme.

The feeding scheme in the Eastern Cape has been suspended pending investigations into the disappearance of R5 million, depriving 1.9 million children of food.

— Staff Reporter

CT 14/8/95

Some dreams come true

Street kids return home

■ BY MANDLA MTHEMBU

Many street children seem to have no hope, but deep-down most of them have a dream — to be reunited with their families.

Ntombenhle Chomela (18) of Transkei and Thandi Mdima (15) of Durban could not hide their excitement when they heard that they would soon return to their homes after spending a year sleeping at Johannesburg's Park Station.

The Youth Against Human Abuse (Yaha) organisation has stepped in to help them.

"I have been longing for home," said Ntombenhle who came to Johannesburg to search, in vain, for her mother. "I didn't have money to return home, so I was forced to stay."

Thandi came to Johannesburg to escape her stepfather. "He used to beat me up when I refused to sleep with him."

Yaha chairman Moses Sithole said the children would have resorted to prostitution or theft in order to make a living.

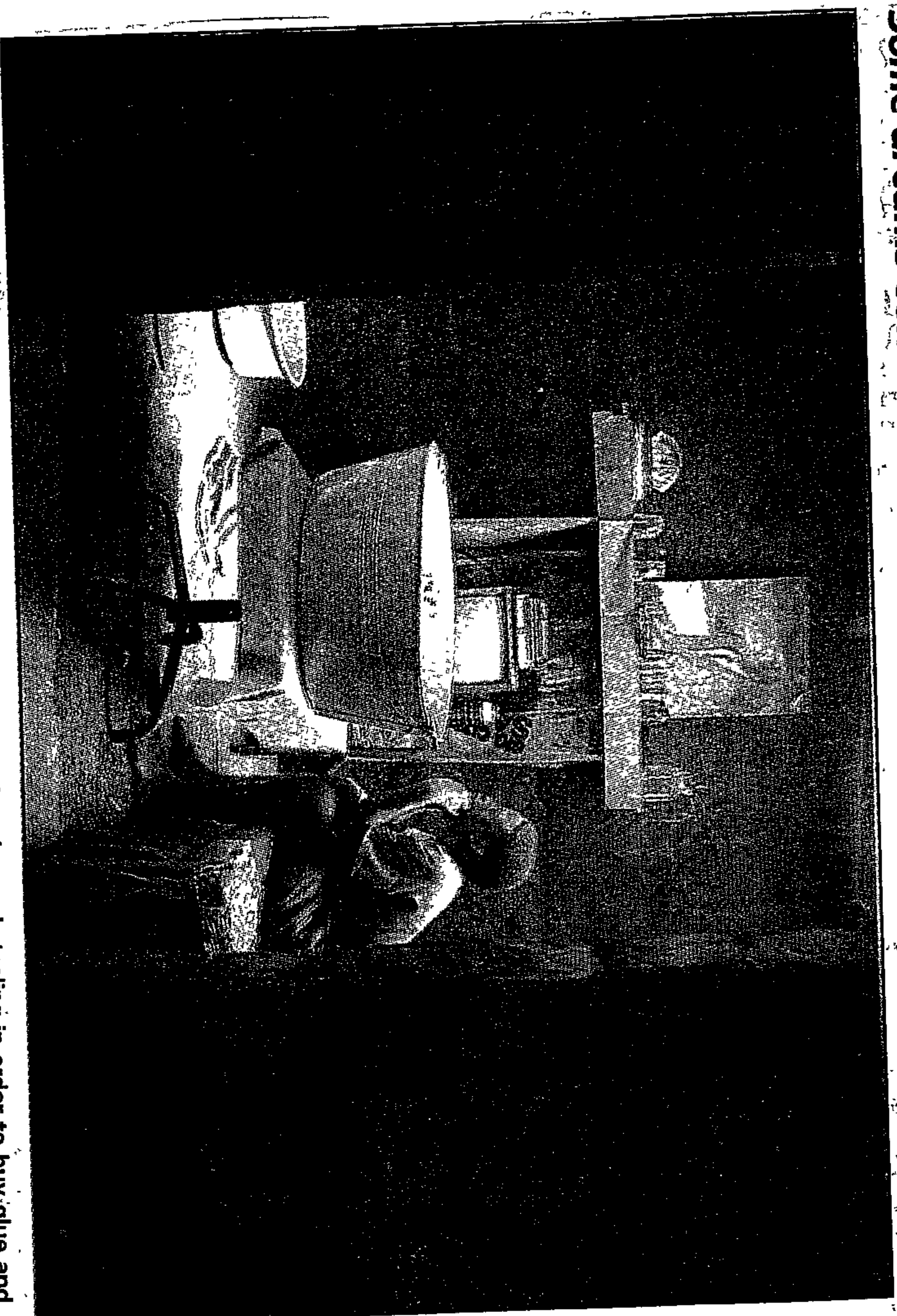
Yaha also helped Lucas Gidi (14), who spent about a year on the streets, to be reunited with his family in Soweto last week.

"If I continued staying on the streets I would have turned into an animal," Lucas said. "We survived by begging and stealing in order to buy glue and food."

(298) star 15/18/98

Back with his family . . . after about a year living on the streets, begging and stealing in order to buy glue and food, Lucas Gidi is happy to return to his home in a Soweto squatter camp.

PICTURE: JODI BIEBER



Model C land decision delayed

CT 16/8/95

CAROL CAMPBELL
AND PETER DENNEHY

MODEL C schools wanting to sell land to raise funds will not be given the go-ahead yet.

In a statement after a meeting between the Cape Town City Council and the provincial and national ministries of education yesterday, Minister of Education Professor Sibusiso Bengu said a decision would be taken once the recommendations of the Model C review committee had been considered.

He is expected to make the contents of the review committee's findings known on August 31.

Meanwhile, the city planning committee was told yesterday that Western Cape Premier Mr Hernus Kriel had granted Sea Point High School's application to sub-divide its property.

In June, the committee decided

that public comment be sought on the application.

In appealing to Mr Kriel, lawyers argued that the council had already exceeded the time prescribed for applications.

The council had been trying for some time to arrange a meeting with the minister about the rezoning of school land. The meeting took place yesterday.

Councillor Siviwe Matika said yesterday there were political and town planning objections to sales of school land.

Mr Balaraman Pather, co-chairman of the city planning committee, said he believed the money from sales of school land should go into a kitty to benefit all schools.

Mr John Muir said that by the time an application reached the town planning committee, the details were a "fait accompli" and usually had not been subject to public comment.

Schools aren't given stick for six of the best

(298)

STAFF REPORTER

CT 16/8/95

THE Western Cape education department appears to be turning a blind eye to schools that are ignoring its ban on caning — provided the schools are doing so with parents' blessing.

Parents, teachers and pupils at Masiyile Secondary School in Khayelitsha have slammed the department for its "unilateral" decision in banning canings and say the ruling is bound to encourage bad behaviour.

The department's decision follows a Constitutional Court ruling that corporal punishment is unconstitutional.

Education department spokesman Dr Orland Firmani said yesterday that any complaint from a pupil or parents about corporal punishment would be investigated.

"The action we take against a school will depend on the results of the investigation," he said.

Department/Provincial Administration/Organisational Component/Education and Culture Service of Ex Own Affairs Administration	The number of posts created during the period 1 July to 31 December 1994	The number of posts abolished during the period 1 July to 31 December 1994
Department of Agriculture	24	0
Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology	26	5
Department of Constitutional Development	0	0
Department of Correctional Services	11	14
Department of Education	135	0
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism	74	15
Department of Finance	0	0
Department of Foreign Affairs	15	0
Department of Health	49	40
Department of Home Affairs	33	14
Department of Housing	0	0
Department of Justice	29	29
Department of Labour	35	39
Department of Land Affairs	653	252
Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs	2	206
Department of Public Works	0	0
Department of Sport and Recreation	19	62
Department of State Expenditure	5	2
Department of Trade and Industry	12	0
Department of Transport	10	0
Department of Water Affairs and Forestry	11	0
Department of Welfare	0	0
National Defence Force ¹		
National Intelligence Agency ¹		
Office of the President	9	15
Office of the Public Service Commission	7	2
Provincial Administration: Eastern Cape	0	0
Provincial Administration: Eastern Transvaal	0	0
Provincial Administration: KwaZulu-Natal	1 280	1 091
Provincial Administration: Northern Cape	727	0
Provincial Administration: Northern Transvaal	638	39
Provincial Administration: North West	7	0
Provincial Administration: Orange Free State	130	44

Department/Provincial Administration/Organisational Component/Education and Culture Service of Ex Own Affairs Administration	The number of posts created during the period 1 July to 31 December 1994	The number of posts abolished during the period 1 July to 31 December 1994
Provincial Administration, Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging	378	308
Provincial Administration: Western Cape	888	933
South African Police Service	0	0
South African Secret Service ¹		
Central Economic Advisory Service	15	0
Central Statistical Service	0	0
Office of the Executive Deputy President	9	0
Office of the Executive Deputy President from the Largest Minority Party	15	2
Office for Public Enterprises	0	0
South African Communication Service	27	21
Education and Culture Service (Ex Assembly)	0	20
Education and Culture Service (Ex Administration, House of Delegates)	0	4
Education and Culture Service (Ex Administration, House of Representatives)	123	52

¹ The relevant information is classified and has not been made available

Infant mortality rate in each population group

70. Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Health.

What was the infant mortality rate in respect of the (a)(i) Black, (ii) Coloured, (iii) Asian and (iv) White population groups and (b) Republic in the latest two calendar years for which figures are available?

S145E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH

(a) We believe that the figures that we have for Infant Mortality Rates are not reliable and that the true figures are higher. This is because we believe that there is under-recording of births and infant deaths, particularly in the rural areas.

With this caveat the Infant Mortality Rate per 1 000 live births in 1994 for each of the nine provinces were:

Western Cape	27
Northern Cape	32
Free State	36
Eastern Transvaal	41
North West	43
KwaZulu-Natal	46
Free State	46
North Province	57
Eastern Cape	58

Source: "South Africa's nine provinces: A human development profile". Development Bank for Southern Africa

(b) The same caution must be exercised in interpreting the national data for population groups with a high proportion living in rural areas.

The data available gives the following Infant Mortality Rates per 1 000 live births:

Black 1993 1994
Coloured 53 52
Asian 33 30
White 9 9
OVERALL 44 43

Department of Transport: advisers/ consultants appointed

90. Sen J SELFIE asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) Whether he has appointed any (a) advisers and/or (b) consultants to advise him or his Department; if so, (i) what (aa) is the name and (bb) are the qualification of each adviser and/or consultant, (ii) for what (aa) purpose and (bb) period was each appointed and (iii) what remuneration package and/or other fee is being paid in respect of each.

- (2) whether any fringe benefits are payable to any such advisers and/or consultants, if so, what are the relevant details in each case;

- (3) whether any advisers and/or consultants are advising or assisting him or his Department at no cost to the State; if so, (a) what (i) is the name and (ii) are the qualifications of each such adviser and/or consultant and (b) what function is each performing within this Department;

- (4) whether any (a) organisations, (b) bodies and/or (c) persons are paying the costs of the advisers and/or consultants referred to in paragraph (3), if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what are their names? S170E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

- (1) (a) Yes, three.

- (b) Yes

Advisers (i)(aa) Dr C F Scheepers
Mr J D Cowburn
*Dr E A Hopkins
(bb) Dr Scheepers: DCom
Mr Cowburn. C A

(ii)(aa) Dr Hopkins: DPhil
Dr Scheepers: To perform a specific advisory service to the Minister of Transport

Mr Cowburn: To evaluate tender documents regarding risk financing/control in respect of the State Subsidised Motor Transport Scheme.

Dr Hopkins: To act as Specialist Adviser in the Chief Directorate: Financial Management.

*Subject to approval of State Expenditure (bb) Dr Scheepers 1/2/95 to 31/7/95

Mr Cowburn: 25/1/95 to 9/2/95

Dr Hopkins 11/4/95 to 10/4/98

(iii) Dr Scheepers: R175 per hour (limited to a maximum of 40 hours per week)
Mr Cowburn: R7 347
Dr Hopkins: Minor travelling expenses

Consultants See Annexures A to C

(2) No

(3) No.

(a) (i) (ii) (b) Falls away.

(4) (a) (b) (c) No. If any organisation, body and/or person offers to pay the cost for such services, the Department will consider such an offer.

* Please note that Dr Hopkins is an employee of the Government of the United Kingdom. Her services to the Department has been made possible by means of an agreement. She is however still being remunerated by the United Kingdom, although minor travelling expenses are being paid by this Department.

CONSULTANTS THAT ARE REMUNERATED

ANNEXURE A

Name	Qualification	Purpose	Period of appointment	Remuneration package (hourly tariff)
G J Jordaan	do	do	6 months	R250,00
H J Stander	MSc (Eng)	do	do	R250,00
J I de Wet	BA, LLB	Road Traffic Legislation	01/04/95 to 30/06/96	R246,00
A M Swanepoel	BProc	do	do	R185,00
J H Botha	BJuris, LLB	do	do	R185,00
L K Statham	BLC, LLB	do	do	R157,00
R A G van Pittius	BLC	do	do	R123,00
J Vorster	BLC	do	do	R137,25
J Bron	MCom	do	do	R147,15
S Coetzee	BLC, LLB	Overborder road traffic and road transportation	do	R248,29
R C Botha	LLM (cum laude)	do	do	R193,12
G A M Radesich	BLC (cum laude), LLD and Advanced Management Course (Diploma cum laude)	do	do	R193,12
S Labuschagne	BSC, LLB	do	do	R 93,80
L Burns	BLC, LLB	do	do	R 93,80
E C Kriek	BJuris, LLB	do	do	R137,94
M N de Kock	BLC (cum laude), LLB (cum laude)	do	do	R 93,80
W de Villiers	BLC (cum laude), LLB	do	do	R 93,80
Z Ngoro	BA (Law)	do	do	R 85,27
R de Bruyn	Senior Certificate	do	do	R 68,40
I B Charlton	BSc (Mech Eng) (Hons)	do	do	R175,60
N H Newsome	BSc (Mech Eng) (Hons)	do	do	R175,60
A P Wright	National Diploma for Technicians	Overborder road traffic and road transportation	01/04/95 to 30/06/96	R138,00
M Krug	National Diploma for Technicians	do	do	R138,00
G L Dehlen	PhD (Engineering)	Civil Engineering Consultant	01/01/95 to 31/12/95	R250,00 (with a maximum of R120 000)
B G Evans	BSc (Civil Eng)	Transportation and Traffic Engineers	01/04/95 to 30/06/96	R210,59

Infant mortality lowest in Cape

ET 18/8/96

THE infant mortality rate in the Western Cape was the lowest in South Africa. The mortality rate was the highest in the Eastern Cape, the Minister of Health, Dr Nkosazana Zuma, said yesterday.

Park 'n wash street meters?

■ A new pilot programme seeks a long-term solution to problems created by Cape Town's informal parking attendants.

GLYNNIS UNDERHILL
Staff Reporter

PARKING attendants who have angered Cape Town motorists could become legal in a move which could turn the controversy on its head.

Street people could be issued with a code of conduct and city council permits to wash and watch cars in designated areas in a unique pilot programme, according to recommendations of a task force.

The force, under the auspices of the Cape Town Central Community Police Forum, is trying to find a solution to the conflict between street people, the public and the traffic department.

The traffic department, which launched a controversial clampdown on beggars and street children acting as informal parking attendants, has joined the working group seeking long-term solutions to the problem.

The traffic department's attempt to get rid of illegal parking attendants drew strong criticism from welfare organisations. They said the problem was socio-economic, not criminal.



Picture ANDREW INGRAM, Staff Photographer

□ **ON THE FRINGE:** Street people are becoming younger and growing in numbers.

Other representatives of the task force include the Projects for Street People, the police and the city council.

Consideration is being given to changing the municipal by-laws to allow the washing of cars, according to Alan Jackson, director of Child Welfare.

The recommendations also

suggest street people should be employed to watch cars, said Mr Jackson.

"The mission is to seek long-term solutions to the social reality of people living on the streets, and especially in relation to the problems which arise as the result of negative interaction between street peo-

ple and members of the public," he said.

The code of conduct for permit-holders would include courteous treatment of motorists, said Mr Jackson.

The permit system would prevent unauthorised street people from operating in an area, according to Mr Jackson.

SATURDAY Argus spoke to some street people who have worked as parking attendants.

The group said they would welcome the move to legalise work opportunities for them.

"We will wash cars if they will allow us to do it," said a teenager, who declined to be named.

If all goes according to the proposals, co-ordinators will be trained to monitor work, teach street people to deal with the traffic department and police and to intervene in clashes between street people and the public.

A campaign to persuade people not to give money to street people without some work being done in return is included in the plan.

Mr Jackson said the principle behind the scheme was to ensure that all members of the public, including street people, were treated with respect and dignity.

"All members of the public, including street people, have the right not to be harassed or abused," he said.

Street people who wash and watch cars will not be regarded as breaking the law, according to the plan, but be seen as trying to earn a living.

(298) ARG 19/8/95

Working to help children of the street

(298) ARG 21/8/95

SABATA NGCAI
Staff Reporter

STREETS, a three-year-old welfare organisation, is a beacon of hope for the youth and children living on the streets.

They claim the organisation as their only home.

The Woodstock-based non-governmental organisation provides food, showers, clothes, washing facilities, medical care, counselling, referral, re-settlement, re-integration and follow-up services for the children.

Streets cares for children from babies to 21 years old.

When The Argus visited Streets, the youths had just had breakfast. Some were watching television while others played in the building.

The youngsters get two meals a day from Streets, breakfast and lunch. When they arrive in the mornings from their various street "homes", they shower and change into clean clothes before they have breakfast.

They get there by begging money on the streets, to buy train tickets, or they walk.

They stay until lunch, which is their last meal of the day.

For many school is not an issue: they say they can no longer go back to their Std 3 and 4 classes at their present ages of between 15 and 20.

The youngsters told of how vulnerable they were as children living on the streets. They recounted accounts of harassment, assaults, stabbings, and sexual and physical abuse by members of the public.

They said police swooped while they were sleeping, threw them into prison and released them the following day.

And although they came to the streets because of problems they experienced at home, most of them wanted to go back.

Fifteen-year-old Phumzile Nyawula of Gugulethu wants to go home after more than two years living on the streets. He was in Std 2 when he left home.

He wants to continue his schooling. "I have achieved nothing by living on the streets. I want to go back home but I can't go on my own."

Streets is now preparing to

take him back home.

The organisation says it has "successfully resettled" more than 100 children and youths countrywide so far.

Streets, which provides food for between 60 and 100 youngsters a day, is supported by the Department of National Health and Population Development.

They attract children via their street workers who make daily visits to places where the children sleep and spend time with them to build trust and confidence.

They direct the youngsters to various services in Cape Town, including Streets.

Streets said children who had been on the streets a long time, and exposed to all forms of abuse, trusted no one.

The organisation's slogan is "Talk to a child a day", because they believe this is the only way to build trust between the organisation's employees and the youngsters.

When the trust is built, it became easy to counsel them.

Streets's fieldworkers work constantly to see the children reunited with their families.



Picture OBED ZILWA, The Argus

GOOD SAMARITAN: One of the workers of the Streets organisation serves breakfast to children who live on the streets. The children come to the organisation's offices every morning to have their breakfast, and wait for lunch before they go back to the streets where they live and sleep.

They visit families, in consultation with the youngsters, and report back on possibilities.

When the children do go home, the fieldworkers are still around to make sure they settle down and are happy.

The increasing problem of children living on the streets has forced Streets to seek the co-operation of the community.

The organisation is now embarking on an awareness and

mobilisation programme to encourage the community to help the children.

As Streets' acting project coordinator, Sticks Mdidimba, puts it: "It is not a problem of one family, but a problem of the community."

Mr Mdidimba acknowledged that the bond which held youngsters on the streets together was very strong.

Soweto's extended family structures and schooling fall by the wayside

Rate of attempted suicide among teens on the up

■ BY ADAM COOKE

Soweto clinics have seen an unprecedented rise in the number of attempted suicides among teenagers, with child psychologists handling, on average, four new cases every day.

Before last year's elections, teenage suicides in Soweto were comparatively rare, psychologists say.

The head of Baragwanath Hospital's child psychiatry unit, Dr Solly Rataimane, said teenagers across class lines were under pressure to succeed at school while also searching for a sense of belonging at home.

"Disruptions in school are very stressful. Teenagers now see that their only chance to escape the role of subservience to their parents is through educa-

tion," he said.

A senior social worker at a Soweto/Witwatersrand Mental Health Society clinic, Helen Nyembe, said the dramatic increase reflected a psychological crisis in South Africa's largest black township.

"The statistics do not provide an accurate picture, as they reflect only the cases that are reported. The majority of parents

prefer to keep it a secret."

The average age of those who attempt suicide is about 15 or 16, but many as young as 12 or 13 have also been referred to the clinic. Rataimane told of a recent case in which a ten-year-old had tried to hang himself.

As shocking as these statistics are, the methods used in the suicide attempts; some of which include drinking bleaching liquids

or inhaling large amounts of insecticide.

Rataimane said the methods used often reflected the teenagers' feelings. "Insecticides often point to the fact that they see themselves as pests. Cleaning agents can mean there is a need to cleanse the system of impurities."

While the cause of this phenomenon is still unclear, there is

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growing evidence that it is related to the breakdown in family structures.

Nyembe explains that the traditional township extended family is under strain, with the problem of unemployment playing a critical role in setting up a "cycle of dependants."

"Township children need a lot of support, as their expectations

are higher than generations who grew up under apartheid, but they still face the same hurdles," she said.

In a majority of cases, parents are single, middle-aged mothers who battle to find employment and are themselves going through crises associated with their position, like demotivation, depression and menopause

"They in turn leave their parents. The much and a link in the chain to break the unfortunate teenager," she said.

However, Rataimane said there was hope for as teenagers were suicide in moments only one in three ended long-lasting after the attempted

Priest's conviction for child rape shocks Soweto

■ BY ABBEY MAKOE
SOWETO BUREAU

Soweto has been shocked by the conviction of a priest on several counts of rape and sodomy, and the arrest of another priest on 11 charges of child rape.

But these high-profile cases are just the tip of the iceberg. Soweto's Protea Court handles an average of 60 child abuse cases every day.

The workload is so heavy that the Protea Children's Court often refers cases to the Orlando Magistrate's Court.

Zionist priest Makhekhe Buthlezi (65) was found guilty last week of raping four girls between five and nine years and sodomising two young boys. He will be sentenced on September 26.

Also last week, a priest was

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arrested for the alleged rape of 11 girls

To make their point, SA Stop Child Abuse (Sasca) led two marches by hundreds of children to the Orlando and Protea courts last week to protest against the apparent leniency and "easy" granting of bail to child abusers.

Sasca's national chairman Tutu Mgulwa said his organisation would continue to petition the courts until child abusers were severely punished.

"We have serious cases which have been treated very lightly by our courts. For example, we had a case of little Tiro Malele who was allegedly trampled to death by his father. He was granted bail," Mgulwa said.

He said his organisation was campaigning for the appointment of two more district surgeons in Soweto.

STAN 21/8/95

Appeal to save street children's refuge

Star 21/8/95

(298)

■ BY PRISCILLA SINGH

The Found City refuge for street children in Cliffdale, KwaZulu-Natal, has appealed for funds to save the operation from shutting down.

The refuge, which houses about 190 children, is run by Pastor Shane Barnard who started the project in a scrapyard with just 13 youngsters in August 1993. When the number of children increased to about 80 within a matter of 10 weeks, he was forced to find new premises.

A Durban businessman offered the use of a derelict farmhouse in Cliffdale. Barnard and the children renovated the house and soon made expansions which included a school, ablution facilities and extra rooms.

The businessman has, however, decided to sell the land and the children are now looking for a new home.

"The street is no place for a child. Prostitution, drug abuse and manipulation by a powerful network of gangs rule this underworld of street children.

"Word on the street about

Found City spread like wildfire and now we get groups of children arriving every day at the farm to take up a new life and renounce their lives on the streets," Barnard said.

"Now we are faced with the bleakness that we will have to shut down the Found City because the owner has to sell off the property for business reasons.

"We would like to buy it from him but lack the resources to do so. It would be a tragedy to turn the children back on to the streets if we don't save the refuge.

"In the long term I would like to see the place run as a 'kibbutz' and for each child to adopt skills and become self-sufficient. But first I want them to become educated."

Barnard said some of the children came from as far as Gauteng where the Found City haven is reaching the ears of boys and girls from their friends who have joined the fast-growing "family".

Donations can be sent to Box 180 Inchanga 3760 or telephone Barnard on 0325-61342.

Call to probe youth body's lost millions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHANNESBURG: The National Youth Development Forum cannot account for millions of rand it has received. (298)

Organisations have called for a commission of inquiry into its dealings. CT 22/8/95

National secretariat member Mr Sphiwe Dlamini denied funds had been misappropriated and said the forum was being audited.

The Open Society Foundation for South Africa, chaired by Dr F van Zyl Slabbert and which has given R2,3 million to the forum, is to conduct its own investigation.

The forum, launched in 1993, is to close at the end of this month.

Police probe youth charity

(298)

star 22/8/95

■ BY PRISCILLA SINGH

The National Youth Development Forum (NYDF), which closes its doors at the end of this month, is being investigated by police following allegations that millions of rands donated to it have not been accounted for.

The Open Society Foundation for SA referred the matter to the police, saying the NYDF could not tell it what had happened to R2 340 000 donated by the society.

Society chairman Dr Van Zyl Slabbert said in a statement the foundation had decided at a board meeting to

launch an investigation into the alleged irregularities of funding in the development forum.

And the NP Youth League has demanded President Mandela appoint a commission of inquiry into the financial dealings of the NYDF.

NP Youth League chairman Pierre-Jeanne Gerber claimed the development forum had repeatedly misled prospective donors over the years by claiming that it represented all of SA's youth.

Gerber said allegations made by people that participated in the NYDF included claims that a number of em-

ployees were recently fired because of "mismanagement" of NYDF funds.

Siphiwe Dlamini of the NYDF national secretariat was yesterday adamant that no funds had been misappropriated.

"We are presently being audited, the results of which will be fully publicised once complete."

"We expect the auditors to be finished by next week," said Dlamini.

The NYDF was launched in September 1993 and was publicly endorsed by Deputy-President Thabo Mbeki and ANC Women's League leader Albertina Sisulu.

The forum was to advocate youth development and to lobby in the interests of youths.

NYDF spokesman Febe Potgieter said the forum's imminent closure was caused by difficulties arising from the "changing funding climate".

The aims of the NYDF had also been taken over by more permanent structures which came into being after the election.

Projects initiated by the NYDF would continue, either as part of a Government initiative, or through other organisations with close links to the NYDF, Potgieter said.

Shocking tally of child abuse cases heard weekly in Soweto courtrooms

By ABBEY MAKOE
SOWETO BUREAU

Testimony about the shocking extent of child abuse in Soweto is given daily in two courtrooms where magistrates hear up to 300 cases a week.

The victims are young boys and girls who recount their ordeals behind discreetly closed courtroom doors. Many of the alleged perpetrators are members of the community entrusted to care for and give guidance to their young charges.

An example was the Rev Ranyana Buthelezi, a Soweto-based priest of the Zionist Christian Church, who was convicted this week of raping four girls, aged between 5 and 9, and sodomising two boys of 7 and 9. Buthelezi will be sentenced on September 26.

A day after Buthelezi's conviction, another priest, Alfred Thenjekwayo

(80), appeared on charges of raping 11 little girls in his Jabulani Street home.

Thenjekwayo was charged with raping his daughter-in-law's little girl (6) and was also accused of raping a girl from next door, aged 9.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges, and claimed he was impotent. "I've long stopped getting an erection," he told the court.

The *Saturday Star* attended Court No 5 at the Protea Magistrate's Court, where numerous charges of child molestation were heard last week.

At the Orlando court there was no television set to enable a child to testify freely in secret. The abused children were put in the witness box and stared at their alleged abusers, often close relatives, during the trials.

Teenagers and primary school children, aided by a large number of adult

residents, staged two marches in Soweto recently to voice their concerns that child abuse has got out of hand in the township.

The marches were organised by SA Stop Child Abuse. The organisation's chairman, Tutu Mguvwa, told the *Saturday Star*: "We are outraged about the fact that so many child abusers are easily granted bail and, in cases where policemen were involved in allegations of child abuse, the police were generally lax in solving or even attending to the matter."

Mguvwa said at least 60 cases of child abuse were heard every day at the Protea Magistrate's Court and at the Orlando court, making about 300 cases a week.

"It is simply too much for the court and we are calling for the Justice Department to do something drastic in this

regard. They should look especially at establishing rehabilitation mechanisms in prison," Mguvwa said.

He said children giving evidence at the Orlando court felt intimidated because they were forced to face their alleged abusers with no means to allow them to give evidence remotely - such as from behind a one-way screen or with the aid of a television set.

"As for rehabilitation, convicted child abusers are just dumped in prison and then, because males are separated from females, you get homosexuality," Mguvwa said.

But if there is any lesson that child abusers must learn, he said, it is that the community is, at long last, ready to demonstrate its disapproval of child abuse and to influence the courts to take harsher measures in dealing with those found guilty of these crimes.

Brotherhood wants Newclare's children off the streets

By ALEXANDRA SMIT

Newclare residents have rallied together to form the Brotherhood Sporting Academy to get youngsters off the streets, out of trouble and into sports.

Three friends - Donovan Noble, Neville Drude and Mitch Schroeder, who all grew up in the area - founded the academy. They say the answer to the "ridiculous" crime rate is to offer sports training on Saturday mornings.

Their second meeting, held last weekend, drew 68 children away from television sets and arcades.

The trio have visited Westbury Primary, Newclare Primary and Dowling Primary schools in Newclare.

The teachers are cautiously enthusiastic about the Brotherhood, saying it's a good start.

Physical education teacher Bridget Kaye says: "It's a good idea."

She hopes to see more sports for girls, such as softball.

"At the moment we're concentrating on soccer because it's easier and we have a few soccer

balls."

Sponsorship is needed urgently, they say. "We're taking money from our own pockets at the moment."

Practice is being held on the nearby St Michael's sportsfield. The organisers would like to start basketball, table tennis and cricket, but need proper facilities to do this.

While there is a R1.5-million sports centre in the area, it is not open to the public.

Getting the schools behind the Brotherhood has been easy. Starting the training is harder.

The three supervise the children constantly, emphasising that "they have got to learn discipline" while learning how to respect property.

"If we educate them while they are small it will make a difference," says Drude.

Each Saturday morning, the children gather at Noble's house, practise for an hour and then have a welcome glass of orange juice.

Says Kaye: "Kids need entertainment on the weekends."



GOOD START: Saturday is the day the Brotherhood embraces the youngsters of Newclare

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A father to victims of child abuse

(298)
CT 27/8/95

By NOMVULA KHALO

THE DEATH of a 17-year-old schoolgirl who was sexually abused by her father touched Tutu Mgulwa's heart so much that he decided to campaign against Child Abuse.

"I met this girl at the shop and she was crying. I asked her what the matter was, and she told me that her father was sexually abusing her," he said.

She told him that the case had been reported to the police, but they were taking their time and her mother was protecting her husband.

Mgulwa of Jabulani in Soweto promised to help the girl, but due to time constraints he could not.

As he was entertaining friends at home one day he received a telephone call from the girl's sister. She told him that the girl had committed suicide and that she had left a letter which explained why she had committed suicide, and that she wanted Mgulwa to at-

tend her funeral as he was the only person who had listened to her.

This incident inspired Mgulwa to resign from his job as a representative and launch an organisation called South African Stop Child Abuse.

"That was four years ago and since then I have never looked back. I get no salary for it, but I'll continue doing this job," he stressed.

Mgulwa related some of the difficult cases he had met with in his four year's experience.

He told us of a case of a 13-year-old who was raped by her neighbour. When she threatened to tell her parents, he took her to Midway Railway Station and banged her head on the tracks.

In another incident a three-year-old girl was raped by her father, but the father panicked afterwards and hit the child with an iron rod. Now the child is blind.

Another case involved an eight-month-old baby boy who was first burned

with a hot iron on the face and then sodomised by two 30-year-old men. After sexually assaulting him they hanged him on the rafters. He was later found by neighbours.

Mgulwa said it was not right that judges granted rapists free bail.

"They must either bring back the death penalty - especially for them - or charge them a high bail, like R10 000.

He added that both the abused and the abuser needed help. He is therefore appealing to the government to build trauma clinics and rehabilitation centres where these people could be counelled.

Mgulwa said that more doctors were needed to assist in helping abused children, as there were only two doctors to deal with these cases at Baragwanath Hospital.

He added that the community was aware of child abuse. They no longer keep it to themselves or treat it as a family matter. They report it - which helps a lot.



SAVING OUR CHILDREN ... Tutu Mgulwa has enough of child abuse, and has taken it upon himself to do something about it. He has initiated a project called South Africans Stop Child Abuse for which he receives no salary as he has resigned from his job. But he is adamant that he is going to continue his work.

Picture: TLADI KHUELE

Amounts made available to farmers

499. Mr I D VAN ZYL asked the Minister of Agriculture.

(1) What amounts were made available to farmers in respect of (a) the purchase of agricultural land, (b) the consolidation of debt, (c) improvements, (d) implements and vehicles, (e) livestock, (f) means of crop production, (g) farm labourers' housing, (h) waterworks, (i) the sinking of waterholes, (j) conservation works, (k) flood disasters, (l) stock feed and (m) the allocation of land in (i) 1992, (ii) 1993 and (iii) 1994.

(2) whether there has been any change in policy in regard to financial assistance to farmers since June 1994; if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, what are the relevant details?

N1034E

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(1)				
	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	
(a) purchase of agricultural land	21 919 200	4 496 000	7 013 100	(2) Yes. Since June 1994 various new schemes, apart from existing ones, have been introduced in order to assist small and beginner farmers, ie
(b) consolidation of debt	195 091 000	41 519 900	10 400 600	(a) crop production loans
(c) improvements	17 000	—	—	(b) livestock production loans
(d) implements and vehicles	1 052 200	718 500	514 500	(c) purchase of land
				(d) purchase of implements, tractors and vehicles

INTERPELLATIONS (298)

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

National Youth Development Forum

1. Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Safety and Security.

Whether he or the South African Police Service has taken or intends taking any steps with a view to having the affairs of the liquidated National Youth Development Forum investigated; if not, why not, if so, what steps?

THE MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY Mr Speaker, I have three interpellations and five questions to deal with today [Interjections] I hope, therefore, that I shall read the right answer to the appropriate question [Laughter]

The answer is yes, the South African Police Service has taken steps. Case docket CAS 2114/8/95 was registered on 25 August 1995 at John Vorster Square, Johannesburg, in connection with allegations of the misappropriation of funds and assets within the National Youth Development Forum. The case is currently being investigated by the fraud unit of the Commercial Branch which is trying, in consultation with the office of the Attorney-General, to establish whether grounds exist for criminal prosecution against any person. According to information available to the Commercial Branch, the National Youth Development Forum is at present in the process of being liquidated and it is, therefore, possible that prosecutions for statutory offences may be instituted in future.

The current police investigation resulted from a request made by the executive director of the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, a donor organisation of the NYDF, as well as a senior member of the National Youth Development Forum's management committee.

Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF Mr Speaker, I thank the hon the Minister for his reply. It is a shame, however, that the hon the Minister is suddenly being regarded as the person who has to take responsibility for explaining yet another ANC failure. [Interjections] I initially directed my question to the hon the Deputy President

Thabo Mbeki. It appears that he is the person responsible for youth affairs. For some or other reason, he played godfather to a severely neglected youth, but when they are in trouble, he is not prepared to argue their case.

The question today is why the hon the Deputy President and the ANC did not apply sufficient control to prevent this embarrassment in youth structures. The National Youth Development Forum is not the first organisation to have fallen to pieces under ANC guidance and have to be investigated by the police. Fresh in our memory is the tourism forum of the former ANC youth leader, the hon Peter Mokaba. [Interjections.] Fresh in our memory is the absolute foul-up in the school feeding scheme [Interjections.] Fresh in our memory is the now defunct foundation of Allan Boesak.

One of Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert's conclusions in a recent study on the youth was that for them the tide had turned in a positive sense. He mentioned specifically the fact that a legitimate, newly elected government would address the question of a national youth policy. Up to now this has not happened. The ANC is clearly dragging its feet on this issue. Although it seems as if the youth are moving out of a crisis, the unfortunate position is that now, after 16 months of ANC-dominated government, they are still knee-deep in trouble [Interjections.]

*The National Youth Development Forum is supposed to be an interim measure and a predecessor for the national youth commission which has to be instituted by means of legislation. Where is that legislation, I wish to ask this afternoon. Apparently the hon the Minister Dullah Omar is handling this, and my information is that it has been given low priority. Therefore it will not be ready for this session. It is a shame to see how the ANC treats the youth of this country [Interjections.]

I wish to put another question. What caused Dr Van Zyl Slabbert to lodge this complaint? [Interjections.] Hon members should really listen to this [Interjections.] This ANC youth forum allegedly owes R4,7 million to various institutions. [Interjections.] It is estimated that this institution has spent some R8 million over the past two years. According to newspaper reports it seems that at present there is an amount of R2,3 million unaccounted for and this amount may still in-

crease. Allegedly the cellular phone account of this organisation was in the region of R6 000 per month [Interjections] I will say more about this later.

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr Deputy President

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Please, the hon Minister must not promote me. I am still the Deputy Speaker! [Laughter]

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I am not sure if I am expected to say anything after the hon member has said what he has. The information that I have at my disposal is that the NYDF is made up of a number of youth organisations from the NP; the ANC. [Interjections] the IFP and so on [Interjections.] As I said earlier, however, I think I have given enough information about what the police are doing in this connection

Mr J C N WAUGH: Mr Speaker, I would just like to give the hon the Minister some more information, namely that the NP is not part of this forum [Interjections] Therefore his information is incorrect. The NP is of the opinion that there should not only be an investigation by the SA Police Service, but we also want to urge President Mandela to appoint a commission of inquiry into this matter [Interjections]

Some of the allegations made by people who had participated in the NYDF are the following. A few employees had already been fired recently because of mismanagement of funds. The NYDF were regarded by some people as a consultants' paradise. Hundreds of thousands of rands were paid out to some consultants. Some key members of the ANC Youth League's national executive were paid excessive amounts for their participation in NYDF projects. More than R100 000 was spent to furnish their luxurious offices in the Liberty Life Building [Interjections]

Because of all the above-mentioned activities by the NYDF and its personnel, very little funds were in fact utilised for youth development as described to the sponsors. On numerous occasions the NYDF misrepresented themselves as being inclusive of all youth organisations—this is simply not true—especially when they approached sponsors. The NP Youth Action, as well as quite a few other youth organisations, are in fact not members of the NYDF. [Interjections]

Youth development in South Africa will suffer a serious blow if this matter is not dealt with at the

highest level [Interjections] The NP views this matter in a very serious light. We want to go so far as to say, and I want to say it in youth language, that we demand a commission of inquiry. [Interjections.] The youth of South Africa have come to a stage at which they would like to be acknowledged. Promises that were made to us about youth commissions must now be kept

I have a letter in my hand in which the NYDF is calling for a meeting tomorrow morning. [Interjections] In this letter they are now suddenly criticising the hon the Executive Deputy President Mr T M Mbeki for dragging his feet on the youth commission. The youth of the NP agrees that feet have been dragging. We have been saying so all along [Interjections] [Time expired]

*Mr N J J VAN R KOORNHOF: Mr Speaker, this conduct of the ANC Youth League, I can tell the hon the Minister of Trade and Industry, does not bring any investors' trust to this country [Interjections.]

The executive director of this ANC forum left it under a cloud. We in the NP say we are entitled to know the whole truth about this forum, and therefore I support my colleague in his request for a commission. We know that the office staff of this forum are now receiving letters terminating their service, written on ANC Youth League letterheads. If that is not an admission of guilt, I do not know what else it is [Interjections]

I even heard—funny enough, when one does an interpellation, one gets told many things—that these young ANC politicians had a great preference for beautiful offices, beautiful furniture and especially for German luxury cars when they went to the leasing companies. These things should be investigated. We want to know the truth. The facts should now come to light. The time has come for the ANC to get the youth's house in order [Time expired]

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr Speaker

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! A point of order is being raised.

Dr E G PAHAD: Mr Speaker, on a point of order. I appeal to you to bring some order to this House. When people pose a specific question to a Minister, they should stick to the brief of the question and not talk about all kinds of other things [Interjections] I think it is only fair that when we put questions to Ministers, Ministers

should answer the questions that have been put to them. People should not use this opportunity as a platform for party-political propaganda. Please do something about it, Mr Speaker

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Dr Pahad, we are dealing with an interpellation, which is a mini-debate. I believe in freedom of speech. I do believe we have talked about youth matters, and I do believe Dr Pahad should have confidence in the hon the Minister for Safety and Security to deal with the points that have been raised.

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr Speaker, the question put to me was whether the South African Police Service had taken any steps to investigate the affairs of the National Youth Development Forum, and I have indicated the steps which the police have taken, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney-General.

Indeed, as in other cases, the success of police investigations will depend in part on the cooperation which they get from anybody who has information. It does appear to me that the hon members Mr Waugh and Mr Koornhof are volunteering to come forward as witnesses, and I must say that they should get in touch with the Commissioner of the South Africa Police Service and assist in the investigation. [Interjections]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do appreciate a bit of life in the House, because I was very upset with the cartoon showing hon members asleep in the House

Debate concluded

The incorporation of 565 members of MK

2. Mr V B NDLOVU asked the Minister for Safety and Security

Whether any special or extraordinary criteria were used in respect of the incorporation of 565 members of MK into the South African Police Service; if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, why?

N1142E.INT
The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Mr Speaker, no extraordinary criteria are being used to incorporate members of the previous non-statutory forces or members of the police agencies of former self-governing states or the TBVC territories or the SAP into the SAPS

As at the end of July 1995 the position as regards members from non-statutory forces serving in the national protection services was as follows. One hundred and sixty-eight members who were transferred to the national protection services from the National Intelligence Agency were permanent members of the South African Police Service. Approximately 730 members who had previously served in the Department of Intelligence and Security of the ANC were enlisted as temporary members of the police

As at 30 August 1995, ie today, the situation is as follows: Of the 730 members referred to above, 318 members were confirmed as permanent members during August 1995, after complying with the normal admission criteria of the SAPS. These criteria include the furnishing of medical reports, fingerprints, educational criteria and an assessment of previous convictions. Two hundred and eighty-six members were under consideration for appointment as permanent members, subject to them complying with normal admission criteria. Seventy-two candidate officers are in the process of being incorporated as permanent members, subject to their complying with normal admission criteria.

A limited number of applications for enrolment as permanent members into the SANDF are still being awaited. These include applications from members of the PAC

The National Commissioner of the South African Police Service, when considering the appointment of members to the SAPS, has the discretion to condone certain previous convictions or the failure of applicants to meet some of the admission criteria. He has given me the assurance that this matter is being dealt with in the most responsible manner possible.

I am convinced that the incorporation of members of previous non-statutory forces into the SAPS will enrich the diversity of skills within the SAPS. [Time expired]

Mnu V B NDLOVU: Somlomo, engicela ukukwazi kuMhlonishwa ukuthi, emva kokuba laba esikhuluma ngabo abangamakhulu amahlanu namashumi ayisithupha nahlanu abafakwa, baya yini kodokotela? Bahlolwa yini ukuthi baphile? Ngikhuluma lokhu ngoba bafakwa ngaphambi kokuba kwenziwe ilungelo lokuthi unkomishani unelungelo lokubafaka ngendlela afisa ukubafaka ngayo

Okwesibini, kukhona yini mhlwawumbe

Police and top actress join forces to address child abuse

(298) Star 4/9/95

■ BY ANSO THOM
CRIME REPORTER

The Johannesburg Child Protection Unit (CPU) will join forces with actress Sandra Prinsloo for the production of a play addressing child abuse issues.

The theatre production will be launched as soon as funding is available and will initially concentrate on the Johannesburg area before going on tour to schools across the country.

"Theatre is a wonderful way to tell children what their rights are and to teach them how to protect themselves.

"It is such a powerful medium to make a statement," said Prinsloo, who has her own company.

Prinsloo and her company are currently touring the country with an AIDS production.

According to unit commander Captain Pi Pretorius, education departments were backing the project.

"We will have to ensure we have people to follow up where the production finishes off.

Communication

"We need teachers and policemen to communicate so any queries or complaints from the children who have seen the play can be communicated efficiently," said Pretorius.

Prinsloo said it would take a year to reach all schools.

"In Alexandra alone we will have to visit about 80 schools."

Pretorius said the CPU would be launching a multi-disciplinary response team on October 12.

"Our response time and our effectiveness will improve if we

involve Childline, Child Welfare, Wits Trauma Unit and social workers if we receive a complaint," said Pretorius.

He thanked the following donors for their contributions following appeals in the press:

- Telkom for a R10 000 donation which will be used to buy a sophisticated surveillance camera.
- Radio 702 for a toy donation.
- Game for a cell phone with accessories.
- 911 Emergency Services for offering assistance.
- A group of medical doctors which has offered to take out a policy on behalf of child abuse victim Bia K.

Anyone interested in assisting the CPU or sponsoring the theatre production should contact Captain Pretorius at (011) 403-3413.

Star 4/9/95
**Boys' Town
for Kagiso**

(298)

Boys' Town South Africa is to forge ahead with establishing a R6-million Boys' Town in Randfontein for township youths.

The organisation runs a non-denominational programme for deprived, abused and neglected youth in three treatment centres in Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu-Natal and Cape Town.

Executive director Joe Araujo said the new Boys' Town Kagiso was a direct response to the RDP and the crisis over lack of suitable places of care and development in disadvantaged communities.

Boys' Town has already forked out R2,5-million to purchase the property, previously the Chamber of Mines Training College, and is relying on public support to help cover the remainder.

A total of 21 children are already living there, and the number is expected to rise to 40 by the end of the year. The centre will ultimately care for 70 youths between 7 and 16, and to offer other community-based outreach services to youth and families at risk.

Boys' Town "cut its teeth" with these youth when it merged with Proccess, a Hillbrow street children organisation, in the 1980's, Araujo said. Most of these children were reunited with their families; others were placed in skills training programmes and are now employed.

Araujo, himself a product of Boys' Town, says they are out to prove that all sections of SA youth respond to and benefit from its peer-group or self-government system.

— Van Der Ross — supports return to caning at schools

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

(298)

ART 2/9/95

THE government should consider a return to corporal punishment at schools, subject to principals' discretion, and the strict maintenance of caning records.

This is the view of Richard van der Ross, former rector of the University of the Western Cape and current member of the Western Cape legislature. He is also the Democratic Party's provincial spokesman on education.

Professor Van der Ross's view is shared by at least some of the primary and high school principals who met President Mandela last week to discuss vandalism at schools in the Bellville area.

The principals' delegation, led by Professor Van der Ross, did not discuss the recent abolition of corporal punishment with Mr Mandela, but Professor Van der Ross and Accordion School principal Tony Adams said afterwards they were concerned that educationists had been stripped of an important disciplinary tool.

Mr Adams said several principals he knew shared this concern.

In July, the provincial education department sent circulars to schools telling them to suspend caning, following a

Constitutional Court ruling in June that corporal punishment breached the terms of the interim constitution.

Professor Van der Ross said: "I'm not in favour of the complete abolition of corporal punishment at school; I believe it has a place if it is practised with discretion, in the same way that it has a place in the home if used with discretion."

He said teachers' morale had to be restored by a provision for corporal punishment as a means by which principals could support the demands teachers placed on pupils.

"Otherwise you'll have the situation one has seen in other countries — where children thumb their noses at teachers."

Communities needed to be consulted before steps such as the abolition of corporal punishment were finalised, Professor Van der Ross said.

Mr Adams said caning should never be regarded as the only form of instilling discipline.

But, he said, it should be retained, subject to certain conditions, to protect teachers from a situation where pupils, and possibly their parents, might develop "counter-reactions" simply because they knew corporal punishment was no longer an option.

Bill outlawing caning tabled

POLITICAL STAFF

THE bill which will outlaw the caning of pupils in schools or any psychological or physical abuse of pupils was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The National Education Policy Bill gives Education Minister Professor Sibusiso Bengu the power to issue national guidelines on a number of issues, including control over and discipline of pupils at educational institutions.

Corporal punishment has already been ruled illegal by the Constitutional Court, but there have been reports that caning has continued in some schools despite this decision.

At a press conference afterwards Prof Bengu said it had to be brought to the population that a different way of punishing people should be adopted.

They should learn that "not only is it illegal to impose corporal punishment but it is not right", he said.

CT 5/9/95

(298)

Men molest (298) *Sowetan* 5/9/95 street kids

Street kids in Nigel have venereal diseases after being abused by locals

By Dan Fuphe

STREET CHILDREN WHOSE AGES range from 10 to 15 are constantly being sexually abused in the East Rand town of Nigel.

This shock disclosure was made by officials of the Nigel Child and Welfare Society during an exclusive interview with *Sowetan* this week.

Fourteen of the 52 street children in the care of the organisation were being treated for venereal disease after being sexually molested by men across the colour line, according to Nigel volunteer workers.

Boys and girls infected

Two volunteer workers, Mrs Gertrude Modupi and Ms Mmamohau Kgope, told how a random medical examination by officials of the local Health Department had shown that at least four girls and 10 boys had in fact been infected with venereal disease.

The youths stay at a disused mine building in Nigel.

Two of the children told *Sowetan* that although they were not personally infected with the disease, they knew that some of their colleague were sick from the disease after being abused by some men in town.

Some of the children came from broken homes, where they claimed they had been sexually abused by stepfathers or relatives.

A nine-year-old boy from Duduza said he ran away from home because his mother and her boyfriends made love in front of him.

However, he wished to return home one day to continue where he left off with his education.

Plight of children

The plight of the children was first highlighted by Greater Nigel councillor Mrs Marianne Incani, who described to *Sowetan* how 17 of these children were arrested for vagrancy and later released "on their own accord and with nowhere to go".

More abuse

"Left on their own, these children go back to the streets and expose themselves to more abuse by the society," Incani said.

She appealed to various local organisations to join hands in helping these children.

The children are presently housed in two dingy houses between mine dumps.

An unpleasant stench of foul air caused by lack of toilet facilities and running water is very strong in the area.

11 children abandoned

in Jo'burg
(298) Star 6/9/95

■ BY PRISCILLA SINGH

The abandonment of children is reaching alarming proportions in Johannesburg with 11 children found destitute and homeless over the past five days.

One of the children is a 3-year-old boy who was thrown from a moving vehicle outside Jeppe police station on Saturday.

He says his name is "Seun" and calls out for his mother constantly with a bewildered look.

The Jeppe police called in the Child Protection Unit which had the boy put in one of their safe places for the night.

Johannesburg child welfare workers Thembi Mbonani and Tilda Balt said "Seun" was wearing blue pyjamas and red socks. They urged his parents to come forward.

"He is very traumatised, but shows no signs of being abused. His case is not an isolated one. We are finding abandoned children every day," Mbonani said.

Balt said HIV-positive babies and newborns were left in gutters, bus stops and in the veld.



Scared and alone ... little "Seun" who was abandoned at the Jeppe police station at the weekend.

PICTURE: THYS DULLAART

Conference to discuss alternatives to caning

CT 7/9/95

(298)

CAROL CAMPBELL

ALTERNATIVE methods of punishing mischievous school pupils and the introduction of a code of conduct in schools are to be determined at a conference of educators, parents, pupils and welfare authorities in the city next month.

The conference, organised by the teachers' magazine Chalk Line, follows a recent directive from the Western Cape Education Department which put an end to caning in schools.

The controversial decision was greeted with relief by many parents, pupils and teachers, but at some schools parents and their children voted to continue with canings.

They argued that without canings the schools would become chaotic and pupils undisciplined.

Provincial Minister of Education Mrs Martha Olckers, on a recent visit to vandalised schools in Delft, also said that she felt a timely spanking could "nip discipline problems in the bud".

Conference organiser Mr Howard Maggott said the steady flow of letters to Chalk Line about the issue of corporal punishment in the classroom had prompted the magazine to organise the event.

Mrs Fozia Ryklief, from Child Welfare, said alternate methods needed to be discussed because it had been found that the same children were repeatedly sent for caning often for the same offenses.



Money please ... a shopper runs the gauntlet of child beggars in Melville. Traders there say they are frightening customers and are driving business elsewhere with their persistent demands.

PICTURE THEMBA HADEBE

Young beggars hurt business

Star 7/9/95

(298)

■ BY CHERYL HUNTER
CITY REPORTER

Giving alms to the poor has become almost compulsory in Melville where begging children push their noses against customers' car windows as they park, hands cupped expectantly, until they receive a token gift.

Irate shopkeepers in Main Street said customers complained that they had to fight their way into shops through gangs of determined children and that many were taking their business elsewhere.

"Some people, especially elderly women who used to do their shopping in this area are petrified to come here now," the owner of a fresh produce store said.

"The kids harass people, sometimes following them into shops, until they give them money or food, and customers are refusing to stop here," the manager of Spar said.

Brothers Simon and Craig So have homes, families and schools to attend yet they spend their days outside the Melville Spar in dirty clothes begging.

"We get about R14 every day and sometimes people buy us

food," Craig said.

"The police have told us not to disturb the customers," Simon said and, to his credit, he is one of the few beggars who directs cars into the parking lot and waits patiently at a distance for a "tip".

Many shoppers on the street said that they felt threatened by the children's aggressive behaviour, but most expressed concern about their future.

"These children should be in school. Later in life there will be no options for them except a life of crime," a woman said.

Melville satellite police station supervisor Warrant-Officer De-wald Muller said most of the children lived in nearby Westbury or Newclare and were regularly returned to their homes in police vehicles.

"But we take them home today and within two hours they are back outside the shops."

Muller and community representatives will be meeting at the Community Policing Forum on September 12 to discuss solutions suitable to both the children and the shopowners.

Anyone who would like to attend the meeting should contact Muller on 726-7128.

■ RONDEBOSCH

Police nab 44 child vagrants in five months

AR 8/9/95 (298)

□ *'Juvenile crime biggest headache'*

Staff Reporters

RONDEBOSCH police have arrested 44 street children in five months for alleged crimes ranging from attempted murder to possession of stolen property, housebreaking, theft from cars and serious assault.

Juvenile crime has become the suburb's biggest headache and police say they don't know what to do about it.

Last month, 72 cars were broken into in the Rondebosch police area which stretches from Rosebank to Dean Street on the one side and from the mountain to the M5 on the other side.

According to police liaison officer Etienne Terblanche, an 18-year-old male rambler stabbed a 17-year-old female rambler six times on August 28 in the subway at Rondebosch station at 6.20pm.

She is still recovering at Groote Schuur hospital from

wounds in the arms, back, head and hand.

"We arrested the young man and he has appeared in court on a charge of attempted murder.

"We get complaints every day about the behaviour of street children," said Sergeant Terblanche.

"Now they go into local restaurants and help themselves to food left on plates after the diners have left.

"They become aggressive when asked to leave."

Sergeant Terblanche said the system of justice was not geared to handle the problem of street children.

"Policemen are frustrated because it is so difficult for us to fight crime without people thinking we are victimising the children."

Escapes by juvenile criminals from places of safety have highlighted the need for institutions to keep them in while awaiting trial.

Juveniles — any person under the age of 18 — can no longer be detained in prison.

Institutions, which generally handle children from broken homes or children who have been abused, do not have the staff or facilities to care for them.

The result is that juvenile offenders — often as young as 12 — gang up and escape.

According to Detective Deon Lindt of the Diep River police, the escapes are carefully planned and usually co-ordinated with other gang members.

Sergeant Althea Noemdo, who was involved in tracking down some 38 children who escaped, said: "The public is unaware of how dangerous some of these juveniles are."

"Often they are being held for crimes like car hijacking, rape and assault."

She expressed concern that many of the places of safety were situated in residential areas, close to schools.

Teachers confer on discipline

(298)

STAFF REPORTER

CT 8/9/93

THE Western Cape conference on alternative methods of school discipline will take place at the Cape Town Teachers' Centre in Claremont on October 4, it was announced yesterday.

The event, which is being organised by the teachers' magazine, Chalk Line, as well as a variety of education and human rights organisations, will be held as a result of the abolition earlier this year of canings at school.

Speakers are still to be named but will include educationists, religious leaders and prominent members of the government.

"The conference's goal will be to encourage the development of a human rights culture in schools," Mr Howard Maggott of Chalk Line said.

Shock teen arrest figures (298)

JACKIE CAMERON
CRIME REPORTER

POLICE arrest at least 1 200 youths per month in the Western Cape for crimes ranging from murder to theft, it was revealed yesterday.

Juveniles were arrested for over 110 rapes, 85 murders, 335 robberies and 1 216 burglaries at houses during the first four months of this year, police said when they released these shock statistics.

Over 80% of the arrested juveniles were between 14 and 17.

A 16-year-old teenager who is awaiting trial for two rapes, murder and sodomy escaped from Porter school in Tokai this week — for the fifth time.

Police spokesman Colonel Raymond Dowd said many juveniles escaped from the custody of their parents or places of safety and committed crimes again while awaiting trial.

"The problem of juveniles committing crimes is not yet out of

control, but it is becoming a very serious problem.

"The upsurge in juveniles committing crimes is alarming.

"There is no excuse for heinous crimes like rape. The whole penal system for juveniles will have to be revised."

'Protected'

He said there should be high security detention centres for juveniles who repeatedly commit violent offences.

"We are not in favour of locking up people left, right and centre. In extreme cases, the community has the right to be protected," Colonel Dowd said.

Awaiting-trial juveniles may no longer be detained in prisons, and most are released into the custody of foster parents or a place of safety.

Police have sent recommendations concerning the situation to regional Police Minister Mr Patrick

McKenzie and have embarked on a programme to educate pupils about the perils of committing crime.

Meanwhile, Porter School principal Mr Vincent Walters said dangerous juveniles had "ample" opportunity to escape from places of safety, but he did not believe children awaiting trial should go to jail.

Mr Walters said: "Reform school is not a high security institution because it would go against the grain of rehabilitation.

"We have children with lists of offences as long as your arm. Our job of rehabilitation is made difficult when the child continually goes back for court hearings. Court traumatises youngsters."

"The police are trying to discredit the current system. They want to keep children in jail because they want to take their own sweet time in solving a case. A person is only a criminal when convicted," he said.

ed to the Cabinet, trainee journalist Fumane

Children should

Philippa Garson

EVERY day, thousands of children rise before daybreak to begin an arduous working day. Whether it is on farms, in coal-

yards, on streets selling newspapers, hawking vegetables or prostituting, children are labouring all over the country.

The occasional case of abuse of working children may reach the media, but for the most, the plight of these children goes unnoticed.

The draft Child Care Amendment Bill, due to be published shortly, aims to put a stop to this — except in the entertainment industry — and puts in place mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement of the law.

Under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and the existing Child Care Act of 1983 (as amended in 1991), the employment of children under 15 years is prohibited, but employers or groups of employers may apply to the Welfare Minister for exemption. This loophole, and the absence of any effective policing, have contributed to a situation where child labour is a common and accepted practice, particularly on farms.

The Network Against Child Labour, comprising 30 organisations, has been lobbying to close the loophole and bring an end to legalised child labour, and has been pivotal in drafting the proposed amendments. The deadline for public comments on the changes is September 11, after which the Bill will go to Cabinet for further discussion.

Comments Jackie Loffell of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society: "The bill gives a stronger legal position to the prohibition of child labour than exists in other developing countries. But the provision will have to go hand in hand with other strategies, including a proper social security system, free and compulsory education and anti-poverty strategies so that families won't have to choose between starvation and sending their children out to work."

The farming community is far from pleased with the proposed amendment and the South African Agricultural Union (SAAU) is lobbying for child labour to be allowed on farms under specified conditions.

The union believes farmers should

be able to use the labour of children during school holidays, with full consent of both the child and his or her parents, for the same pay as their parents receive and for no more than 25 hours per week during holidays and 10 hours per week during school term.

Chairman of the Transvaal Agricultural Union's labour committee, Louie Bosman, says: "We're talking of the 12 to 15-year-old doing light work during harvesting, weeding, hoeing, vegetable cropping and sorting. During vacations, children have nothing to do. Their parents want them to do this work."

"We are not pleading for child labour as a source of labour. But the children are out there and they are working. We believe the minister could give exemptions," says Kobus Kleynhans, chief director of general and social affairs for the SAAU. "We'll get better results if we regulate rather than prohibit child labour and an outright prohibition will be more of a problem to the government than the farmers." The SAAU claims that only seven percent of child labour occurs on farms, according to figures released by the International Labour Organisation in 1987, which estimated that 800 000 children in total were working in the country.

No current statistics are available to discredit the SAAU's claims, but children's organisations and farmworkers' unions believe the use of child labour on farms is far more prevalent and abusive than the SAU claims it to be. They report cases where children are taken out of school to work during harvesting, often paid next to nothing; forced to work long hours, and often coerced to do so with the threat of their parents' dismissal hovering over them if they, or their parents, refuse.

While welcoming the proposed prohibition of child labour, the Farmworkers' Resource and Research Project remains unconvinced that the legislation will change conditions on the farms while "farmworkers remain powerless, given the specific power relations between the farmer and the labourers," says co-ordinator Abie Dithlake. The difficulties currently faced by those attempting to unionise farmworkers bear this out, says Dithlake. "South African agriculture is heavily

Diseko posed as a child labourer, and ended up being fired without pay be allowed to play, not work

(298) W M 8-14/9/95



Hard life for kids at the coalface: But new draft legislation aims to outlaw the use of child labour

PHOTOGRAPH: RUTH MOTAU

ly reliant on cheap labour and children are part of this," says Dithlake.

Many believe that bringing farm schools under state control — as proposed by the Education Review Committee — is the key to the abolition of child labour on farms. Certainly, the introduction of free and compulsory education for all will go some way towards ending the practice generally.

Department of Education figures from 1994 show that only six percent of the 482 228 children in farm schools are in secondary school. Most farm schools offer primary education only. Of the 5 500 farm schools countrywide, only 22 provide secondary education. And, with an estimated six million dependents living on farms, most children, evidently, are not even

in primary schools.

Clearly, the system doesn't work, says Adele Gordon from the Centre for Continuing Education. Despite the fact that some farmers provide good education, generally "children are not in the schools; there is no delivery".

The committee recommends that negotiations take place at district level to transfer the schools from the farm department to that of the education department. "The under-provision of education facilities in rural areas, and the fragmentation of facilities resulting from the different policies followed by former departments, indicate that education provision must be integrated and rationalised at district level in order to optimise resources," recommends the committee.

Just a patch on the real problems

Philippa Garson

WHILE supporting the provisions in the Draft Child Care Amendment Bill on child labour, the National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC) describes the bill as a "band-aid" for glaring problems and calls for the drafting of an entirely new Act.

The Bill uses a "pathology-centred model of dealing with children in need of care and protection", says the NCRC. "There is no emphasis on empowerment of communities or social assistance to poor families." Sexist and judgmental language from the old Act remains, as does a "lack of

emphasis on the child's opinion and opportunity to express his or her feelings in decisions taken about his or her welfare."

The NCRC opposes the suggestion that prosecutors be used as assistants in the Children's Court and recommends the use of specially trained personnel. While the Bill allows for legal representation for children at the discretion of the children's court, the NCRC calls for "automatic and compulsory legal representation in all matters affecting them."

The NCRC also notes a lack of attention to the plight of street children.

Child labour? No, that's entertainment

Philippa Garson

WHAT would we do without Sanlam babies? Most would agree that the entertainment value of seeing children playing adults is greater than that of seeing adults play themselves.

Certainly Sanlam, churning out a baby ad after another, believes in the success of using children to market adult products. Alternatively, used adults to market baby and child-oriented products may prove less successful. Imagine an adult parading in a Pamper's disposable nappy to display its leak-proof virtues?

However, "the cootchie-coo" factor is a major selling point as advertisers well know. They would not give up using children and babies to market their wares without a fight. Nor would those trying to make films, television series and theatre productions without child roles. But they won't have to.

The proposed draft Child Care Amendment Bill in effect acknowledges the value and necessity of children in the entertainment industry film, television and advertising — not granting the industry licence to let children under strict conditions.

The Bill lays down a stringent set of conditions for those employing children in the entertainment industry, including maximum periods of work and performance periods for various age groups, and categories of work in the industry; the presence of a child minder at all times; proper nutrition requirements; entertainment attendance; free parental access "as far as does not interfere with the production", education if the child can attend school, and a ban on corporal punishment.

"Ideally, we wouldn't want children to work at all but, given the nature of the entertainment industry, it is not accepted that they work. The question is how they work," says Barry Kirckman, legal advisor to the Performing Arts Workers Equity (PAWE) union. Kirckman says few cases of abuse of children in the industry have been reported, but the need for stringent controls is evident.

With a draft Bill banning almost all child labour about to be present

A day's hard graft for a kick in the butt

298

WM 8-14/9/95

Fumane Diseko

It is 6.30 in the morning at a petrol station in Leandra. More than 35 people stuff themselves into the back of a van that is without ventilation. Among them are children of the ages of 12 and 13 and me, claiming to be 14 — we are going to work at a farm factory.

Only when the van swerves dramatically and people collide into each other in the dark do I know that it is moving. We cannot see where we are being taken — we can only trust that we are going to the correct destination.

When we reach Ernest and Johannes Swanepoel's farm, I am told that they don't hire people in the middle of the week, because the wages are paid on the Friday of every fortnight. With some persuasion from a friend I had made before getting onto the van, I am registered, having made it clear that I am fourteen. No identification is required, nor is my age questioned.

There is a wide range of jobs to choose from or be assigned to: making brushes with huge industrial machines, bringing loads of wood into the factory, sawing, or making step ladders.

I am swiftly assigned to work in the mop-making department, to my relief. My smugness later turns to disappointment when I discover that there is an even simpler job — sorting out the grass for making brooms of different grades.

A tall, balding, red-haired man is walking around the factory. It is the supervisor, Johannes Swanepoel. He has a tendency to manifest himself out of nowhere and the workers are abnormally terrified of him.

When he appears, there is instant silence. He shouts that we must work. The mop group cowers and whoever he comes close to shrinks away from him. I am told that he beats up his employees without discrimination or feeling.

I do not believe this until my friend is kicked on the buttocks for no particular reason when she is on her

knees to pick up some bits of mop string from the floor.

Later on, shrill shouting fills the factory. Swanepoel is at a machine which has jammed and a boy, frightened and confused, is behind it. Swanepoel yells and shouts at him, slapping him around the head.

I am very happy when we have our first 30-minute break at 8.30 am. My friend tries to set me up with men who are "in love" with me, so that we can get money and food from them. It is a norm that a woman should have a boyfriend to subsidise her income.

At about mid-morning, I need desperately to go to the toilet. My friend shows me the way to the "loo". We walk for a long while, until we reach a pile of wood on an open plain. Miles and miles of farmland surround us and there are men nearby driving tractors.

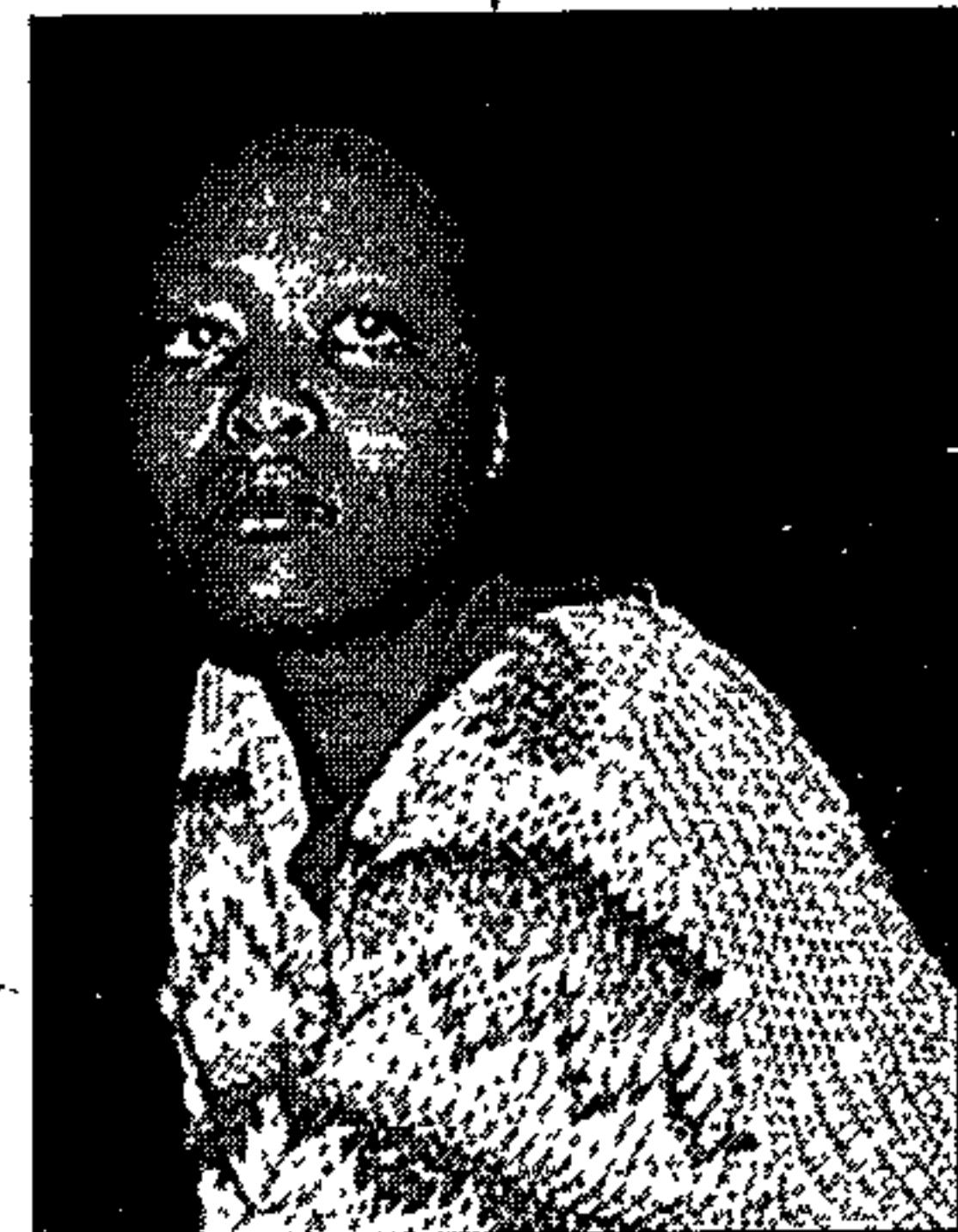
When I realise I have to use the middle of an open plain, without any privacy, I refuse. Like a good worker, I go back to work despite the extreme discomfort.

The work is infinite. Besides exhaustion from standing up, it becomes mundane and tedious. I see children, mostly young boys of around 13, working in the wood department. They are hauling huge loads of pine wood, sawing them into shapes on huge industrial machines and making stepladders. A six-year-old is busy sweeping wood shavings. She is not being paid for it — she is there with her mother, who stays on the farm.

The belief that people are equal is very obvious, as adults and children slaved equally — the more fortunate for R120 and the less fortunate for R80 a fortnight. Most of the boys working in the factory live on the farm.

Later in the day, I notice there is a watchman on the roof, looking out for the police and other infiltrators. The factory employs illegal immigrants and, if the police come, the watchman bangs on the corrugated iron roof and they hide.

I slip away from my post and sit



Glad to be fired: Diseko at the end of her day's work PHOTO RUTH MOTAU

under the shade of the carport and daydream. I am not noticed by Swanepoel, who strides past, engrossed in a conversation. It is a good thing, because he is said to be the type who shouts at you for not working rather than firing you. The others tell me that he chases after workers who leave the farm before the end of the work day with his car and drives them back to work.

Eventually it is time for the truck ride back to Leandra. This time, it is an open-air truck. But I do not get to feel the fresh air I am looking forward to so much. While I am standing, waiting to get on to the truck, Johannes Swanepoel, being the brave brawler that he is, takes it upon himself to give me the kick he is so notorious for.

I kick him right back, but not from behind as he had done to me. Like a good soldier who does not shoot people from behind, I give it to him from the front and on the shin. I tell him where to get off, a tirade I will not repeat and, in return, he tells me to get off his farm and walk. I don't get the money I have earned — R10 — and he says I must fetch it the next day.

It is the first time I have ever been fired and I am glad.

Kids stand up for rights

(298) ST(M) 10/9/95

CAPE Town children were hard at work yesterday preparing for a National Children's Summit that will lobby for the entrenchment of children's rights in the Constitution.

Children from all areas gathered for a pre-summit workshop in the city this weekend. They made recommendations that will be discussed at the national event to be held in Johannesburg later this month.

The objectives of the Children's Summit are to raise public awareness of the needs and rights of children, according to the Cape Town organiser, Ghadija Vallie.

"People should realise that children have rights which can easily be ignored in the absence of a clear children's rights charter," she said.

Big indaba on youth job training

Sowetan 11/9/95
A YOUTH job-skills training conference will be held in Johannesburg tomorrow to look at developing policy and strengthening the provision of marketable skills.

The conference is organised by the Joint Education Trust (JET), which has committed more than R44 million to 45 youth projects since 1992, many of which are successful.

The conference aims to extend the lessons of these successful projects in localised communities around the country, particularly after the recent demise of the National Youth Development Forum and the National Youth Service Initiative.

"The conference will look at ways of strengthening the provision of skills training and improving curricula in education and training projects for young people who have dropped out of the formal schooling system and are unable to find work," said JET director Dr Nick Taylor.

Labour Minister Tito Mboweni will deliver the keynote address and representatives of JET projects will present their experience.

JET project officer Mr Graeme Bloch said the Government was starting to think about policy and the conference offered a chance to build on past experience.

"More than 200 delegates from government departments, funders, youth groups and training organisations will attend the conference. It is a chance for them to develop a closer partnership," he said.

"The conference will look at the quality of life youth can expect and what contribution they can make to society," Bloch said.

The conference will allow those concerned about youth issues to plan effectively and discuss how to share resources.

At present, a youth commission is based in the office of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, but the issue of "youth" has not been upfront in political discussion.

Taylor said: "However, involvement of the State is not a guarantee of effective quality delivery.

"Non-government organisations remain a crucial delivery vehicle."

Youth business trust branches out locally

ET(BR) 12/9/95

(298)

JON BEVERLEY

SPECIAL WRITER

An organisation that will help young disadvantaged people to get into business with financial help and the provision of business advice has been launched in Durban by the Youth Enterprise Services International.

It is modelled on the well-known Prince's Youth Business Trust in Britain with the initial meeting under the banner of the Nations Trust recently established with President Nelson Mandela and

Queen Elizabeth as patrons.

It will be known as the Youth Business Trust.

David Hiscocks, managing director of the Youth Enterprise Services International with headquarters in London, said in Durban the aim was to help people under 30 who could demonstrate that they had a business plan and a skill, but who had been refused a bank loan.

Loans for "startup" or expansion could range from R500 to R10 000. The final parameters for the scheme would be decided by a steering committee headed by Beth

McAlpine, the project manager

Hiscocks said the committee would decide on the length of loans and what interest rate would be charged.

The body would expand to Cape Town and Durban later

The next development would be a workshop for advisers from Britain to be held in November this year in Johannesburg

Hiscocks, who is on secondment from the Bank of England, said similar schemes had been established in other parts of the world including Swaziland.

Commission for youth skills (298) BD 13/9/95 Theo Rawana

LABOUR Minister Tito Mboweni has invited non-governmental organisations engaged in youth skills training to make submissions to a commission set up to look at strategies to address the issue.

Mboweni, in a speech read on his behalf to a Joint Education Trust conference on youth skills training in Johannesburg, said government had asked the Comprehensive Labour Market Commission to advise it on broad strategies to promote youth employment growth.

The state was committed to contributing whatever was possible and urged others to do the same.



Labour department director-general Siphos Pityana addresses delegates at the Joint Education Trust youth skills training conference in Johannesburg yesterday. Ronnie Moalusi of the Keyboards Secretarial College and Debbie van Rensburg of the Bergzicht Training Centre were among the delegates.

Picture ROBERT BOTHA

Caning: 'All in SA will never agree'

ARG 13/9/95.

□ *Banning the rod contentious issue*

(298) (S)

Political Staff

OUTLAWING corporal punishment at educational institutions was in line with the development of a culture of human rights and observance of international conventions on the rights of children, said Chabani Manganyi, director-general of education.

Even so, it was doubtful whether South Africans would ever agree on the outlawing of corporal punishment, he said at a meeting of the National Assembly portfolio committee on education.

The African National Congress was joined at the meeting by only the Pan Africanist Congress and the African Christian Democratic Party as other minority parties continued their boycott in protest at

the ANC's refusal to invite public submissions on two controversial education bills before these were enacted.

Committee chairman and ANC MP Blade Nzimande said yesterday that he would make every effort to contact the protesting parties to see if they would take part.

One of the bills under discussion is the National Education Policy Bill which provides for outlawing corporal punishment at schools, in line with a Constitutional Court decision earlier this year.

ACDP MP Louis Green said his party did not support the bill's blanket outlawing of corporal punishment and physical and psychological abuse.

While the bill should retain the provisions on physical and psychological abuse, corporal punishment should be excluded as this did not necessarily rep-

resent physical abuse.

There were times when parents, wishing to express love for their children or wishing to demonstrate their concern for children overstepping discipline, had to be able to "spank" children.

As parents transferred this authority to schools by sending children to school, corporal punishment should be made discretionary.

Dr Manganyi said there were people in certain communities who believed corporal punishment was important in the upbringing of children.

But the department had adopted its particular view in line with the new human rights culture.

"But I doubt very much if it will ever be possible to have complete unanimity about whether this approach is the one that should be adopted."

Wednesday September 13 1995

9

Youths back in jail

(298) (203)
Crime Reporter

ARG 13/9/95

SEVEN youths awaiting trial who were implicated in a riot at the Siyakhatala place of safety in Stellenbosch at the weekend are to be sent back to jail.

Ruby Michaels, spokeswoman for the province's social services department, said racial tension and gang rivalry apparently caused the riot. Property was extensively damaged and 15 inmates absconded.

In an effort to ensure order at Siyakhatala, seven older youths charged with serious crimes and identified as unmanageable were to be returned to jail, Ms Michaels said.

Since May 8 this year it had been policy not to keep youths in jail, but in this case the Department of Correctional Services would be asked to make an exception.

Call to tighten up laws to prevent child abuse

ET 14/9/95

(298)

STAFF REPORTER

WIDE-RANGING legislative changes to prevent child abuse — including stricter bail conditions, harsher sentences and community monitoring of offenders — are considered necessary for an effective national child abuse prevention strategy.

This was the view of a summary report presented yesterday to the Confronting Crime conference in Bellville.

It recommended changes to court procedures — which were

“lax and in favour of the perpetrator” — to favour children.

The report recommended that special courts for child abuse offences be opened nationwide, with specially-trained magistrates and prosecutors.

It also suggested, as a deterrent, that child abuse offenders be forced to undergo monitoring by the community after release.

Also, it recommended that it be mandatory to report cases of child abuse, and that those who failed to do so be prosecuted.

● See Page 3

More than 300 youths have escaped from Pinetown haven in four months

Durban — More than 300 youths have escaped from the Excelsior safe haven in Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal, during the past five months.

Colonel Fanie Booysen of the Pinetown police station said 311 juvenile offenders had run away from the haven since May 10. Some had been rearrested, only to escape again.

Of the juveniles sent to the shelter, five had been accused of murder, nine of rape, 63 of armed robbery and 190 of theft. Other offences committed by the youngsters included vehicle theft, assault and damage to property.

Booyesen said Pinetown residents were seeking legal advice on the matter. They claimed crime had increased drastically in the residential area since the youths were sent to Excelsior.

The Correctional Services Amendment Act of 1994 stipulates that children younger than 18 may not be held in police or prison cells for longer than 24

hours. They have to be taken to a place of safety or released.

After the Act was promulgated, hundreds of youths were released into the custody of their parents or admitted to safe havens. *Star 16/9/95*

There were only two security guards at the Excelsior complex.

Last weekend two youths were found shot dead in a car at a Clermont taxi rank outside Durban. Police said it was possible that local community members had shot them. Residents claimed the youths were involved in serious criminal activities in the township.

Among the boys at Excelsior is a 16-year-old who is being held in connection with the murder last month of ANC leader Joseph Ntuli. The boy is under 24-hour police guard.

Police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton Ngidi said the boy was being held in terms of a court order. — Sapa

(298)

Dishing out the RDP

□ Hawkers prove hungry for school-feeding business

JOSEPH ARANES, Staff Reporter

WHATEVER criticisms communities may have about the slow delivery of reconstruction and development projects, the government's primary school feeding scheme is up and running — and it is filling thousands of hungry stomachs daily.

School pupils across the Western Cape, unlike some other provinces where the programme has run into trouble, are getting their bit of the figurative cake in the form of peanut butter and jam sandwiches, served with either soup or milkshake, depending on the weather.

Investigations in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape recently revealed that millions of rands, set aside for the scheme in these provinces, have allegedly ended up in the pockets of corrupt officials.

Bev Shirra of the Department of Health, who is running the feeding scheme in the province's schools, said things in the Western Cape were running smoothly.

"We initially started funding school feeding schemes in 1991 and when President Mandela announced the new scheme, we just expanded our operation.

ARLT 18/9/95
"Presently we are feeding 324 000 pupils in 903 schools — and with the RDP money we have managed to improve the nutritional value of the food the children are getting."

Dr Shirra said they had launched a new programme to make the feeding schemes sustainable and representative of the communities they served.

"We started training hawkers in aspects of nutrition and the importance of balanced diets — which will enable them to become directly involved in the operation.

"Now that they have the necessary nutritional knowledge, they can play an active role in the system and prepare and deliver the food to the thousands of hungry pupils."

Recently a group of 45 hawkers and vendors, belonging to the Western Province Association for Hawkers and Informal Businesses (Wahib), was presented with certificates after completing the seven-day training course.

Many of the hawkers were a familiar sight at the schools as they sold their wares to pupils through the fences. The group was selected by the Reconstruction and Development Programme's school feeding scheme to be trained in aspects of nutrition.

Wahib spokesman Kaya Mqayisa, said an important aspect of the RDP was empowering community members. By training the

(298) (297)
vendors they were now in a position to help implement the feeding scheme at schools.

"We have all witnessed how hawkers struggle to make a living selling sweets, chips and fruit to school pupils, who in many cases cannot afford to buy their wares.

"With this project we have been given a chance to get our dignity back by performing tasks related to improving the lives of our children. It is one way of trying to bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

"During the past few months everybody spoke about the new South Africa and how our lives would change. Although not many benefits can be seen in the townships, we now have an opportunity to change all that," Mr Mqayisa said.

Big corporate firms have also chipped in and through Wahib have donated funds which make it possible for the hawkers to sell their goods at reduced prices to the children.

Hawker Nokuzola Gobile said she was really excited at being given the chance to help the children of the area.

"We are now helping the teachers prepare and dish out the sandwiches, but I cannot wait for the day when the school will have a kitchen and we can prepare cooked meals for all those hungry stomachs."

The vital role of Boys Towns

At Boys Town we give these young men a new beginning, a place they can call home and which will be there for them

By Uta Zimmermann

"I FEEL that God put me in Boys Town for a reason. If I was staying at home, I would always be in and out of trouble, running away from home, snuffing glue, smoking and just trying to forget my problems at home."

This was written by Dale, the winner of an essay competition at

Boys Town in Magaliesburg. He is one of many boys who has found a place in the largest boy's care centre in South Africa.

It provides a residential child-care programme for boys aged from six to 16 years. Boys Towns offer care and treatment for boys who are underprivileged and neglected or regarded as problematic.

"At Boys Town we give these

young men a new beginning, a place they can call home and which will be there for them," said Mr Joe Araujo, executive director of Boys Town in Johannesburg.

"Through sharing with others and accepting the guidance and discipline they receive, our youngsters are able to establish firm roots of love and care."

The latest project is called "Boys Town - Kagiso" (meaning "Peace") in Randfontein, Gauteng.

"Our immediate need is to find sponsors for the eight cottages which will be built or restructured on the site of the former Chamber of Mines training college," said Araujo.

"The project will cost in the region of R6 million and will ultimately care for 70 youth on a daily basis, ranging in age from seven to 16 years and will offer other outreach services too."

Since registering as a children's home in February 1994, there has been an overwhelming demand for placement of youths at Boys Town - Kagiso.

The lack of financial support from the state is hampering the registration of the project to accommodate 70 people.

The present registration allows for 12 children although the project currently has 18 boys in its care.

Boys Town - Kagiso had its birth in the merger in 1988 of Boys Town and Process, an organisation of street children in Hillbrow.

At that time, Boys Town assumed responsibility for 45 children. When Boys Town moved to the present site in Randfontein in 1992, only 13 were still in its care.

The relatives of the rest were located and relationships re-established. Those who could not be placed with their families were relocated to the present project and represent the founding members of Boys Town - Kagiso.

Boys Towns were started in South Africa by Father (now Bishop) Reginald Orsmond in 1958, and are based on the non-denominational principles of the famous Boys Town in Nebraska, United States.

Where possible, the system of self-government used in the US was adapted

to the South African "way of life".

Boys Towns are the only care centres where boys are significantly involved in decision-making about their own affairs. At the centres, the boys govern themselves under the guidance of adults.

But the adults do not apply discipline - this is done by the boys, who make their own rules and see that they are kept.

"Through the self-government system, the boy learns responsibility, values for life; he learns to live with others and the need for order in one's life", explained Araujo, himself a product and pioneer of the Boys Town movement.

Ideally, the boys stay between two and

FIG: CLEMENT LEKANYANE

three years in a centre. Afterwards they either go home or "graduate" to a family home in the community for a period of re-integration.

If the family of a boy is unable to help him find employment, Boys Town - through its network of donors and committees - will try to help.

Mrs Mpule Moiloa emphasised the strong connection with the community. "We are trying to stay in close contact with the community by using churches, schools and activities outside so that Boys Towns don't have the stigma of being institutions."

Araujo added: "A success to us means that we take a boy into a Boys Town, turn him around and ease him back into his family and the community. He is now a contributor to that community."

According to statistics, alcohol accounts for more than 50 percent of accidents on South Africa's roads.



Mpule Moiloa ... Boys Town has a strong connection with the community.

Survey finds no evidence of a 'lost generation' in SA

(298) BD 19/9/95

Theo Rawana

SA YOUTH is one up on its counterparts in the US and Europe because white and black young people are optimistic, concerned and motivated, unlike the alienated, grunge, overeducated but under-motivated "Generation X" found in the latter regions.

These are the social findings of a recent research project conducted by marketing consultant Maggie Langlands and The Alternative Consultancy's Gill Mkhasibe for advertising agency The Jupiter Drawing Room.

"Generation X" is the name given to the current generation of twentysomethings in the US and is described as "overeducated but undermotivated, a grunge generation which has learnt to settle for less and care about nothing but the environment. They see themselves as the janitor generation because their destiny is to clean up the mess made by previous generations. Their concerns are violence, AIDS and getting jobs."

The purpose of the research was to determine the situation in SA. It also intended to determine

how similar, or different, white and black youth was in SA.

An understanding of these similarities and differences has major implications for marketers and advertisers in the years ahead, the researchers say.

For a fair comparison, the white sample was kept as close as possible to that used earlier by Mkhasibe in her black research study. The study was limited to the Johannesburg and Pretoria areas and covered a sample of 200 young people between the ages of 15 and 20.

Langlands and Mkhasibe conclude that SA's youth are not "Generation Xers", although they do have a commonality with the US and European generations of that name.

The difference, they say, is largely one of attitude — SA's youth are, on the whole, optimistic, concerned and motivated, rather than alienated. The so-called "lost generation" — undereducated, alienated and often traumatised — may well exist, but there is little evidence of it.

"On the contrary, the overwhelming majority of our respon-

dents, black or white, were determined to finish their education and go on to have a job, a home and a family.

"If Generation X brands the majority of a nation's youth, the SA youth is neither lost nor an X Generation. And this bodes well for the political and social future of the country.

"Of more practical interest for marketers are the similarities and differences between our black and white children."

The study suggests that the two groups have marked similarities in attitudes, philosophies, ambitions and beliefs in themselves. However, there are enormous differences in lifestyle and in tastes.

The researchers think that marketers can address both groups simultaneously.

"While the findings suggest that media preferences will continue to split according to language used, relevance of the content and music type played for years to come, if extremes of fashion and music are avoided, advertising messages can be developed to appeal to all groups.

Child slavery exposed

298

SYDNEY: More than 100 million Asian and Indian children as young as four are forced to work in deplorable conditions to make consumer products for Western nations, an Australian anti-slavery group says.

The Anti-Slavery Society said yesterday that between 104 million and 146 million children, most in India, are fabricating car parts, jewellery, clothing, toys, food, fireworks, and other goods in sweatshops.

"The punishments meted out to these children by their owners defy description," said Mr. Paul Bravender-Coyle, spokesman for the group.

"They have been burned, branded with red-hot irons,

starved, whipped, chained, raped and kept locked in cupboards for days on end."

Many companies cancel orders when made aware of how goods are made, he said.

Children generally work from 6am to midnight, have no regular meals and are beaten for spending longer than three minutes in stinking toilets, Mr. Bravender-Coyle said.

Last week, India said it planned to remove 2 million children "from hazardous occupations" by the year 2000. India has passed a law requiring that children be paid the same as adults, taking away the biggest incentive for employing children. — Sapa-AP

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Eastern Cape pupils fed again

(298)

The primary school feeding scheme in the Eastern Cape started again on Monday with checks in place to prevent another fraud like the one which crippled the scheme earlier this year.

Provincial health and welfare spokesman Khuleki Le Bata said several controls had been built into the management of the scheme to ensure it was "immunised from fraud and theft".

The department would also continue regular audits to monitor the situation.

The scheme was stopped temporarily after the second school term when it was found that R76-million from the R113-million budget had already been spent. Widespread corruption involving at least R5-million was uncovered.

The downscaled project will provide meals only every second school day, while the average amount spent on each child has dropped from 71c a day to 53c for urban pupils and 68c for rural pupils.

Only unprepared and unprocessed meals will be supplied to schools.

Bata said participating schools had to submit enrolment figures so that they could not claim for more money than was needed. Committees had been set up at district and regional level to oversee the feeding scheme and ensure official accountability.

This network will ensure that any problems are picked up as they may arise," he added. - Sapa.

Star 20/9/95



JOY TO THE WORLD ... These street children will have their own school in Johannesburg next month. PIC: ELIZABETH SEJAKE

School of hope for streetkids

(298) Sunday 21/9/95
School aims to restore that lost trust—especially in adults

By Betsy Spratt

The New Nation School will symbolise an important first for the streetkids of Johannesburg when it opens in October.

It will be the first school in South Africa to cater especially for their needs, says the Reverend Grant Evans of the Young Men's Christian Association.

Streetchildren from Mes Akse, Paradise Home for Street Kids, Twilight Children and other area shelters currently attend school at the YMCA in Toubert Park, but will be transferred to the site of the old Mayfair Primary School.

The building was donated recently to the YMCA by the Department of Education and the Johannesburg City Council.

The 139 students are currently taught the basics of education and life skills, and will have sports and extracurricular activities added to their curriculum at the new location.

"Although it will be a school for 139 pupils, there are more than 10 000 street children out there," said Evans. "We should be trying to open a school for 5 000 kids."

Like its YMCA predecessor, the New Nation School will take in children only after they have completed a rehabilitation programme that includes literacy testing and a general health

examination. "We try to get them off inhalants," Evans said. "We feed and shower them. When they reach a certain level, they go to school."

But according to Ms Barbara Watson, a social worker at the Yeoville Educational Polyclinic, many of the children fail to thrive because of past traumas.

The polyclinic will provide on-site counselling to help attend to the needs of the students.

It will also train the teachers how to recognise the signs of physical and emotional abuse.

"These kids were abused at home before they left for the streets," Watson said.

"Many of them left home because of problems. They were abused at home and then on the streets. They don't trust adults. Adults represent a group that has not been very kind to them."

The goal of the New Nation School is to restore the children's trust and prepare them for standard schools.

So far more than 30 children who once attended school at the YMCA have been placed in standard schools, Evans said.

"They have a desire for education," he said. "Our hope is that they will eventually be streamed into a standard educational system, be it vocational or academic."

Draft youth charter unveiled

(298) 21/9/95

The Gauteng ANC Youth League yesterday released its draft youth charter in which it challenges new local governments to redress youth matters after the elections by creating youth departments at local level.

In what it calls a commitment by the youth to a partnership with the Government, the charter says: "We believe that Government will have to establish

a ministry focusing on youth developmental matters."

Spokesman Sipho Makama said the charter had been drawn up in the interest of "the youth in general" and focused primarily on the expectations of the youth from the community leaders who would be elected.

These included an end to unemployment, equal access to education, an

end to crime and child abuse, the enforcement of anti-drug laws, adequate welfare for disabled youth and children, and sports and recreation facilities.

Educational, sport, religious, cultural and other youth bodies were invited to help finalise the charter at summits in Brakpan, Soweto and Soshanguve on Saturday. A provincial summit will be convened later. — Staff Reporter.



Grab-and-run 'beggars' prey on city motorists

Star 21/4/95 (298)

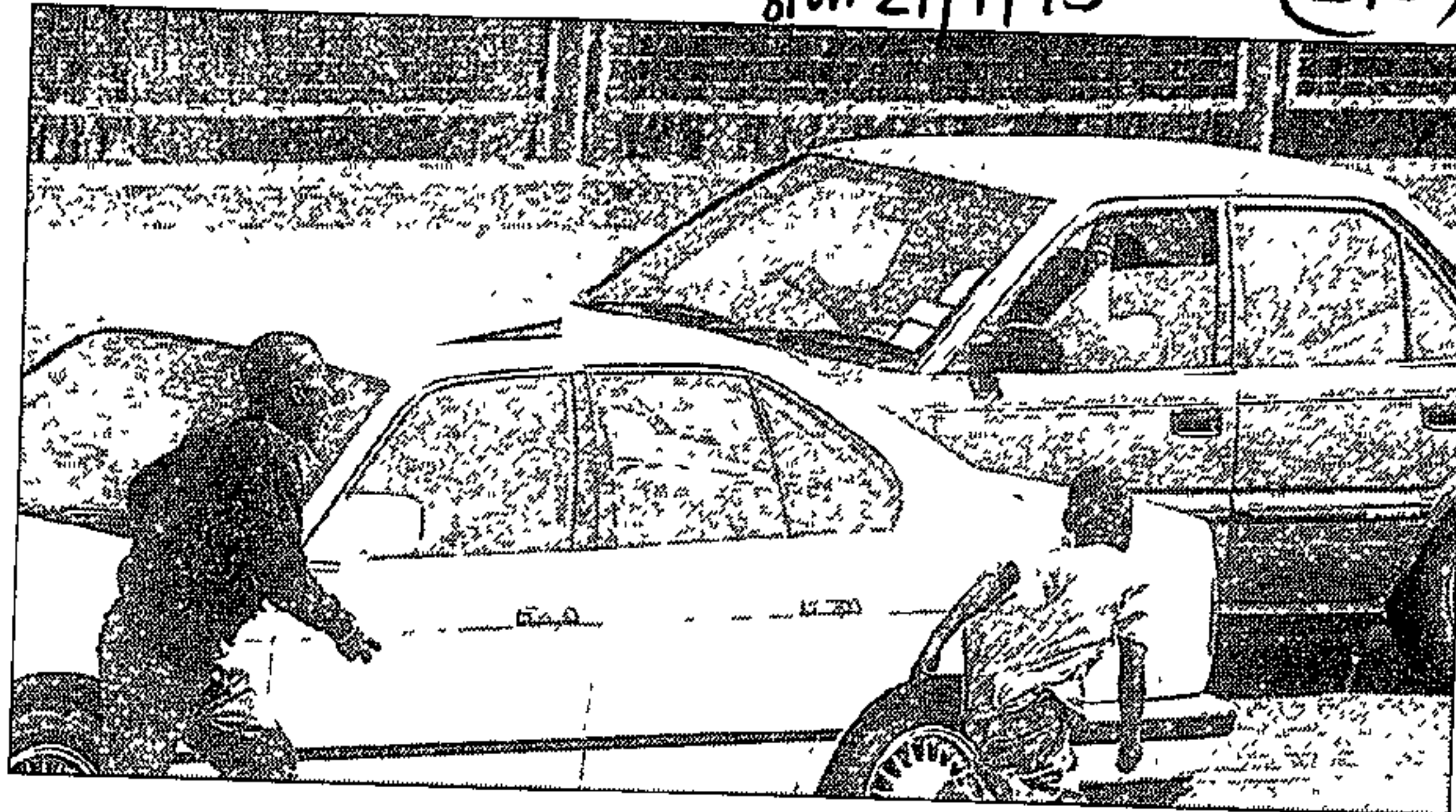
■ BY BOBBY BROWN

Young street children begging for food and money are driving fear into motorists using the Queen Elizabeth Bridge, Sauer, Jeppe and Bree streets in Johannesburg every day.

At an intersection on the south side of the bridge where Bertha, Sauer and Simmonds streets meet, up to 10 little "beggars" can be encountered during peak hours every day. They stroll down the centre of the road with their hands cupped and patting their bellies in a begging gesture, often coaxing sympathetic drivers into letting down their guard and their windows.

The Star observed several motorists taking pity on the youngsters, many of whom conceal a container with glue inside their shirts, giving them money and discarded sandwiches.

But for some motorists, a bitter lesson has been learnt when the beggars seize the opportunity of a rolled down window to snatch jewellery from an unsuspecting driver.



On the prowl ... street kids on the Queen Elizabeth Bridge.

PICTURES
THYS
DULLAART

A spokesman for the CBD's Crime Prevention Unit, Captain Gert Myburgh, said motorists should not be tempted to roll down their windows or to leave their doors unlocked.

"These children are criminals, but not all the criminals are street kids. Some of them act homeless to rip off motorists," he said.

He said the police had regular patrols at the crime hotspots, but added that it was difficult to make arrests. He said the rob-

beries took place mostly during afternoon peak hours when homebound drivers were frustrated and tired.

It is a clever grab-and-run trick, since the drivers seldom, if ever, leave their cars in the hooting traffic to pursue the young criminals into the nearby Bree Street taxi ranks.

The street kids appear to "work" only when they are in groups.

The Star last week observed two boys begging on the Queen

Elizabeth Bridge for about an hour. The boys however never attempted to grab anything from cars.

Star columnist Denis Beckett experienced the stealthiness of the robbers when a passenger's necklace was snatched through his car window.

Beckett described the incident as a "sudden wild whirring of aggressive hands" when the boys clamoured around a car, leaving their victim confused and poorer for the experience.

'Youth should contribute to the RDP'

Staff Reporter

YOUTH organisations should investigate ways of contributing to development and reconstruction, Deputy Minister of Welfare, Geraldine Frazer-Moletsi, has told delegates to the Southern African Youth seminar in Cape Town.

She said youth in the region should use the positive environment and opportunities they had earned for themselves to confront challenges and make meaningful contributions to society.

"Youth is one of the most pow-

erful phases of life," she said.

"It is a time when people are prepared to take risks and when they will fight for what they believe in. It is potentially one of the most creative periods in life."

Ms Frazer-Moletsi said South Africa needed to tap the energy of its youth in reconstruction and development.

● The seminar has been organised with the co-operation of Danish, Swedish and Norwegian youth organisations.

The aim of the seminar is to

empower Southern African youth organisations.

It hopes to promote an exchange of experiences between representatives and to strengthen long-term co-operation regionally and nationally.

The seminar is also aimed at revitalising contacts between South African youth, and youth groups in the Nordic countries.

Participants hope to produce a handbook or tool kit to be used by voluntary youth organisations in southern Africa.

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DP walks out of conference aimed at uniting youth

ARG 23/9/95

TASLIMA VILJOEN

Staff Reporter

28(298)

THE Democratic Party Youth staged a walk-out from a southern African youth conference held in the city.

The DP youth complained yesterday that the South African delegation was not representative of South African youth.

Teboho Moneri, a delegate in Cape Town from Lesotho, said: "It's been a good learning experience for us, but the announcement by the DP was embarrassing."

The conference, which was organised and sponsored by Nordic countries, aims to unite southern African youth. It is being hosted by the Western Cape Youth Forum.

A spokesman for the forum said South Africa was only allowed to send 10 delegates to the conference.

He said all the major political parties as well as other organisations were invited, but not all responded.

The South African delegation included members of the African National Congress, Inkatha Freedom Party, Hindu Youth Movement and the South African Youth Club Association.

The co-ordinator of the conference, Graham Gaunlett, said South Africa was the only

country which was allowed to send so many delegates.

Other countries were only allowed to send four delegates.

He said the conference was a southern African conference and should not be dominated by South Africa.

The theme of the conference was the role of voluntary youth organisations in the advancement of democracy in southern Africa.

Mr Gaunlett said various issues would be discussed during the conference and delegates would visit various youth projects in the Western Cape.

The delegates are from Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Angola, Lesotho and from Scandinavia.

Jeanette Olsen from Denmark said: "The conference thus far has been very good, and everybody is so active and wants to do so much."

"This is my first trip to Africa and it has been a great experience meeting all the delegates," she said.

Onael Mandambi from Tanzania said: "It's a great opportunity for us to share our experiences about youth in our particular countries."

"The conference is also quite informative, the issue of conflict resolution was really interesting."

The conference ends tomorrow.

Child whippings haven't stopped

(298) WM 25-31/8/95
Despite a Constitutional Court ruling, children are still being sentenced to whippings as punishment for petty offences, writes **Annicia Reddiar**

WHIPPING of juvenile offenders has not stopped in all of South Africa, in spite of a Constitutional Court ban more than two months ago. And fingers are being pointed at Justice Minister Dullah Omar for not notifying courts of the ruling.

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) discovered last week that since June 9, when the Constitutional Court declared whipping unconstitutional, 17 children between the ages of 13 and 17 had received cuts after sentencing for petty offences in Umtata. LHR said it was possible the practice could also be continuing in "other rural areas of the country".

The disregard of Umtata magistrates of a Constitutional Court ruling raises serious questions about the implementation of the court's decisions — and about the strength of procedures to inform relevant authorities.

In this instance, the National Children's Right Committee (NCRC) blames Omar, whose ministry appears to have neglected a duty to inform the lower courts.

The whippings were discovered when an LHR Umtata field worker, Maggie Tserere, followed up on a rumour and found 15 cases where the 17 children had been whipped. Most of them had been sentenced for theft and shoplifting.

It was brought to the attention of NCRC, and last Friday its executive director, Shirley Mabusela, faxed Omar and Judge Arthur Chaskalson, president of the Constitutional Court.

Mabusela told Omar: "Needless to say, we are shocked by these findings. We understand that the responsibility for ensuring that decisions taken by the Constitutional Court are enforced falls within your ministry. We request an immediate cessation of judicial whipping in all provinces."

On Saturday, advocate Wim Tren-

gove of the Legal Resources Centre phoned Omar and the district police commissioner and supplied them with case information on the whippings. Trengove told Omar that, if needs be, an urgent application would be brought to put a stop to the whippings. Trengove told the *Mail & Guardian* this week that Omar was "surprised, and grateful that we brought it to his attention", and that he promised to see that it was stopped immediately.

Mabusela charged this week that all too often children's rights are sidelined. "With the death penalty, immediate steps were taken to ensure that it was stopped. When it comes to this issue, it does not look like anything is being done. It seems like magistrates are saying, 'Until we get a directive, we're just going to continue.' We find that unacceptable."

A prominent human rights lawyer commented that if the whippings continued with knowledge of the Constitutional Court decision, it pointed to serious problems for the judicial process. "It's highly unlikely that any judicial officer was unaware of a ruling as important as this."

Ann Gardner of the National Institute for Public Interest Law and Research, which co-operated with the NCRC on the matter, said legal action may be taken in spite of Omar's assurance that the whippings would stop. She questioned the two-and-a-half month delay, saying: "I'm tired of apologies. It's unfair that the government can just say that they're sorry. Maybe we should take some action; the children should get compensation for damages."

Omar confirmed on Thursday that he had been called by Trengove. "He informed me that he had instructions to apply to the Constitutional Court for an order to stop courts in the Transkei from imposing corporal punishment on juveniles."

Omar said that before the Constitutional Court ruling, he had already asked for a moratorium.

He said he has now written to Umtata ordering that whippings end, pointing out that it is "illegal and exposes the Department of Justice and the minister to potential civil claims for damages".

No lost generation in SA — report

JOHANNESBURG: South African youths, black and white, were motivated, determined to complete their education and to go on to find employment, a study released yesterday showed.

Commissioned by advertising agency The Jupiter Drawing Room, the report said research showed that South Africa was apparently safe from the apathy and social discord prevalent among the so-called "Generation-X" in American and European

cultures

The study concluded that South African youths were generally optimistic, concerned about social issues, motivated, and they did not feel alienated.

There was little evidence in the study of the "lost generation".

"On the contrary, the overwhelming majority of our respondents, black or white, were determined to finish their education and go on to have a job, a home and a family.

(298) CT 29/9/95
"If Generation-X brands the majority of a nation's youth, South Africa's youth is neither lost nor an X-Generation. And this bodes well for the political and social future of the country."

The study found marked similarities in attitudes, philosophies, ambitions and belief in themselves when comparing responses from black and white youths. However, there were enormous differences in lifestyles and in tastes. — Sapa

Feeding plan out to tender

NELSPRUIT — Wide-scale fraud in President Nelson Mandela's school feeding scheme in the Mpumalanga education department had forced education MEC David Mabuza to tender for a private company to manage the programme, it was reported yesterday.

Mabuza said 40 schools in the province were meant to benefit from the scheme, but unknown officials in his department were sending cheques to various principals, who would then cash them and share the money with the officials.

"Schools are getting the cheques, but some of them aren't giving the children their food."

Several principals and officials from the education and health and welfare departments were being investigated.

(298)BD 29/1/99

School heads rob feeding scheme

(298) Somerset 29/9/95

THE MPUMALANGA Department of Education has uncovered large-scale fraud in the feeding scheme programme.

MEC for education Mr David Mabuza said yesterday that about 20 schools were being investigated in connection with the sending of cheques to principals who would then cash them and share the money with officials.

"Schools are getting the cheques, but some of them aren't giving the children their food," he said.

Mabuza added that a private company would manage the feeding scheme until the programme was transferred from his department to the Department of Health and Welfare at the beginning of next year.

Payments to the schools for the feeding scheme would then be the

Principals, shopkeepers and officials were in cahoots in fraud

responsibility of the health and welfare office, he said.

At the moment, police are investigating certain officials in the departments of health and welfare and education, who are suspected of swindling with the cheques.

Mr Mangobe Nkosi, principal of Khanya Higher Primary School near Ermelo, was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment last week in Ermelo after he withdrew government feeding scheme funds worth R12 000 from the school's bank account.

On Wednesday the principal of Majembeni Primary School, Miss Elizabeth Sibambo, appeared in court at

Tonga on charges of defrauding the feeding scheme of R8 000.

Mabuza said certain shopowners from whom the government bought bread for the feeding scheme were also defrauding the system.

The shops would undersupply schools but invoice the government for the full amount of food ordered. The additional money would then be divided among shopowners, department officials and school principals.

"The corruption is embarrassing and we did try to avoid taking drastic action while we strengthened the system," Mabuza said. — *African Eye News*.

Children's rights studied

Mduduzi ka Harvey
(298) BD 2/10/95

EIGHTY youths from different race, class, gender and disability groups countrywide met in Johannesburg at the weekend to discuss children's rights to be incorporated into SA's constitution.

The meeting, organised by the National Children's Rights Committee, was part of an effort to get children to understand their rights and responsibilities.

Committee information officer Liz Bennett said this would help children learn the fundamentals of democratic practice and empower a new generation of voters in four years' time.

Contractors' registration apathy threatens council

Sello Motlhabakwe

THE National Black Contractors and Allied Traders' Forum says it is struggling to convince emerging contractors to register with the National Home Builders' Registration Council.

Forum secretary-general Douglas Setuke said the lack of response from emerging contractors was threatening the sustainability of the council as it depended on membership fees.

There were about 20 mainstream contractors involved in the council, but for mass delivery to be effective hundreds of

emerging contractors needed to be involved. The registration fee ranged upward of R750.

Setuke was aware that national government departments had capacity-building programmes, but these were uncoordinated. The forum would urge the departments of trade and industry, labour, public works and housing to co-ordinate their training efforts, especially for the building industry.

The forum's initial involvement in mass housing had been based on the implementation of a development compact for emerging contractors.

Black youths 'rebellious against extended family'

CT 3/10/95 (298)

JOHANNESBURG: A University of South Africa research study of black Gauteng youths published yesterday showed that the extended family living under one roof was ending.

The study by Unisa's Bureau of Market Research covered men and women, hostel dwellers and Northern Sotho, Zulu and Xhosa speakers aged 18 to 30.

The study found that the extended family system was ending because youths no longer accepted being dictated to by their parents.

Other consequences of the

extended family system which youngsters found unacceptable were child abuse and the perceived unfair treatment being given to daughters-in-law.

There was a general feeling that men and women would become equal because of equal educational opportunities, the blurring of traditional roles and women's liberation.

Lobola was viewed differently — young men believed lobola had lost its meaning, while young women accepted the custom, believing that "a man who gets you free won't value you and will leave you". — Sapa

Youth forum in tatters

THE Western Cape Youth Forum lay in tatters yesterday after three major parties pulled out, blaming the ANC for "hi-jacking" the body, misleading major funders and creating an "illegitimate" umbrella body.

The DP, NP and ACDP youth called for the forum's disbandment and for an independent facilitator to start restructuring talks for an "accountable and representative" forum with proven cross-party support. — Political Staff

(298) ET 3/10/95

Youth Forum 'won't be hijacked' (298)

THE Western Cape Youth Forum said yesterday it would not allow the National Party youth to hijack the process of youth development in the province.

"The process should remain the collective responsibility of all youth formations," it said in a statement, issued by its

CT 5/10/95

FOCUS ON DISCIPLINE

Cane out, counselling in, schools forum told

CT 5/10/95

(298)

AUTHORITY IN SCHOOLS should be applied through experience and knowledge rather than corporal punishment, a forum was told yesterday. **LINDIZ VAN ZILLA** reports.

ALTERNATIVE methods of punishment and discipline in schools were discussed at a forum yesterday after Parliament passed a bill last month abolishing corporal punishment, which the Constitutional Court had found unconstitutional.

About 200 people attended the conference at the Cape Town Teachers' Centre in Claremont.

Educators, parents, pupils and welfare authorities debated the issues.

Social worker Mrs Fowzia Ryk-
hief said corporal punishment sent the wrong message — that violence was the right way to solve problems. Corporal punishment was often ineffective and "very often the same children are beaten over and over again for the same offences", she said.

Corporal punishment could lead not only to physical abuse,

but also to emotional and psychological abuse, and children subjected to corporal punishment suffered from low self-esteem.

Newly appointed superintendent-general of the Western Cape Education Department, Mr Brian O'Connell, acknowledged that the cane and corporal punishment had been part of the make-up of teachers for a long time.

Counselling

He called on teachers to accept the fact that corporal punishment was out and to help to develop alternative methods of discipline.

Transitional management teams of teachers, pupils and parents would be established to help teachers cope with the changes.

Counselling and support for teachers, parents and children would be the basis of alternative

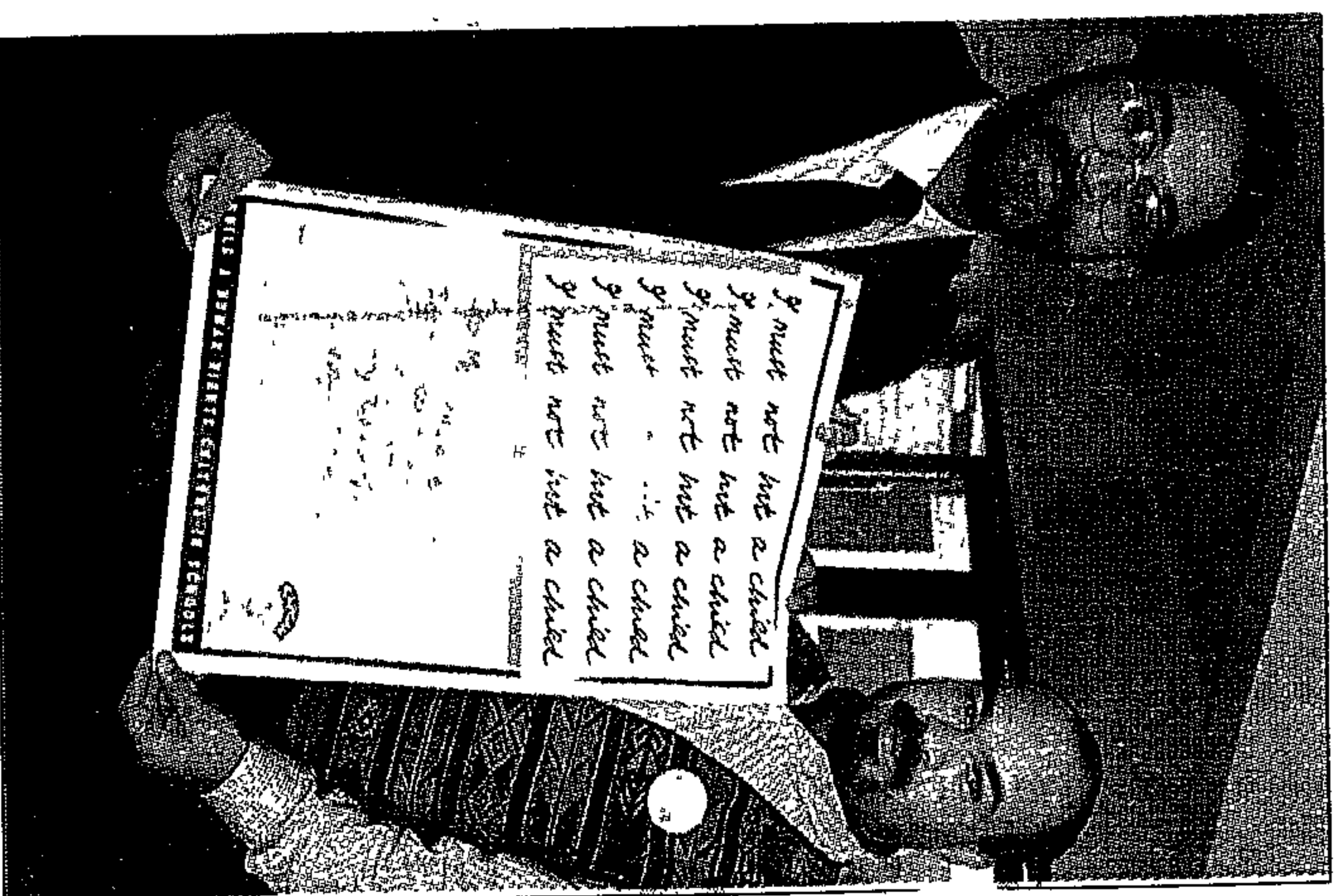
disciplinary action, Mr O'Connell said.

"Building inter-personal relationships with children and having an insight into their problems were essential. Authority should be applied through experience and knowledge rather than through corporal punishment," he said.

Constructive community service was one of the most positive alternatives to arise from the conference and teachers were also encouraged to reward positive behaviour and not always focus on negative aspects of a child's behaviour.

Mrs Linzi Fredman, representative of End Physical Punishment of Children, said disciplinary action should rehabilitate and support children.

She implored teachers to have deeper insight into why children misbehaved and said they should determine whether personal or other circumstances weren't causing children to misbehave and then liaise with pupils and parents to try to solve the problems.



NO MORE CANING: The superintendent-general of the Western Cape Education Department, Mr Brian O'Connell (left), joined one of the organisers of the Forum on Discipline in Schools, Mr Theo Combrinck, in finding alternatives to corporal punishment.

PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

Legal worry on juveniles

□ Differences in treatment of accused youngsters

Staff Reporter

NATIONAL statistical research unveiled at a juvenile justice conference in Cape Town, reveals there has been very little uniformity in the State's approach to dealing with young offenders. **ARG 6/10/95**

South Africa is currently debating the reform of the juvenile justice system — aimed at formulating uniform, national policy in keeping with a human rights culture.

Several reforms — notably the abolition of whipping and the enactment of legislation aimed at keeping as many juvenile offenders out of prison — have already been achieved.

The research — compiled by members of the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape, and undertaken in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Venda, Vredendal, Western Cape and on the East Rand — was based on cases in June and July last year, prior to the above-mentioned reforms.

It was presented at a conference hosted by the Community Law Centre in Sea Point yesterday.

A total of 970 cases involving alleged juvenile offenders — 517 of them aged between 16 and 18 — formed the basis of the research.

The youngest juveniles in the sample were eight years old, and all the cases researched followed normal magistrate's court appearances. Nearly 90 percent of cases involving alleged offenders aged 10 or younger were converted to children's court inquiries.

Boys in the sample outnumbered girls by a ratio of nearly 10 to one.

There were marked differences in the number of appearances by each accused between the various regions surveyed.

For example, all cases in the Eastern Cape were disposed of within seven appearances; some Western Cape cases involved 15 appearances, and one even had 22.

Guilty pleas were also unevenly distributed across the regions with almost 80 percent of the Vredendal accused pleading guilty, while the figure was only about 12 percent in East Rand.

About half of the Western Cape accused pleaded guilty.

The majority of accused — nearly 60 percent — appeared in court without legal representation, but here, too, there are regional variances.

Less than 10 percent of the accused in the Eastern Cape and Vredendal had legal representation, rising to more than 40 percent in the Western Cape.

Of the total number of cases, more than half were withdrawn — none in Vredendal, about half in KwaZulu-Natal, and more than half in the Western Cape.

Of the remaining cases, almost one in six resulted in an acquittal.

Researchers concluded that sentencing disparities, and uneven arrest practices and rates of acquittal, were areas of concern.

They said: "The desirability of courts using bail as a means of securing the release of juveniles will warrant debate and possible policy guidelines."

"Numerous remands and delays, prevalent in certain jurisdictions, should be a matter of concern."



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Fana Taliwe, 5, goes through some of the goodies that The Argus/Spar Christmas Hamper Fund will be handing to underprivileged families to brighten up their Christmas lunch.

Cheer for needy of Cape Town

Staff Reporter

THE jingling of Christmas bells may be three months away, but The Argus/Spar Christmas Hamper Fund is already set to bring a little cheer to 4 000 underprivileged families.

The fund, started three years ago, raises money to buy food hampers for the needy.

Argus promotions manager Beryl Elchenberger said: "Christmas is traditionally a time of giving, but for many it is also a bitter reminder of their poverty."

Already The Argus and Spar have each donated R2 100 to the fund,

which will buy 120 hampers.

Each hamper, valued at almost R50, will contain biscuits, soup, tea, jelly, sliced peaches, pilchards, rice, macaroni, peas, sugar, baked beans, and much more.

The parcels will be packed by schoolchildren on December 6 and the beneficiaries — Cafda, the Nyanga Welfare Centre, TB Care, Mfesane, Kwana Temba and the Marconi Beam community — will distribute them to the most destitute families on their feeding lists.

Support the fund by sending money to The Argus/Spar Christmas Hamper Fund, Box 97, Cape Town, 8000.

Black youth hung up on material status, study finds

By TROYE LUND

(298)

Star 7/10/95

Young blacks are breaking away from the traditions of the extended family, placing more emphasis on material status symbols and are dubious about religion, a University of South Africa study of Gauteng's black youth has found.

The survey found that the system of the extended family living under one roof was ending as youths "no longer accepted being dictated to by their parents". The study by Unisa's Bureau of Market Research covered males and females, hostel dwellers and Northern Sotho, Zulu and Xhosa-speakers aged 18 to 30.

Other consequences of the extended family system which youngsters found unacceptable

were child abuse and perceived unfair treatment of daughters-in-law by parents.

Most of those interviewed were convinced that men and women would become equal. They attributed their conviction to equal educational opportunities and women's liberation.

Lobola was viewed differently by men and women. Men believed lobola had lost its meaning, while women accepted the custom.

"A man who gets you for free won't value you and will leave you," said one respondent.

The main status symbols of all groups were clothing, shoes, cars and alcoholic drinks. American fashions appealed to hostel dwellers, and Italian and French fashions to young urbanites.

Appeal to community to assist Child Protection Unit

■ BY ANSO THOM
CRIME REPORTER

If you feel you can no longer ignore the horrendous child abuse cases in and around Johannesburg, then you are the right person to serve on the Johannesburg Child Protection Unit (CPU) Community Policing Forum (CPF).

Commander of the CPU, Captain Pi Pretorius cannot attend all 29 CPF meetings which take place on a monthly basis at police stations. "We are here to serve the children of Johannesburg and we need people who are willing to

offer their time and services," said Pretorius.

The CPU serves 29 police stations and Pretorius has called for a representative from each district. The representative would have to form a support group in the community consisting of a social worker, doctor or medical person, people offering safe houses and other people interested in assisting.

"If we have a case, for example, in Sandton, we can call the representative and the person can then, together with the support group, assist the police in the case," said Pretorius.

The CPU presently has no social workers and very few safe houses. They can turn to after hours and over weekends.

The CPF will be expected to meet once a month. "This has to be seen in the context of a partnership," said Warrant Officer Gert Jonker of the CPU.

"They can give us guidance on what the community expects, for example in Alexandra where we don't have free access," he said.

Specific problem areas identified by Pretorius include Witkoppen Road in the northern suburbs, Alexandra, the Johannesburg city centre, Westbury and

Hillbrow. (298)

Police stations served by the CPU include: Alexandra, Booyens, Bramley, Brixton, Cleve-land, Douglasdale, Fairland, Gen-eral Johan Coetzee (Newlands), Hillbrow, Jeppe, John Vorster Square, Langlaagte, Linden, Lombardy East, Mondeor, Norwood, Park Station, Parkview, Randburg, Rosebank, Sandton, Sandringham, Gallo Manor and Yeoville.

Anyone interested is asked to contact Pretorius at (011) 403-3413 (office), 083-251-2612 or Warrant Officer Gert Jonker at the same number.

Toyota encourages youth to develop their potential

CT(BR) 9/10/95

STAFF WRITER

Toyota SA, through the Toyota SA Foundation, is encouraging young adults to develop their potential to become self-starters and explore avenues which can lead to self-employment.

The motor group has joined forces with Thusong Youth Centre in Alexandra to introduce the Learn-to-Earn programme.

"The problem is that these people are frustrated and despondent," says Susan Smit, the group social development manager for Toyota SA. "They have no confidence to become self-starters."

Thusong believes that skills training alone does not encourage or equip people to tackle the awesome task of starting up their own businesses.

"Great emphasis is placed on getting the participants to feel positive about themselves and to develop their belief in themselves to achieve. Students join this programme of their own free will."

The foundation has been supporting the Thusong Youth Centre for the past four years, providing



Susan Smit

(298) financial assistance for training workshops.

The centre's aim is to broaden the experience and develop the skills of the disadvantaged black students who show leadership potential to enable them to participate in and contribute to the development of the country.

The centre also runs the Thusong Educational Trust, formed in 1979, which liaises with other organisations.

Safe haven for youth

Southern 9/10/95

Young inmates find warmth and a helping hand at new place of safety

By Betsy Spratt

A POLICE OFFICER arrives at the Meritum Youth Centre to escort an inmate to court — but, unlike many meetings between offenders and the police, this encounter is friendly.

"You see how calmly it went," the centre's managing director, Mr Fanie van Zijl, says to a group of visiting sports celebrities touring the three-month-old facility located near Krugersdorp.

The sports people came to the centre to celebrate the completion of the facility's cricket field, a project which symbolises the new dispensation in the juvenile justice system. Places of safety now need to promote a variety of projects to build the youths' self-esteem.

Awaiting trial

The social and psychological needs of 100 juveniles at the Krugersdorp centre are addressed through a programme of athletics, schooling and social projects.

The programme hopes to provide social upliftment for youth awaiting trial on charges ranging from robbery to murder, says centre director, Mr Frans le Grange.

"Most of these kids came from the streets and they came to the centre as the result of a magisterial decree," Le Grange explains.

The Gauteng Department of Welfare this year revived negotiations with the Meritum Group of Companies on the Krugersdorp facility because of the need to locate a place of safety near Johannesburg and other Reef cities.

However, the Correctional Services Act of March 1995, which decreed that awaiting trial juveniles would no longer be housed with adults, sent negotiations into warp speed. At the time 700 juveniles were to be released onto the streets.

"It was like fireworks when we learned those kids would no longer be kept in prison," says Le Grange.

Today, some of those juveniles are inmates at Meritum. Inmates could spend between one day and three months at the centre awaiting trial.

For many inmates the centre provides their first experience of living in an atmosphere of relative safety and respect.

"We prefer to call them 'clients' rather than 'juvenile offenders' as a way of building respect," says manager Mr Prince Monyela.



FACING THE FUTURE ... Inmates at Meritum Youth Centre participating in a social upliftment programme.

"We don't refer to them as children because some youth are 17 years old." In turn, the clients refer to the managers as "fathers".

"The word 'manager' makes them feel that we are a level above them," Monyela explains. "We want them to feel that they can talk to us."

Continuing the work

Meritum reflects the change in thinking on juvenile justice according to Le Grange. The change was brought about, in part, by the move of juvenile services from the Correctional Services to the Welfare and Population Development department. This was another directive of the new Correctional Services Act.

At present the Department of Welfare and Population Development faces the challenge of finding a way of continuing the work started by Meritum.

turn. At the moment juveniles found innocent of the allegations against them are released back onto the streets.

"If they do return to the street, we hope they will become role models for other youth," says Le Grange.

However, in a few cases, he says, juveniles released onto the streets have committed new crimes in order to be returned to the centre.

Pre-school bodies come together

By Noxolo Kweza

(298)

IN a bid to address problems affecting pre-schools, two branches of South African Children's Informal Settlement Agency Trust decided to merge at the weekend.

The Eastern Cape and Gauteng branches resolved at a conference at the Central Methodist Church in Johannesburg to join hands in order to solve their problems.

Sachisa president Mr Fezile Bacela said the Eastern Cape branch was experiencing many problems which it could not solve on its own.

Sachisa, which represents mostly pre-schools in rural areas and squatter camps, has fewer than 10 donors who have difficulty in funding all the

creches. Bacela said financial constraints, lack of managerial skills and resources were some of the problems they were facing.

Miss Caroline Tshabalala, from Otis, one of the donors invited to the conference, said her company was helping the pre-schools in order to give children a better start in life.

"We are trying to give them the best foundation they need at pre-school level," Tshabalala said.

At the end of the conference, which was attended by representatives of pre-schools in and around Gauteng and the Eastern Cape, Bacela promised to hold a workshop on his return to the Eastern Cape to put into practice some of the proposals of the conference.

Juvenile facilities 'will be stretched'

Bonile Ngqiyaza

NO ADDITIONAL facilities would be built or put into service for awaiting trial juveniles in Gauteng until a judicial system placing more emphasis on preventative services was in place, spokesman Frikkie van Rooyen said yesterday.

"Existing places of safety of the department will be used to capacity ... with the aim of ultimately focusing more on community-based alternatives."

He said about 250 awaiting trial juveniles had currently been admitted to places of safety in Gauteng.

The 1994 Correctional Services Amendment Act — implemented in May this year — prohibits the detention in prison of juveniles.

Van Rooyen said a further 100 juveniles were being accommodated at the Meritum Youth Centre as a temporary measure.

The Proteam detention facility near Cullinan would have its capacity extended to accommodate 220.

Van Rooyen said the welfare complex in Soweto would be ready in April to accommodate another 100 juveniles. "Although this complex is being prepared as a children's home and place of safety, juveniles awaiting trial will initially enjoy preference for placement in the detention unit."

SA con install

Susan Russell

COMPANY management are to be responsible for detecting their organisations, anti-corruption consultant Shane Keohane said.

Keohane was speaking to representatives from more than a dozen southern African companies and a two-day workshop on white collar crime.

The clinic also offered advice on how to structure contracts to prevent this type of fraud.

He said in addition to it was up to the company's in-house to be alert to fraud within the organisation.

He pointed out that forms of white collar crime stamped out completely, as possible to draw up guidelines and structures to minimise it.

These included a fraud prevention company had to be prepared to practice and implement agreements in the organisation, regarding other ways of minimising

Study finds that young blacks reject old ideas

(298) Star 12/10/95

■ STAFF REPORTER

The tradition of the extended black family all living together under one roof is on the way out as young people increasingly begin to question the rules imposed on them by their elders, a study has shown.

Conducted by Unisa's Bureau of Market Research, the survey was based on group discussions held with males, females, hostel-dwellers and Northern Sotho, Zulu and Xhosa speakers between the ages of 18 and 30.

The study examined:

- Cultural values – family, religious beliefs, traditional bonds;
- Demassification trends: group affiliation and social needs versus

individualism, personal ambitions and self-actualisation;

- Interests, activities, leisure pursuits and entertainment preferences;

- Materialism and status needs – their importance and how they are satisfied;

- Aspirations for the future, expectations, dreams and hopes;

- Role models;

- How the modern youth differ from their parents.

As far as cultural values and customs went, there was almost complete consensus that the extended family living under the same roof was coming to an end because young people no longer accept parents dictating to children, being unfair to their daughters-in-law,

and the sexual abuse which has resulted from the extended family system.

There was a general feeling that in the future men and women would be equal.

Lobola was viewed differently by men and women.

Young women generally accepted the custom, believing that "a man who gets you free won't value you and will leave you".

But the young men questioned believed that lobola had lost its meaning. Hostel-dwellers were very positive about religion and about church-going, but the more mature urbanites tended to be sceptical and questioning, and the very young expressed confusion and disbelief.

Long delays in abuse cases

MG 13-19/10/95

(298)

Rehana Rossouw

Human rights groups are furious at delays of more than two years in bringing child-abusers to justice.

A former principal of a children's home in Cape Town, Mike Viveros, has had his trial on charges of sexually abusing seven children postponed 15 times since he first appeared in court in October 1993.

Welfare workers say children are told to prepare to testify each time the case is set down, and that they are traumatised when told the matter is postponed.

They are also concerned that delays could increase the risk of the children becoming unreliable witnesses and that lax bail conditions do not protect them from being approached by the accused.

Although the Western Cape has pioneered the establishment of special sexual offences courts, the region's Attorney General, Frank Khan, said they are unable to cope with the "staggering" volume of cases to be heard.

"I have repeatedly been unsuccessful in my requests to the Department (of Justice) for the creation of additional special courts," Khan told the Parliamentary Select Committee on Justice recently.

The Wynberg sexual offences court had more than 250 cases outstanding on its special court roll, which would take about seven and a half months to dispose of.

But Enver Daniels, advisor to

Justice Minister Dullah Omar, said providing more courtrooms was not necessarily the solution. "We are facing budgetary constraints," he said, but noted that what was needed was "a coherent prosecutorial policy regarding sexual offences".

Two sentences handed down in the Wynberg regional court last week sparked an outcry. Dumisani Mgiijima, 19, was sentenced to seven years in jail for raping a 15-year-old girl. On the same day, Lesley Appollis, 61, who repeatedly raped a child over a period of two years, starting when she was nine, was given a suspended sentence on condition that he underwent correctional supervision.

Daniels said the Ministry of Justice had received complaints from a number of attorneys that anyone suspected of committing a sexual offence was brought to court. "The backlog will be cleared much sooner if not just everyone is prosecuted." He said Omar would "seriously" examine means of addressing the problem.

The children's rights advocacy group Resources Aimed at Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Rapcan) said the state of the courts and procedures for children were "appalling".

"We receive regular calls from people who have gone to court with sufficient evidence, and yet these criminals continue to walk free. In many cases, evidence simply disappears or cases are dismissed."

said Rapcan's Bernadette van Vuuren.

A year ago, Rapcan approached the Minister of Justice to protest this situation and were challenged to prove their allegations. Last week it again approached the ministry.

Last month Rapcan launched an affidavit campaign to gather cases which highlighted the problems experienced by children at court. Van Vuuren said they were "flooded" with examples sent in by individuals, non-governmental organisations and welfare bodies.

Rapcan selected nine affidavits and submitted them to the Ministries of Justice, Social Welfare and Health, the president's office and the AG's office. They include:

- A man was arrested after the death of his four-year-old son, who had been brutally assaulted. The father was released without bail and still has access to his other children.

- A two-year-old child, found bleeding internally after being sexually assaulted by her mother's boyfriend, appeared in court alone. The parents were not allowed to attend, and the mother was told the charges had been dismissed due to insufficient evidence, despite her willingness to testify.

- A man accused of sexually abusing nine children told the magistrate that he was impotent and unable to have committed the crimes. Despite the fact that there was no medical evidence to back his claim, the charges against him were dismissed.

(298) BD 13/10/98
Call for harsher punishment

ABOUT 60 members of the newly formed SA Stop Child Abuse (Sasca) organisation staged a peaceful demonstration outside the Rand Supreme Court yesterday and handed a memorandum to the office of the attorney-general demanding harsher punishment for child abusers.

The toyi-toying demonstrators carried placards reading "No bail for child abusers" and chanted "Enough". The memorandum was handed over by Sasca president Tutu Mgulwa.

REPORTS. Business Day Reporter, Sapa.

Your child could be next, says paedophile

ARG 14/10/95 (298)

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Child care workers are to investigate whether a self-confessed paedophile, who this week spoke of his sexual encounters with little girls, is linked to several similar cases reported to police and Child-Line in Durban.

■ "I'll have a kid before midnight ... it might be your child." These words from a self-confessed paedophile shocked thousands of radio listeners this week.

Radio 702 listeners listened in horror as James, a 40-year-old businessman, spoke about his sexual exploits with 10 girls — one a two-year-old child — this year. He claimed he had had sex with "lots" of other girls in the past and that "I have no fear of the legal system in this country".

Joan van Niekerk of the Durban Child-Line said James's claims and modus operandi were similar to cases they and the police Child Protection Unit were investigating.

"It is highly unlikely that he was a hoax caller. His story is very familiar," she said.

As the two talk show hosts listened in disbelief, James described how he picked up girls at shopping malls and movie houses in the major cities, including Durban, to have sex with them in the toilets or his car.

Saying he found girls younger than 12 "irresistible", James added: "I've never hurt a child in my life. The things I do to children, they like — touching them, making love to them."

"For me it's natural to be close to a child in a sexual and sensual manner. I don't think it's wrong, I don't feel guilty about it."

"I like their bodies. They're young. They're innocent. They're easy to get to. I don't have to prove myself to them."

James also believed there was "nothing wrong" with child pornography, describing how he was aroused by a video of a two-year-old girl being raped by an adult.

"Personally, I found that to be very sensual. It excited me — I wanted to go out and find a child to have sex with."

His "hunting grounds", he said, were so-called entertainment centres where parents left their children to be fetched later.

"I give them some money to keep entertained but what kids need more than money is somebody to love them, to listen to them and that's where I come into the picture. I'm there for them. I love them. I give them attention."

He said he operated by introducing himself and getting the girl to trust him. "The moment she opens up her heart to you, you're home free. It's just a matter of time."



Planning ahead ... Thomas is already laying a foundation for a better future despite his tough lifestyle in the streets of Johannesburg. And in the process he is helping other people too.

PICTURE NATASHA PINCUS

Thomas helps build his own future, and some homes

■ BY BONGIWE MLANGENI
HOUSING REPORTER

At 20, Thomas has built more homes than he has lived in.

Like most "street children" dressed in rags, he is seldom noticed and often disregarded.

But Thomas will not let his tough lifestyle determine his future. He has already started to build a foundation to achieve his dream of managing his own building company.

This Soweto-born youngster is one of about six youths who live at the Twilight Shelter in Hill-

brow and underwent a business management course and brick-making and -laying course.

The team produced 5 000 bricks last month and aims to make about 6 000 bricks a day after the launch of the project next month.

In a few months they will be given an opportunity to start their own brick-making yards if they show commitment and determination.

Hundreds of homeless and unemployed youths in the city will also benefit from this project, sponsored by Blue Circle

For Thomas, the courses have helped him change his attitude about going back home.

After having lived on the streets since the age of 13 because of "family problems" and vowing never to be reunited with his parents, the anger of an unstable childhood is slowly waning.

"I hope to be reunited with my family once I am able to support myself financially," says Thomas.

He is reluctant to talk about his childhood and family, except to say. "It was not nice at home. My mother used to drink a lot and

my father was never there."

Thomas took part in building 12 houses in Fourways and will be building new houses behind Baragwanath Hospital.

Twilight manager Lucas Mogwerane said more young people at the shelter would be going through business management skills so that they can run the enterprise themselves.

"We want to make sure that this is run as a business."

"We have to harness their skills and encourage them to come in the mainstream," Mogwerane says.

(298) Star 16/10/95

Plea from street: Don't split us

Municipal Reporter

(298)

ARG 18/10/95

WELFARE services have been criticised for removing children, but leaving their mothers who are just as desperate for help on the street

This accusation comes from a former street person and reformed alcoholic, Francis Fortun, who was invited to address the conference on homelessness organised by the Cape Town City Council.

Ms Fortun, who four years ago was living on the street, was lured to the city as a young girl after her grandparents died in Namaqualand.

She succumbed to alcohol and found herself on the street, having to give up two of her children to the welfare services.

"I had a very bad self-image. I constantly felt rejected and longed for love, but there was no love," she recalled

"People look at us on the street and say, ag she's just drunk. But we also have needs, we also want to get somewhere."

Ms Fortun said she had been heartbroken when her child was removed.

"The social worker takes away your child but leaves you out there. The child becomes state property, and you stay drunk

"Mothers and children must be kept together. They must open rehabilitation centres for mothers and children," she urged.

Two more held after feeding²⁹⁸ scheme fraud

ARC 18/10/75

The Argus Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — Two more people have been arrested in connection with the R5 million school-feeding scheme fraud in the Eastern Cape, bringing to five the number held since disclosure of the fraud three months ago.

Provincial Health and Welfare minister Trudie Thomas said police were investigating five more people and more arrests could be expected soon.

The investigation into the fraud began early this year, and in July the feeding scheme was temporarily suspended when it was found it had been swindled of millions of rands.

The provincial government put the amount lost at R3 million, but an audit by the national Reconstruction and Development Programme office found the amount to be just over R5 million.

A drastically reduced feeding scheme has been resumed.

Fathers get raw deal from state

CT 18/10/95 (298)

STAFF REPORTER

ALTHOUGH the authorities have been alerted, an increasing number of needy fathers are discovering it is not a man's world when it comes to access to justice

No matter how financially desperate they may be, fathers cannot apply for state maintenance grants

for children in their custody because they are the wrong gender. The Children's Act of 1960 stipulates only women can be considered.

It is an "appallingly discriminatory" law says family advocate Mr Hishaam Mohamed, "born out of a bygone, patriarchal era when the male was automatically regarded

as the breadwinner."

Instead, today's fathers are increasingly granted custody of their offspring (about 20%, according to Mr Mohamed)

But when they fall on hard times, and the ex-wife or partner cannot contribute financially, the men cannot turn to the state.

Mr Mohamed formally

approached the authorities almost two years ago about the issue.

He is now with the Cape Town Family Advocate's Office, in which capacity he wrote yesterday to the Western Cape Minister for Health and Welfare, Mr Ebrahim Rasool.

Mr Mohamed is hopeful that Mr Rasool will be able to make a difference.



2011/10/18

RIGHTS OF CHILD TO COME FIRST

Spotlight on status of 'illegitimate' children

ET 19/10/95

(298)

CHILD custody battles may now see fathers getting equal consideration with the interests of the child taking priority. **ANEEZ SALIE** reports.

TENS of thousands of "illegitimate" children born of Muslim, customary and other non-civil marriages, can now come in from the cold and be protected by the statutory Family Advocate in custody and access disputes.

And fathers of such children, who previously had no parental rights, will equally be covered, even though the law does not allow it yet. Appropriate legislation will follow next year.

The move has been hailed as a breakthrough by the Muslim Judicial Council. Its vice-president, Mr Sheik Shahid Esau, said they welcomed the fact that their children were no longer regarded as illegitimate. They would now also be better placed to stamp out abuse.

The head of the Cape Town Family Advocate's Office, Miss Hester Fouche, said that at issue were two drastic changes in thinking and practice. One extends to all marriages the ambit of the Family Advocate's Office, established on November 4, 1991 in terms of the Mediation in Certain Divorce Matters Act. This office, staffed by advocates and social workers among others, investigates custody

and access disputes when a divorce is pending or thereafter in civil marriages. It recommends a course of action to the Supreme Court.

In the other change, says Miss Fouche, the interests of the child are deemed as paramount in deciding custody or access. Where the father of an illegitimate child is recommend ahead of the mother because it is in the child's interests, the male will no longer be disqualified merely because of his gender.

Judiciary

There is no longer an assumption on the part of Parliament or the judiciary that the mother would automatically make the better parent when a marriage breaks down. What is best for the child is now what counts, according to Miss Fouche.

The move was initiated by the Justice Department to give life to its stated commitment of making justice accessible to those previously denied.

"We have decided to throw our doors wide open," says Miss Fouche.

"We now regard it as unfair for

us to deal with only civil marriages. Everyone needs protection. We are looking forward to bringing in from the dark those thousands of children the law previously excluded. We are standing by to do things in a big way."

Equally enthusiastic was the Muslim Judicial Council, which daily deals on its own with about 30 custody and access disputes. Its social workers and other staff are now utilised by the Family Advocate, although no payment is yet made. Legislation next year would remedy that.

"We would have to see how this development affects Muslim personal law," says Sheik Esau. "But we are very positive about it. Surely it is about time that our children and their parents receive recognition. It is only proper."

He said they would also be able to deal firmly with those who opt out of civil marriages in favour of Muslim ones in order to escape the attention of the Family Advocate.

"Everyone will now be treated the same."

The Cape Flats Distress Association (Cafda) and the New World Foundation, which together with the MJC and other NGO's attended a recent seminar on the subject by the Family Advocate, also welcomed the shift.

Another arrest in feeding scam

(298) CT 19/10/95

EAST LONDON: A second Bisho civil servant was arrested this week in connection with a R2,5-million scam that led to the collapse of the school-feeding scheme in the Eastern Cape earlier this year.

Mrs Ncedisa Moshesh, 33, a senior account clerk in the Department of Health and Welfare, appeared in the Magistrate's Court here yesterday after being arrested in Amalinda while on leave on Tuesday.

Police said yesterday she appeared on charges linked to the cashing of a fraudulently obtained government cheque for R383 338,40 issued on March 22.

She was released on bail of R5 000 and

will appear again on November 15.

Earlier this week a clerk in the Department of Planning and Rural Affairs, Ms Ayanda Rungqu, was arrested for a second time in connection with the fraud.

Ms Rungqu, also of Amalinda, faces two charges involving more than R700 000.

She was first arrested last month in connection with cheque fraud involving R345 798 and was granted R15 000 bail after appearing in court.

On Monday she was arrested in connection with cheque fraud involving R383 338. She will also appear in court on November 15. — Sapa

'Jail juveniles guilty of serious crimes'

Star 20/10/95

(298)

Cape Town — Justice Minister Dullah Omar said yesterday juveniles guilty of serious crimes should be imprisoned and the law which keeps them out of jail should be changed.

"I am not satisfied with the fact that juveniles who commit very serious crimes ... should simply be let out, should simply be allowed to go back and become a threat to the community and the safety of the public," he told a news conference.

When the amended Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act came into force last year and juveniles were released from jails to places of safety, many escaped and some returned to crime.

"If it is necessary to imprison such young people, there should be an authority to enable us to do that," he said.

"I myself have raised the issue in the Cabinet. I have said the amendment of Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, as a result of which this abuse has taken place, ought to be amended. And I think in general the Cabinet is in agreement with this.

"We are looking at an amendment of the law so as to deal specifically with ... serious crime," Omar said.

He said that while the law had generally ensured that hundreds of young petty offenders who ought

not to be in jail were in better care, "there is a problem with regard to serious crime".

"We should not be romantic when we deal with the questions of crime and juveniles ... (Where) we have young people whose conduct constitutes a threat to the safety of the public, particularly women and children ... the safety of the public then comes first," Omar said.

But, he added, juveniles had to be imprisoned separately from adult offenders and had to participate in rehabilitation programmes to save them from becoming habitual criminals. — Reuter.

Juvenile release law may change

POLITICAL STAFF

ET 20/10/95

(298)

JUVENILES arrested for serious offences such as murder, robbery and rape, should not simply be released, the Minister of Justice, Mr Dullah Omar, said yesterday.

He said that since the government reformed prison laws a large number of youths who ought never to have been in jail were no longer in jail.

"In general, this policy has been a great success."

There was, however, a problem with juveniles who had been arrested for serious offences.

This matter had been raised in the cabinet and was receiving attention

so the law could be amended to prevent the release of these juveniles

"I think there is general agreement with this proposal," he added

● The RDP had allocated R200 million to fight crime, Mr Omar announced yesterday.

He said a large part of this would be spent on strengthening the Department of Justice infrastructure and upgrading courts countrywide, particularly to help victims of rape and child abuse.

There was agreement with the Minister without Portfolio, Mr Jay Naidoo, who is in charge of the RDP, that R200m would be made available from RDP funds to assist the Depart-

ments of Justice, Safety and Security, and Correctional Services in the fight against crime, Mr Omar said.

He also said negotiations were continuing with Mr Naidoo for further funding.

"Some of our courts lack even basic amenities — existing in the virtual squalor of blocked toilets, leaking roofs and inadequate seating. Many of them lack even basic legal texts.

"It is in these conditions that they are expected to administer justice to South Africans.

"The facilities in all our courts, except a few, are inadequate or non-existent. If you look at the rural areas, they are completely non-existent."

Serious crime by juveniles is alarming — police

□ 'Increasing numbers being prosecuted'

ARG 23/10/95

(298)

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

AN "extremely alarming" number of children are being prosecuted for serious crime in the Western Cape.

And police said today that this was possibly because criminals were employing juveniles to do their dirty work.

Police spokesman Raymond Dowd was reacting to a statement by Minister of Justice Dullah Omar that the Correctional Services Act should be amended to allow juveniles who committed serious offences to be held in prison.

Mr Omar said he was "deeply concerned" about the effect of Section 29 of the Act, which prohibited the detention of juveniles in prison — regardless of their offences.

"The failure to make any distinction between juveniles who are accused of committing serious crimes such as murder, rape and serious robbery, from others who may have committed far less-serious offences seems to me misguided and dangerous.

"While naturally the rights of the accused must be protected, these must at all times be balanced with the need to protect the public," said Mr Omar.

He believed the Act should be "speedily amended" and he would be discussing the issue with Minister of Correctional Services Si-pho Mzimela

Carl Niehaus, chairman of the "ANC study group on correctional services on change in law on juvenile detentions", supported Mr Omar's views, agreeing that the matter needed urgent attention.

"Because of the lack of proper places of safety for juveniles, a crisis has developed in many areas," said Mr Niehaus.

Colonel Dowd said police had a major headache with juveniles escaping from places of safety only to commit further serious offences.

It emerged in the Wynberg Sexual Offences Court that a 16-year-old Kewtown boy had escaped from the Porter reform school no fewer than five times. The boy is serving a two-year sentence for a rape, robbery and culpable homicide

He was originally held in Pollsmoor Prison but was moved to the reformatory after the proclamation by President Mandela that juveniles would be released from prison.

Colonel Dowd said police did not want to keep juveniles in prison but until properly struc-

tured places of safety with properly trained staff were a viable option, it was a sad reality that the best place for juveniles committing serious offences was in prison

The number of juveniles being prosecuted for serious offences was both "extremely alarming" and "very worrying".

"It is quite possible that juveniles are being used by adults to commit serious offences," said Colonel Dowd.

Police had already come across several cases of house-breaking by juveniles where the follow-up investigation showed they had adult accomplices.

● In a letter to The Argus published in August, a Strandfontein childcare worker said: "It is unwise to expect ordinary unarmed, non-uniformed men and women, employed as parental role-models, to contain youths schooled in and hardened by prison culture, gang culture and negative survival skills.

"Our task is made more difficult by the fact that the rioters, those who assault, those who sodomise, smoke dagga and bully, may no longer be removed by the police.

"We insist it is not our responsibility to care for hardened criminals."

Boost for SA fund for children

NEW YORK. — Eminent Americans are "reaching out across the oceans" to join hands with South Africans so that they can address jointly the needs of young people whose lives have been devastated by apartheid, says President Mandela.

At the launch of Friends of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund here, he said the occasion was a special moment of his life as Americans and South Africans were brought together by a commitment to the plight of South African youth, and how to alleviate this plight.

He said the fund was initiated in South Africa to lend urgency to the task of addressing the wrong done to the youth and to help them prepare for the future.

"It is this humble wish which motivated me to launch the fund and pledge more than one-third of my salary to the fund.

"For me personally, it is one of the cruelest facets of South Africa's history that tens of thousands of young people — who could otherwise have been developing their talents to the full and making a valuable contribution to society — are living a life on the margins of society, mainly because of the legacy of apartheid."

Mr Mandela said that in building a new South Africa "our children must be one of our highest priorities" as they were the foundation on which the country's future was being built.

"The fund is a small but proud member of a partnership that unites all sectors of our society in pursuit of a noble ideal.

"Today that partnership is being born across boundaries. It is finding expression in the Friends of the Children's Fund here in the United States.

"It provides a way in which individuals, corporations and other institutions can make their own direct contribution to helping those of our young people most seriously in need," he said.

He praised Americans, such as actor Denzel Washington, for starting Friends of the Fund in the United States. — Sapa.

Omar meets members of Child Abuse Action Group

Star 26/10/98

(298)

Justice Minister Dullah Omar yesterday delayed attending a cabinet meeting to meet representatives of the Child Abuse Action Group in his Pretoria office.

About 20 people protesting against lenient sentences given to child abusers, gathered at the Ministry of Justice building early yesterday morning, demanding that they be allowed to present a letter to Omar.

Omar said he was at first sceptical about the purpose of the protest, saying he suspected it to be an election stunt.

The meeting, which lasted about an hour, turned out to be successful with Omar inviting a representative of the group to

attend a child abuse conference in Durban next month.

Action group spokesman Derek Harrison said child molesters should as a rule not receive bail or parole and convicted child rapists should serve nothing less than 25 years in prison. "Child murderers deserve being sentenced for life. The death sentence would have been more appropriate."

Omar said although he supported the group's campaign, child abuse was not only a legal problem but also a social one.

"We need to address the basic causes of child abuse," he said.

Harrison said the organisation's main aim was to convince the judiciary and the public that

child abuse laws were too lenient to deter would-be child abusers.

One of the protesters, who wished to remain anonymous, said she knew of one case where a man had repeatedly molested the daughters of two of her friends. "I am sorry to say that I at first thought the child was making up stories, because he was such a charming man."

"When he did it again to a different child, he was reported to the police." The man was imprisoned for two years after being found guilty of abusing the two girls, who were at the time five and 11 years old.

"If it were my children I would have killed him myself," the mother of three said. - Sapa.

Sentences for child

abuse 'too
(298)
lenient'

PRETORIA. — Justice Minister Dullah Omar delayed attending a cabinet meeting to meet representatives of the Child Abuse Action Group in his Pretoria office.

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Action group spokesman Derek Harrison said child molesters should as a rule not get bail or parole and convicted child rapists should serve nothing less than 25 years in prison.

"Child murderers deserve being sentenced for life. Of course, the death sentence would have been more appropriate."

Mr Omar said although he supported the group's campaign, child abuse was not only a legal problem but also a social one.

One protester, who asked not to be named, said she knew of a man who had repeatedly molested the daughters of two of her friends.

"I am sorry to say that I thought at first the child was making up stories, because he was such a charming man."

"When he did it again to a different child, he was reported to the police." — Sapa.

Child sexual (298) abuse warning

AKG 26/10/95
EAST LONDON. — An increase in reported cases of rapes and assaults against children in East London this month has prompted police to urge parents to prevent their children becoming victims, Border police spokesman Garry Neuwenhuis said.

He said the child protection unit had dealt with 61 cases this month, compared with 41 at the same time last month.

In the past two weeks 12 children between the ages of five and 16 had been victims of rape, indecent assault and sexual intercourse, he said.

In the same period, 15 had been victims of common or serious assaults. — Sapa.

Abuse 'a social problem'

(298) CT 26/10/95

PRETORIA: Child abuse was not only a legal problem, but also a social one, Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar said yesterday after meeting representatives of the Child Abuse Action Group here.

"Education is very important. We need to address the basic causes of child abuse," he said.

Earlier yesterday morning, about twenty people of the group protested outside the Justice Ministry building against lenient sentences given to child abusers and demanding they be allowed to present a letter to Mr Omar.

Action group spokesman Mr Derek Harrison said the group aimed to convince the judiciary and the public that child abuse laws were too lenient.

He also said child molesters should not receive bail or parole and convicted child rapists should serve nothing less than 25 years in prison. — Sapa

Child abuse 'more common than measles'

(298)
JOHANNESBURG. — Child abuse is more common than measles, says Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma.

Opening the Zamokuhle Centre for abused children in Soweto, Dr Zuma said there had been 16 514 reported cases of crimes against children this year.

That not enough help could be given

ARG 27/10/95
to victims was an indictment not only of the government but of everyone.

She said she would soon meet President Mandela and Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo to discuss setting up a project for victims of child abuse to report cases. At present, cases must be reported at police stations. — Sapa.

From street kids to bandits — police warning

(298)

DAVID BREIER
Staff Reporter

ROAMING bands of homeless or unemployed people have become a "nuisance factor" in Cape Town and have now begun to intimidate women and elderly people, according to the police.

But the SA Police Service is concerned this could develop into a serious crime problem and place a further burden on the police unless the underlying social and economic causes are addressed.

"We must look out we don't become like Mexico City or Rio de Janeiro," says Western Cape police spokesman Raymond Dowd.

In those cities people were regularly robbed by roaming groups, including street children. "We are not there yet," he said.

Small bands of homeless street children huddled in the streets of Cape Town have been a tragic feature of the city for years.

But as they grow older the former street children are swelling the ranks of unemployed and homeless adults, including the "bergies" who have chronically been a sad feature of the city.

Colonel Dowd described the current problem as "fairly minor" and a "nuisance factor" at this stage — although women and the elderly were already feeling intimidated by these groups.

He said there were increasing numbers of such people of all races. "In the past, they were only people of colour — now there are even whites," he said. Many congregated outside bottle stores or food stores.

"Street children congregate at robots, sometimes in quite large groups, begging for money. We have had many reports from motorists, especially women and the elderly, complaining of being intimidated."

He said that in some cases, motorists had their cars scratched if they ignored the groups — although he said there had been no cases of actual attacks on motorists by such bands.

Colonel Dowd said that recently, police had a report of street children intimidating tourists to take part in a gambling game outside the main station concourse.

■ As Cape Town's street children grow older, police are concerned that roving bands of homeless may become a serious crime problem.

ARG 28/10/95

Saturday Argus has reported recent cases of street children robbing tourists in the city centre.

Colonel Dowd said it was not a serious problem, although he said there was a problem of street children roaming around in groups, intimidating people and demanding money.

He said the "bergie" problem was different. The bergies, who were also homeless, were older unemployed social rejects or "tramps" who were often not prepared to work.

"Research in the past shows that bergies might steal washing off the line or take potted plants, but very seldom do bergies break into houses," he said.

They could even include well-educated people as well as whites — Colonel Dowd said he had come across a former professor in Johannesburg who had become a tramp.

"The main problem in Cape Town are the so-called parking attendants. They are unemployed people who are inclined to intimidate motorists when they park. If people refuse to give them money, they find their cars scratched or damaged."

He said there were also a lot of unemployed people looking for work, who congregated at certain venues, who might "rush" at a car and adopt an intimidating stance, although this had not become regular.

"We do feel that the social implications of unemployment in the country and the fact that we see it as a socio-economic problem, has to be addressed by the authorities," he said.

Western Cape police together with civic authorities are addressing the problem of crime in the Cape Town city centre and protecting tourists, he said.

Recent developments include a plan to extend the rent-a-cop system which has worked well in Sea Point, to the city centre.

NEWS

Chance to improve quality of life

Search is on for top youth project

Star 31/10/95 (298)

■ BY MANDLA MTHEMBU

The "Youth for SA Campaign" will give thousands of young people a chance to improve the quality of life at grassroots level. This annual search to identify and reward youth groups for the most constructive and innovative community projects is now under way.

The top award is R2 500, and there are a further 162 cash prizes. There is no limit to the number of projects a group may enter and more than one award could be won by a single group.

The sponsor, the Colgate-Palmolive Foundation, has run "Youth for SA" for the past three years.

Spokesperson Linda Rowell said while others "pay lip-service" to the spirit of the

RDP, youth groups around the country were rolling up their sleeves and getting into some innovative and constructive projects.

She said the youth have brought in a number of improvements, initiating and implementing an impressive range of projects - from food banks for the needy and anti-drug abuse programmes to starting community vegetable gardens and caring for the aged and for sick children.

Rowell said: "Our experience has showed that small projects, which rely on youthful imagination, are often the ones that really work."

"These types of community projects are important cogs in the wheel and give momentum to the larger working of the RDP," she

explained

Last year's post-election campaign presented a different picture to the "pre-RDP" campaign of 1993. Award-winning projects ranged from a campaign to clean up the Moretele River by Mamelodi's Gauteng Science Youth Club (who won three awards), to dramatic improvements to the previously sub-standard Dipelangeneng pre-primary school in Thlolong township by scholars of the Free State's Kestell Hoerskool.

Any community project carried out between January 1 and December 1 (this year) by any youth group, operating under adult supervision, may be entered for the awards. Interested youth groups should phone: 011-914-1300.

New work scheme for Soweto youths

■ BY PATRICK WADULA

A youth work scheme to assist the unemployed in acquiring skills and training has been launched in Soweto by the Joint Enrichment Project.

YWS co-ordinator Dumisani Zulu explained that 20 youths from Soweto were put on a six-month training programme. Ten of them were sent to Baragwanath Hospital and the rest to Khutulani primary school.

The idea was conceived because of the difficulties young people faced in finding jobs, he said. The project gave youths the opportunity to gain

some work experience.

At Baragwanath, the youth helped in the children's wards where they fed and bathed patients. The youths also painted the hospital walls and planted flowers in gardens.

Zulu said there was one daunting task left - finding jobs for youths with at least six months experience. He urged the Government and businesses to open their doors and provide work.

The projects were funded by diverse organisations such as Nedcor, Plascon, Sappi, Gencor, CNA Gallo, JCI, USAid, the Netherlands embassy and Pick 'n Pay.

(298) Star 31/10/95

Star 31/10/95
**Abe's view
on children
'not policy'**

(298)

■ BY LARA SMITH

Welfare and Population Minister Abe Williams wants tough legislation to keep street children off the street because they are "bad for tourism".

But for all his tough talk on Radio 702 late last week, the Minister's department is in the dark as to what such laws would entail, how they would be implemented, and what would happen to the children once they were taken off the streets.

Spokesman Ria Breedts said the Minister's statement was his own view, not department policy.

A white paper on the subject was presented to a Cabinet committee last week, she said, and comprehensive child-care legislation providing for the needs of street children was receiving attention.

Strategies devised by the Department of Welfare included reuniting street children with their families, or, if this were impossible, finding ways of reintegrating them into society.

To this end, shelters for street children would be treated only as an interim measure, with no child staying in them for more than 30 days without suitable permanency planning and programmes preparing the younger children for formal schooling and the older children for employment.

The department had also identified the need for programmes to prevent needy children from opting for a life on the streets. Such programmes would include actions to strengthen family life in stressed communities.

SOCIAL SECURITY - CHILD CARE

1995

NOV. - DECEMBER

1929

THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1995

Staff of various racial groups employed by SAPS

549. Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

- (a) How many (i) White, (ii) Indian, (iii) Coloured and (iv) Black members of the police left the employ of the South African Police Service during the period 1 May 1994 up to the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) how many (i) Whites, (ii) Coloureds, (iii) Indians and (iv) Blacks entered the employ of the SAPS during this period?

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:†

Latest specified date: 19.9.95

- (a) (i) 3 794
(ii) 125
(iii) 418
(iv) 2 330

- (b) (i) 732
(ii) 81
(iii) 731
(iv) 4 940

Children in places of safety awaiting trial

550. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

- (a) How many children awaiting trial were placed in places of safety during the period 4 May 1995 up to the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) (i) how many of these children subsequently escaped and (ii) how many of these children who escaped (aa) have not yet been recaptured, (bb) had previous convictions and (cc) had been charged with crimes involving violence?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

- (a) and (b)(i) and (ii)(aa), (bb) and (cc)

This question does not fall within the ambit of my responsibilities.

The hon member should approach the Ministers of Justice, Welfare and Safety and Security in this regard

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Safeguards for release of awaiting-trial juveniles

551. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Correctional Services

- (1) Whether any awaiting-trial juveniles released in terms of section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959), during the period 4 May 1995 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, were released without placing them in the care of places of safety of their families, if so, (a) how many and (b) why,
- (2) whether his Department has any safeguards in place to ensure that such children do stand trial, if not, why not; if so, what safeguards;
- (3) whether these safeguards have been found to be adequate; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

- (1) The unconvicted children were not released in terms of section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) They were brought before court which had to determine whether they should be kept in places of safety or being placed in the care of their families.

- (a) and (b) Fall away.

- (2) It is not the responsibility of the Department of Correctional Services to ensure that such children do stand trial

- (3) Falls away

Posts of senior/chief magistrate in Republic/ former TBVC states: parity

552. Mr D M BAKKER asked the Minister of Justice:†

- (1) (a) How many (i) senior and (ii) chief magistrates posts existed in the (aa) Republic and (bb) former TBVC states immediately prior to April 1994 and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished,

- (2) whether he will furnish information on the salary scales attached to each of these posts as at the date furnished in paragraph

1931

- (1)(b); if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details, in each case;

- (3) whether steps have been or are to be taken to ensure parity between these posts, if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) (a) (i)(aa) 87

- (ii)(aa) 13

- (i)(bb) 38

- (ii)(bb) 11

- (b) 1 April 1994.

- (2) (1) (a)(i)(aa) R95 517 – 103 185 – 107 019 x 4 848 – 116 715

- (1) (a)(ii)(aa) R126 411 (Fixed)

- (1) (a)(i)(bb) R95 517 – 103 185 – 107 017 – 116 715 (iro Transkei, Venda & Ciskei)

- R92 367 – 99 783 (iro Bophuthatswana)

- (1) (a)(ii)(bb) R126 411 (iro Transkei, Venda & Ciskei)

- R111 867 (iro Bophuthatswana)

- (3) Parity measures issued by the Public Commission were implemented with effect from 1 May 1994 and the salaries of Magistrates in the former TBVC-states have been brought on par with that of the former RSA.

Presence of asbestos fibre at mines

554 Mr J J NIEMANN asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

- (1) Whether the presence of asbestos fibre which may cause meso-thelioma has been found at (a) certain mines, the names of which have been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, and (b) any other mines; if so, (i) at which mines and (ii) what are the further relevant details;

- (2) whether any persons have been affected by asbestos at any of the above mines; if so, (a) at which mines and (b) how many in each case,

- (3) whether his Department has taken or intends taking any steps to (a) monitor the

THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1995

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- presence of asbestos at mines and (b) prevent the presence of asbestos at mines from becoming a health hazard, if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS

- (1) (a) A research project is presently in progress to determine the "magnitude of significance" of asbestos fibres in diamond mines. Evaluation of samples taken from the first two mines sampled confirmed the presence of asbestos fibres in the workings of these mines. The levels of asbestos fibre concentrations in these samples were, however, regarded as being of an insignificant hazard to health insofar as they did not exceed one tenth of the threshold limit of two fibres per millilitre.

The following mines have all been sampled in conjunction with De Beers personnel as a joint venture (6 mines):

- Premier Mine
— Finvich Mine
— Koffiefontein Mine
— Veneta Mine
— Kimberley Mines (2)

- (i) Other mines samples (8 mines)

- Rex Diamonds
— Rovic Diamonds
— Star Diamonds
— BKH Mines
— Bellsbank Mine
— Loxton Exploration—Ardo Section

- Loxton Exploration—Du Plessis Diamonds
— Messina Diamonds

- (ii) The results of these surveys are currently being analysed.

- (2) No cases have been reported to the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs. The

- (2) No. There is no evidence of serious maladministration and misuse of public funds in the Butterworth municipality. The Department of Local Government and Housing of the Eastern Cape seconded one of its officials to act as town clerk and to ensure proper financial systems and sound administration. This official was seconded as a replacement of the previous town clerk who was suspended for reasons not related to maladministration or the misuse of public funds.

National Youth Development Forum: investigation of activities (298)

*24 Mr J C N WAUGH asked the Minister without Portfolio:†

Whether a commission of inquiry has been or will be appointed to investigate the activities of the National Youth Development Forum, if not, why not, if so, who are the members of the commission or who will they be? N1231E

The MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO:

As the National Youth Development Forum falls within the Portfolio of the Minister of Welfare it is suggested that the member addresses the question to the Honourable Minister of Welfare.

My Office has not addressed this issue as it falls outside the scope of my functions. The NYDF is an NGO and has not received any funding from my Department.

Subsidising of old-age homes by Government

432. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for Welfare and Population Development:

- (1) whether the Government subsidises old-age homes; if so, (a) what is the total amount of the subsidy and (b) how many homes are being subsidised (i) in full and (ii) in part;
- (2) whether the subsidy was reduced during the latest specified period of five years for which information is available; if so, (a) by how much and (b) why;
- (3) whether such reductions in the subsidy caused any old-age homes to close down; if so, how many,

- (4) whether the Government plans to review the situation in regard to subsidies for old-age homes; if not, why not; if so, what changes are envisaged?

The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) Yes, through the Welfare Departments in the nine provinces,

(a) R395 291 513 and

(b) 522

- (i) and (ii) not available. This is determined by the various categories of the aged on an individual basis according to income and state of health;

(2) no,

(a) falls away,

- (b) as a savings measure, the formula for subsidisation for homes for the aged was adjusted as from 1 April 1994 in that 75% of resident's income is taken into account when calculating the subsidy payable instead of 66,7% as in the past. Within the new budget process it is also expected that there will be a shift in the rendering of services specially those targeted at homes for the aged for this is a very costly service in the form in which it is presently being rendered.

Each province as well as welfare organisations will have to prioritise their services. Indications are that some provinces will implement possible reductions due to reorganisation within the current financial year;

- (3) No such closing down actions had occurred yet. Should the reprioritisation of services result in any reduction of subsidies it will have to be negotiated between the Provincial Welfare Department and the specific organisation;

- (4) yes, an inclusive discussion Group on Ageing was constituted on 29 September 1994, under chairmanship of Dr Sam Motsuenyane. The major national welfare organisations, formal and informal institutions, as well as older persons are involved in the Discussion Group. The Co-

ordinating Committee of the Discussion Group released a Discussion Document on Ageing based on the inputs of various work groups. The aim with the new dispensation is to provide accessible, equitable and cost-effective services to older persons, to empower them to continue to make a meaningful and constructive contribution towards society and to create a climate in which older persons are recognised as a source of potential, knowledge and expertise.

Note:

Attached annexure indicates the subsidisation per province for the 1995/96 financial year

Province	Number of homes for the aged which are receiving a subsidy	Amount of subsidies per year
Northern Cape	35	R 10 276 106
Western Cape	125	R 142 060 824
Eastern Cape	70	R 19 914 000
Gauteng	119	R 108 799 000
Mpumalanga	21	R 78 259 369
Northern Province	9	R 2 718 408
North West	27	R 14 569 536
KwaZulu-Natal	67	R 62 866 109
Free State	49	R 16 828 161
TOTAL	522	R395 291 513

Board of directors of Development Bank of SA: decision/investigation

452 Dr F P JACOBZ asked the Minister of Finance:†

- (1) Whether the Government has taken any decision in respect of the (a) continued existence and/or (b) composition of the board of directors of the Development Bank of South Africa; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what was this decision;

- (2) whether any committee investigated this matter; if so, (a) what is the name of this committee, (b) who are the members of this committee and (c) what recommendations were made by the said committee.

- (3) whether he has received a report from this committee; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,
- (4) whether this report will be tabled; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details,
- (5) whether the Government has taken any decision arising from the recommendations of the committee, if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what was the decision?

N942E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) (a) Yes;

(b) Yes;

(2) Yes;

(a) the Transformation Task Team,

(b) composed of

(i) Mr Chris Ball — SA Housing Trust

(ii) Ms Ann Bernstein — Urban Foundation

(iii) Mr Div Geering—Standard Merchant Bank

(iv) Ms Wendy Luhabe — Bridging the Gap

(v) Mr J B Magwaza — Tongaat-Hulett Group

(vi) Dr John Maree — ESKOM

(vii) Mr Eric Molobi — Kagiso Trust

(viii) Prof Bax Nomvete — Africa Institute for Policy and Economic Integration (AIPA)

(ix) Mr Sizwe Nxasana—STN Sizwe & Company

(x) Ms Lucy Nyembe — Gauteng Provincial Government

(xi) Mr Willie Ramoshaba — Portfolio Business Holdings

(xii) Mr Tim Sewell — UAL Merchant Bank

(xiii) Prof Wiseman Nkuhlu — Chairperson

participant in the savings plan therefore will have certainty that a housing subsidy and a home loan will be available once the requirements of the savings plan have been met. It is generally expected that these measures will serve as a good incentive to mobilise the personal savings of individuals in order to enable them to satisfy their housing needs.

Tribal authority offices in Province of Mpumalanga

582. Mr A F MAHLALELA asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development

- (1) (a) How many tribal authority offices are currently functioning in the Province of Mpumalanga, (b) what amount is the Government spending annually in maintaining these offices, in each case and (c) what rights do the communities concerned have in the management and/or control of these funds;
- (2) whether there are any terms and conditions of employment in respect of the persons working in these offices; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many persons are employed in each case and (b) how much does each receive per month;
- (3) whether, with reference to the provisions of section 192(2) of the Constitution, he will make available an audited financial statement for 1994-95, if not, why not, if so, when?

N1241E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

This information is unfortunately not readily available in the Department. It is suggested that the hon member approach the Province of Mpumalanga for the information.

Schools in Nkomazi in Province of Mpumalanga: feeding scheme

583. Mr A F MAHLALELA asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Whether any school's at Nkomazi in the Province of Mpumalanga benefited from the feeding scheme during the period 1 April 1995 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, if not, what is the position in this regard, if so,

- (a) how many and (b) to what extent in each case;

- (2) whether the communities concerned were involved in the planning and implementation of the scheme; if not, why not; if so, how,

- (3) whether any companies and/or individuals were appointed to provide any services in this regard; if not, what is the position in this regard, if so, (a) which companies and/or individuals, (b) what criteria were used and (c) what amount has each received or is each currently receiving in each case

N1242E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

- (1) Yes, August 1995,
- (a) 88;

- (b) 79 822 primary school pupils receive daily feeding in the form, of 200 ml of full cream milk and two slices of brown bread spread with margarine per child. The average cost is 68 cents per child per school per day,

- (2) Yes, the parent community is involved through representation in school project committees. The school project committees are responsible for deciding which local dealer to use, etc. School project committees participate in information and training sessions facilitated by PSNP staff.

- (3) Yes, the quotation system is used where school project committees decide on which local dealers to use;

- (a) 88 school project committees each using suppliers of their own choice. The exact number is difficult to determine;

- (b) Local dealers are assessed and the appropriate dealer is selected taking cost and quality of service into account;

- (c) The amounts received depend on the amount of items bought by each school. Given the number of primary school children involved, an amount of R54 278,96 flows daily to local suppliers thus strengthening local economies.

Satour: decision to use only English

591. Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether Satour has taken a decision (a) to make English the only language used by this organisation and/or (b) to prohibit Afrikaans in letters, notices, minutes and agendas; if so, why,

- (2) whether Satour consulted (a) its own personnel, and (b) his Department, in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what was the response thereto, in each case;

- (3) whether he is considering entering into discussions with Satour in respect of the constitutionality or otherwise of such decision, if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

N1255E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) (a) Against the background of Satour's changing role and bigger emphasis on its international marketing function and the fact that the organisation has 14 overseas offices employing locally recruited staff, it was decided during June 1995 to review the organisation's language policy. In this regard it must be mentioned that English is the internationally accepted tourism language.

Furthermore, with the programme of affirmative action in Satour, not all of its staff are conversant in Afrikaans, whilst everybody is conversant in English.

- (b) Afrikaans is not prohibited in correspondence and letters are replied to in the language in which they are received. Afrikaans and some of the other official South African languages are used in daily discussions and in written communication.

Not all Board Members are conversant in Afrikaans and therefore as of late, agendas and minutes are prepared in English.

- (2) (a) Satour management did consult with its staff in connection with the pro-

posed policy before implementation. Out of the total number of 139 staff members at Head Office, only two queries/suggestions were received.

- (b) The fact that Satour did not consult the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism in this regard was an unfortunate oversight.

- (3) The matter was discussed with the chairman of the Board of Satour, Mr Pret van Hoven. As this is an internal administrative and practical ruling which does not affect that status of any language in terms of the constitution, I accepted Satour's explanation.

Study of Traditional leaders prior to implementation of Act

593. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development

- (1) Whether his Department is planning to conduct or initiate a study in respect of traditional leaders prior to the implementation of the Remuneration of Traditional Leaders Act, 1995 (Act No 29 of 1995); if so, (a) who will conduct such study and (b) when will this study be conducted,

- (2) whether the legitimacy or otherwise of the claim of each traditional leader to his or her position will form part of the study, if not, why not; if so, what criteria will be applied to evaluate the legitimacy of the claims,

- (3) what other aspects will be included in the study?

N1257E

The MINISTER FOR PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- (1) No. Most of the information required for the implementation of the Remuneration of Traditional Leaders Bill, 1995, is at the disposal of the Department. In those individual cases where the necessary information is still lacking, the Department is in the process of gathering such information.

- (2) Falls away
- (3) Falls away.

SA law fails to protect children from abuse - action group head

(298) Star 1/11/95

Between 150 and 160 complaints of child abuse were investigated monthly in Soweto, Child Protection Unit spokesman Lt Alfred Vertue said yesterday.

The issue has been highlighted by the alleged rape of two young girls in Soweto at the weekend.

Police yesterday confirmed that the body of a six-year-old girl, who went missing on Sunday evening, was found near her home in Tladi on Monday.

She had a plastic bag over her head and marks on her neck and throat, police spokesman WO John Shiburi said. Police suspected she was raped before being strangled or suffocated.

In the other incident, a girl (3) was allegedly taken from her home to a shack in the township by her aunt. She was placed on a table and raped by a man in the aunt's presence, according to Tutu Mgulwa, president of South Africa Stop Child Abuse.

A suspect, known to a self-defence unit, would be taken to the police and a case opened, he added.

Mgulwa said his organisation dealt with about 65 cases of child abuse a week. Not all of these were reported to police.

"Not enough people care about what happens to children. The law acts too slowly and needs to be improved," he said.

Mgulwa said if nothing was done soon to rectify the situation, Sasca and the self-defence units would take action themselves.

"We are not threatening, but we want changes immediately."

The police's Child Protection Unit did not have enough staff or vehicles, he said.

Sasca was formed several years ago and formally launched in June this year to address child abuse at a national level.

Vertue said he was not sure child abuse was on the increase. More cases were being reported because people viewed the police more favourably than in the past.

He urged people who knew of child abuse cases not to confront the perpetrators as they might flee to escape justice.

"Go to the police and make a case," he said. - Sapa.

Mandela welcomes new children's fund

Political Correspondent (298)

PRESIDENT Mandela has welcomed the establishment of a fund, to be named after him, to help gifted children from disadvantaged backgrounds get an international education. *ARG 3/11/96*

Mr Mandela was speaking in Johannesburg today at the opening of the 12th international council meeting of the United World Colleges.

He has succeeded Britain's Prince of Wales as the president of the international council of the organisation.

Mr Mandela also welcomed a proposal to establish a South African Rural Development and Agricultural College.

"Such a project could bring to pre-university education the kind of innovation which UWC have demonstrated elsewhere, especially in addressing the desperate needs of rural communities."

Welfare in the former homelands a priority

All over South Africa, men and women have dedicated their lives to protecting the interests of the nation's children.

Child Welfare is the largest and most wide-spread group of NGOs working in this field, although other groups – operating out of church organisations and communities – work to meet the needs of children as they arise.

The South African National Council for Child & Family Welfare is a central body with 175

autonomous, independently registered affiliated societies in towns and cities throughout this country. Its role is to provide advice and guidance to these bodies, as well as setting and monitoring standards for its affiliates.

Its head office is in Johannesburg, and it has regional offices looking after the Northern and Western Cape, the Free State and North-Western Cape, the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga and the Northern Province, and Gauteng.

It also actively lobbies Government to recognise the needs and rights of children. And it is involved in developing child welfare services where none exist.

A major goal at present is to re-establish child welfare societies in the former independent homelands. In the past, private welfare organisations were not allowed to operate in these areas – the one exception being KwaZulu

Welfare was one of the few ways in which Government could legitimise itself in the homelands but in fact it was a disaster," comments Child Welfare national director Helen Starke.

For instance, we had a vibrant society in Umtata, but after Transkei became independent it closed down. And in Mdantsani the Child Welfare Society had 200 foster children on its books before Ciskei became independent and when Ciskei was reincorporated there were only 30. We have no idea what has happened to the other children."

The various child welfare societies gear their activities to meet the needs and resources of their communities. There is no single child welfare package and they aim not to duplicate services already offered by other established organisations.

Private sector assistance has dwindled to a trickle

Funding is slashed but need is growing

(298) Star 3/11/95

Child welfare funding is being slashed on all sides yet the needs continue to grow.

Last year saw budget constraints force the South African National Council for Child & Family Welfare retrenching 25% of its staff – despite the pressure of a growing work load.

And until Government settles into position, defines the roles of the various national and provincial departments and draws up a clear set of goals and strategies for child welfare, the situation is unlikely to improve.

"From the day of President Mandela's inauguration he has spoken about the importance of children but in reality little is happening," comments Child Welfare national director Helen Starke.

Outcry

"There is a huge outcry whenever some case of child abuse is reported in the press, yet our resources keep getting smaller. For instance, Johannesburg Child Welfare Society's Government subsidy was cut this year from R3-million to R2-million."

While these cuts have been carried out in the name of equitable distribution, in reality few child welfare societies have experienced subsidy increases – and these have been small.

The National Child Welfare opera-

tion received an increase of only some R600.

The core of the problem seems to be that the Department of Welfare lacks clout at both national and provincial Government level.

Minister Abie Williams, who landed welfare while angling for the sport portfolio, finds his hands tied while the provincial departments get their systems in place.

And, says Starke, the provincial welfare departments have been "horse traded".

"In Gauteng, which is dominated by the ANC, an NP minister has welfare; and in the Nationalist Western Cape, welfare is an ANC portfolio, and so it goes," she comments.

Meanwhile, like the rest of the NGO sector, the departments have seen the flow of foreign government and private sector spending dwindle to a trickle.

Many businesses – under pressure from the unions – are redirecting their corporate social responsibility spending towards needs that relate directly to their employees.

"Most of our sponsors now see the RDP office as a gatekeeper for donor funding. But the RDP doesn't have an effective mechanism in place for distributing funds, so although the money is still coming in we have no access to it," she says.

"This is forcing a lot of NGOs,

which were part of the struggle and have been doing valuable work, to close down, because they don't have a place in established Government budgets and have always been totally dependent on public funding.

"Two years ago Child Welfare raised more than R1-million in corporate donations. Now we are more than halfway through the financial year and we have received less than R100 000.

"We have to depend increasingly on public funding – raised through events like Red Nose Day, and through street collections and private donations – and in the process we must compete with hundreds of desperately needy individuals and other good causes, while the man-in-the-street has less money to offer."

Pressure

Pressure on Child Welfare and other NGOs would be alleviated if corporate donations were tax-deductible. Government's defence is that its objective is to broaden the tax base, and that easing the tax burden on corporate citizens would create an imbalance.

But a strong argument in favour of a tax break for donors is that, when the private sector helps carry Government's load, Government should meet it halfway.

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THE STAR

SPECIAL SURVEY IN

OUR CHILDREN

The 69th annual Our Children's Day, organised by Child Welfare, will be marked by entertainment for the whole family all over South Africa. This will serve to focus the eyes of the nation on the plight of children in different circumstances.

EDITORIAL: VAL PENAR
ADVERTISING: GABRIEL GILDEA



loved and happy ... but thousands of children in South Africa are deprived and abused. Help them by attending one of the Our Children's Day events being held around the country to raise funds for Child Welfare - see story below.

PICTURE: COURTESY EDGARS

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PART ONE

ARTICLE 1

- ☐ For the purpose of this charter, a child means any person under the age of 18 years unless otherwise stated.

ARTICLE 2

- ☐ Children have been and continue to be abused, tortured, mistreated, neglected and abandoned by the people of South Africa.
- ☐ Children are not treated with the respect and dignity that every human deserves, but are subjected to violence, poverty, racism and the ignorance of adults.
- ☐ Children continue to suffer from the inequalities of apartheid, especially in the area of education.
- ☐ Children do not receive proper health care and medical attention, yet do not have the right to demand treatment.
- ☐ Children are beaten and abused by the police and by gangs and other adults.
- ☐ Children are the leaders of tomorrow, but they are not given the right to participate in consultations or negotiations about their future.
- ☐ The government and other political parties have put children last, not first.

We therefore set forth that all children of South Africa are entitled to the following rights and protections:

PART TWO

ARTICLE 1

1. All children have the right to protection and guarantee of all the rights of the charter and should not be discriminated against because of their parents' or families' colour, race, gender, language, religion, personal or political opinion, nationality, disability, culture or for any other reason.
2. The Government of National Unity as well as Provincial and Local Governments, all political parties, communities, all extra-parliamentary ensure that children and children should do everything possible to parents' or families' colour, race, gender, language, religion, personal or political opinion, nationality, disability, culture or for any other reason.

ARTICLE 2

2. All children have the right to be protected from harmful and toxic substances such as cigarettes, drugs and alcohol and to be educated about the effects of these substances on their health and environment.
3. All children have the right to free and comprehensive health services, especially in schools, including screening of diseases, treatment of diseases and physical and psychological treatment and services.
4. All children have the right to demand health and medical care without the permission of their parents or guardians.
5. All children have the right to be protected and educated about AIDS and to be given adequate health care and protection. Any child whose family is infected with AIDS should be given special care and protection.
6. Disabled children have the right to special health care and protection.

ARTICLE 8: EDUCATION

1. All children have the right to free and equal, non-racial, non-sexist and compulsory education, including pre-school education, as education is a right, not a privilege.
2. All children have a right to education which is in the interest of the child and to develop their talents through education, both formal and informal, as well as career guidance and remedial education.
3. All educators should be qualified and should treat children with patience, respect and dignity. All educators should be evaluated and monitored to ensure that they are protecting the rights of the child.
4. Parents have a duty to become involved in their children's education and development and to participate, with total commitment, in their children's education at school and at home.
5. All children have the right to play and to free and adequate sports and recreational facilities and to have access to those facilities so that children can be children.
6. All children have the right to participate in the evaluation and upgrading of the curriculum so that it respects all the traditions, cultures and values of children in South Africa.
7. All children have the right to compulsory education on issues such as sexuality, AIDS, human rights, the history and background of South Africa, life skills and family life.
8. All children have the right to adequate educational facilities and transportation to such facilities should be provided to children in difficult or violent situations.
9. Adequate provision for disabled children should be made at mainstream schools.
10. The Government of National Unity, Provincial and Local Governments and should take steps to decrease

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- the literacy rate, especially in the rural areas.
11. All children have the right to be taught in their mother tongue, including sign language and Braille.
 12. Children have the right to equal treatment at school and no child should be subjected to derogatory or disrespectful treatment by educators.

ARTICLE 9: CHILD LABOUR

1. All children have the right to be protected from child labour and any other economic exploitation which endangers their mental, physical or psychological health and interferes with their education, so they can develop properly and enjoy childhood.
2. All children, especially in rural areas, should be protected from hard labour, including farm, domestic or manual labour or any other types of labour and instances of violation of age restrictions should be investigated by a Child Protection Service and employers should be prosecuted.
3. All children have the right to be protected from prostitution and sexual exploitation such as pornography. People found to be exploiting children in this fashion should face severe consequences.
4. There should be a minimum age of employment and no child should be forced to leave school before the completion of matric for the purposes of employment. The circumstances of the parents of children found to be working at an early age should be investigated and, where necessary, they should be assisted with bursaries from their employers or with free education of their children up to matric level.
5. There should be regulations and restrictions on the hours and types of work and penalties for those who violate these regulations.
6. All children have the right to be protected from child slavery and from the inheritance of labour or employment from their parents or families.

ARTICLE 10: HOMELESS CHILDREN

1. No child should be forced to live on the streets or forced to return home if his/her basic rights will continue to be violated, but homeless children should be encouraged to return home wherever possible.
2. Homeless children have the right to be protected from harassment and abuse from police, security guards and all other persons and every person has a duty to report any abuse or violence against children.
3. Homeless children have the right to a decent place to live, clothing and a healthy diet.
4. Homeless children have the right to special attention in education and health care.
5. Communities and families have a duty to protect their children from becoming homeless and abandoned.
6. All persons, including other children, should be made aware of the plight of homeless children and should participate in programmes which act positively to eradicate the problem of homeless children.
7. Local, Provincial and National Government has a duty and responsibility for homeless children.
8. Disabled homeless children need special attention for special needs.



Intellectual stimulation during the early years prepares a child for school. PICTURE: COURTESY EDGARS

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All children have the right to a name and nationality as soon as they are born.

ARTICLE 3

1. All children have the right to express their own opinions and the right to be heard in all matters that affect their rights, protection and welfare.
2. All children have the right to be heard in courtrooms and hearings which affect their future rights, protection and welfare and to be treated with the special care and consideration within those courtrooms and hearings which their age and maturity demands.
3. All children have the right to free legal representation whenever they are required to appear in court or when their circumstances require legal representation.
4. All children have the right to participate in the government of the country and special attention should be given to consultations with children on their rights and situations.

ARTICLE 4

All children have the right to freedom to practise their own religion, culture or beliefs without fear.

ARTICLE 5: VIOLENCE

1. All children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence, especially those children in rural areas.
2. All children have the right to freedom from corporal punishment at school, from the police, in prisons and in communities.
3. All children have the right to be protected from neglect and abandonment.
4. All children have the right to be protected from township and political violence and to have safe places and community centres where they can go for help and security from violence.
5. All children have the right to be educated about child abuse and the right to form youth groups to protect them from abuse.
6. All persons have a duty to report all violence against, abuse of and neglect of any child to the appropriate authorities.
7. Children should not be used as shields or tools by the perpetrators of violence.
8. Children have the right to say no to violence.
9. The media has a duty to prevent the exploitation of children who are victims of violence and should be prohibited from the promotion of violence.
10. All children have the right to be protected from violence by the police and in prisons.
11. Children should not be obliged or forced to follow adults in their political involvements.
12. All children have the right to be free from torture, detention or any other physical or emotional violence during times of unrest or war.
13. All children have the right to be protected from drug and alcohol abuse by parents, families and others and to be educated about these forms of violence.
14. Children have the right to special children's courts and to medical facilities to protect them from violence.
15. Special groups and organisations should be formed within communities to protect and counsel victims of all types of violence.

ARTICLE 6: FAMILY LIFE

1. All children have the right to a safe, secure and nurturing family and the right to participate as a member of that family.
2. All children have the right to love and affection from their parents and family.
3. All children have the right to clothing, housing and a healthy diet.
4. All children have the right to clean water, sanitation and a clean living environment.
5. All children have the right to be protected from domestic violence.
6. All children who do not have a family, are abandoned, displaced or who are refugees should be given special protection and every effort should be made to place them with a safe and secure family where necessary.
7. Subsidised adoptions should be instituted to assist children with being placed in new families where necessary.
8. Children with intellectual capacity should be allowed to take decisions or make choices as to which parent they should go to in cases of divorce, separation or adoption.

ARTICLE 7: HEALTH AND WELFARE

1. All children have the right to adequate health care and medical

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(248)

Abused children grow up into damaged adults

(298) Star 3/11/95

Physically abused and neglected children grow up – if they survive – to become damaged adults.

Their ability to establish normal, healthy relationships as spouses, business associates and friends is limited, and their children are at risk of being abused in their turn.

But the appalling cases of abuse and neglect that hit the headlines are in the minority. Most cases are carried on at a less dramatic level of sustained misery – and the abusers are generally inexperienced, uneducated or personally inadequate parents who cannot cope with the stresses of their own lives.

Last year, more than 13 000 cases of non-sexual physical abuse and nearly 93 000 cases of neglect were reported to child welfare societies around South Africa. They were drawn from all sectors of society – rich and poor, urban and rural, and from every racial group.

The number of physical abuse cases reported showed a 34% increase over the previous year but Child Welfare national director Helen Starke says the incidence of abuse has probably not changed.

"People are becoming more aware of the problem, and of how to recognise it, and they are more likely to report it than formerly. Also, children are learning that they can call for help," she says.

Lasting damage

"Ten years ago, if a child was hurt and the mother said it had fallen off its bicycle, her word was accepted. Today, doctors and teachers know that if the injuries are not consistent with the explanation, they must look further for

of poor whites on my casebook. The husband worked on the Railways, and at the last count there were 20 children in the family. A new baby arrived every 10 to 12 months," recalls Starke.

"Then one year the mother produced twins. At that stage she already had six preschool children at home; she had got into a cycle of bearing and rearing a new child each year, but when she had two newborn babies at once she simply couldn't cope."

The mother's solution to the problem was to pretend it did not exist. She put the twins to one side and ignored them – and 10 months later produced another child.

The twins were kept alive by their seven-year-old sister, who would steal milk from the kitchen to feed them at night when everyone else was asleep. There was rarely enough, so she would water it down.

"No-one in the family was allowed to acknowledge the babies' existence, and no-one knew they were there – including the social worker who was in regular contact with the family at that time."

"One day the girl who had been feeding them told a neighbour – she was afraid they were dying. The neighbour told the social worker. By then, those babies were three years old but they were as weak as newborns."

"They were put into foster care and survived, and are now approaching their teens. One child is fine, but the other is severely brain damaged," she says.

Both abuse and severe neglect tend to occur when the parent cannot cope. ~~For example, in another~~

criticised for failing to remove children from parents who abuse or neglect them but, she says, helping the family remain intact and become functional is far preferable to taking children away from their parents.

"In most cases the children don't want to leave. They aren't abused all the time, and love their parents."

"Provided the parents are willing to work with us we can often stop the abuse. But when a parent refuses to acknowledge that abuse is taking place we know we have a problem," she says.

An important part of the social worker's task, in addition to helping and counselling the parents, is to help the child avoid situations which can lead to abuse.

Provocative

"The child can learn to change provocative behaviour, and to recognise danger signs, such as the way daddy sounds when he comes home drunk. And the social worker helps the child establish a support network within the extended family and the community, to provide somewhere to run to when home isn't safe," she explains.

Parenting training is another vital task. Abuse and neglect are both common in communities where education standards are low and support networks comprising mature parents have collapsed.

"Many young parents simply don't know what is reasonable to expect from a child. We have had cases of mothers who truly believe that their six-month-old babies, for instance, deliberately wet their

evidence of abuse.

It can be difficult to tell when passive neglect becomes active abuse. Generally, abuse involves some level of violence but either causes lasting physical and emotional damage and either can kill.

"Some years ago I had a family

major cause.

"It's often a case of, 'there, but for the grace of God, go I'. But although we can understand it, we cannot condone it. We must act to protect the children, and help and teach the parents," says Starke.

Social workers are frequently

nappies as soon as they have been changed, just to be naughty.

"So they smack or shake the babies, to 'discipline' them and relieve their own frustration, and in the process they injure them and cause lasting psychological harm," says Starke.



Surrounding Mina Moo, one of Clover SA's flock of friendly characters, are (from left): Child Welfare national director Helen Starke, Sandra Snyman of Clover SA, Gauteng First Lady Judy Sexwale and Herbert Smit of Clover SA. Mina Moo will be appearing in a "Kideo" show at the Cape Town Waterfront on November 4. Another character in the group, Yogasaurus, will appear at Sandton Square this weekend to appeal to the public to donate funds to Child Welfare.

Abuse is ultimate betrayal of trust

(298) Star 3/11/95

Child sexual abuse is more than a violent physical assault— it is also, in almost all cases, the grotesque betrayal by someone the child knows and trusts.

"The Stranger Danger campaign backfired on us," says Child Welfare national director Helen Starke. "Statistics show that most sexual abusers are family members and friends. The Good Touch/Bad Touch campaign is much better. Children have an innate sense of what kind of touching is okay, and we try to encourage them to trust their instincts."

The most horrifying implication of the statistics, however, is that children are more likely to find themselves trapped in abusive relationships which they cannot stop.

"Many parents, despite all they have seen in the press and on television, simply will not believe the child when he says Uncle Johnny is doing dirty things to him," she says.

"And when the abuser is a father or stepfather, the mother may choose not to know about it. She may herself be abused, and too demoralised to protect the child; or she may be so relieved when her husband stops pestering her and starts visiting her daughter's room that she turns a blind eye."

When abuse does not involve a family member or friend, the molester is still likely to be known to the child. In a recent interview on

Radio 702, a self-confessed paedophile described his modus operandi in grim detail

According to this man — whose approach, Starke says, was typical — a paedophile will hang around places where children congregate. In his case, he chose cinemas, where he watched to see which children were dropped off alone or seemed to hang onto the fringes of groups.

The paedophile will approach and befriend a child — which is most likely to be a boy — and will spend weeks winning his trust. Eventually he will suggest a drive alone together in his car and once he has the child alone in an isolated place he will make his first move.

Afterwards he will reward the child with sweets, praise and words of affection — and a warning to keep the matter secret, says Starke.

"Many people who molest children argue, in their own defense, that the child did not resist. But no child is happy to be molested. They will submit because they are afraid of losing the man's friendship.

"The issue is that legitimate sexual activity demands the informed consent of both parties. A child is incapable of giving it.

"Anyone who indulges in sexual activity with a child under the age of 16 is committing a crime, and must be dealt with accordingly."

There is no standard profile of

the typical child molester. A paedophile will usually be male and will suffer from low self-esteem.

"He will also be a charming, friendly person whom children, and their parents, trust. Usually when a molester is caught, everyone who knows him is astounded," she adds.

The betrayal of trust is one of the most damaging factors in sexual abuse. Victims learn to distrust adults, and this limits their potential to develop normally.

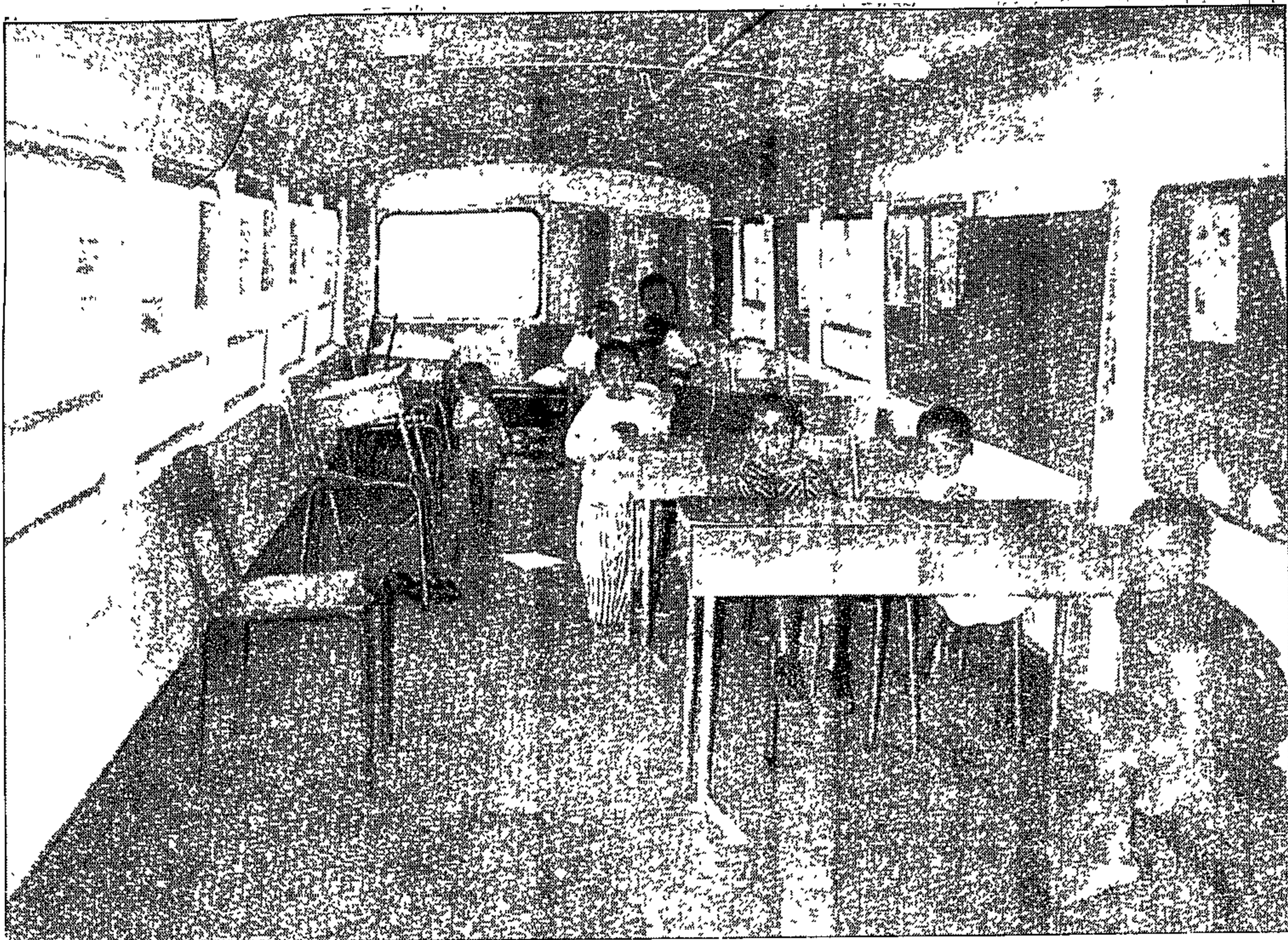
"The child is warned never to betray 'their' secret. Sometimes threats are involved — for instance, a father or stepfather could say, 'If people find out I'll go to jail, and what will happen to the family?'"

"Many children feel guilty. They believe they have provoked the situation. And the situation is complicated for an older child, who is starting to become sexually aware: he will not be happy about what is being done, but will still experience sexual excitement, which will make him feel guilty.

"This feeling of guilt makes it harder for the child to tell anyone," she explains.

Even after the abuse is stopped, molested children become high-risk targets for further incidents.

"Even very young children tend to become sexually provocative after they have been abused, because they have learnt that such behaviour wins them approval."



An old bus provides a classroom for rural children. Funds raised on Our Children's Day will help buy equipment.

Get them in their early years

For the vast majority of South African children, the early years of their lives are merely the start of a long cycle of ignorance and neglect.

Undernourished and under-stimulated, they never develop the mental resources they need to break free and realise their full potential. They enter overcrowded classrooms unprepared for learning, and by Standard Three most have lost interest and given up.

"Early childhood development is essential – yet only about one in 10 of our 6-million disadvantaged children receives it in any form," comments social worker Thelma Matthee.

"South Africa's record in this area is among the worst in Africa."

Most young children spend the first few years of their lives at

home in the care of other children. Those that are fortunate enough to remain with their mothers, carried in blankets on their backs, develop a great sense of security but unless the mother is aware of the need to stimulate her child through play they remain intellectually deprived.

Child welfare societies throughout this country are working with rural and squatter communities in actively combating this problem. Some 1 300 projects, catering for about 60 000 children, have been established.

"Some are simply child-minding projects in shacks or under trees, while others are well-equipped and quite sophisticated.

"We help them learn to use simple, inexpensive materials to stimulate the children's creativity and

develop their awareness of nature, colour, shapes and all the other elements of the world around them," she says.

This process is often an eye-opener to the person who cares for the children. "We have arrived in communities to find 80 children crammed into a tiny shack, barely able to move.

"But once we show the person caring for them how much she can contribute to their development, and how much satisfaction she can receive in doing so, she blossoms – and so do the children.

"The parents are amazed at the change in their children; and rural school principals regularly comment that they can really tell the difference between a child who has been through such a programme and one that has not," Matthee

says.

But the task that remains to be done is enormous – and resources are limited. "We need donations – of materials as well as money – and we need people who are willing to get their hands dirty.

"Many people get involved in Child Welfare at committee level, and do wonderful work raising funds. But there is a desperate shortage of volunteer workers who will actually get involved in helping with the children.

"And we need people who will take on the work of collecting, storing and delivering materials for the children to use.

"With just everyday things like toilet rolls, transparent sweet wrappers, tin cans and other household odds and ends we can change lives," she says.

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Foster families needed to take on 'damaged' kids

Star 3/11/15 (298)

Children's homes are overflowing with youngsters in need of a family – but the difficulties attached to taking home a damaged child frighten most people away.

"These children are usually hard to place. They are almost all victims of neglect or abuse, and struggle to trust adults and accept their authority," says Child Welfare national director Helen Starke.

"Some have been in and out of different foster homes; and those who have grown up in institutions will have moved from one children's home to another repeatedly during their lives."

The best of institutions cannot replace family. There is little continuity – other children come and go in the home, and staff, who may be accepted by the children as parent figures, are likely to move on to another job at some stage.

How well each child copes will be determined by a wide variety of factors but often those who are most in need of loving care are the hardest to reach.

In a typical case, a mother – after years trapped in an abusive relationship with her husband – abandoned him and their four children,

aged six months to five years. For two or three years he battled to cope, relying on the help of friends and neighbours, before he put them into a home. It was not long before he stopped contacting them.

The children were separated, as the older two had to go into one home and the younger two into another.

"They were all bright, good-looking children – but what family would take on four children? Their only constant was each other," comments the social worker who was involved in their case.

Various families became weekend host parents to three of the children – but one boy had reacted to his circumstances by becoming totally withdrawn. "He needed attention but didn't get it, because he was very obedient and quiet, and he coped well at school. The other children were more demanding, and received more attention.

"But he wouldn't speak; and each time he visited a trial set of host parents he came back insisting he never wanted to see them again," she says.

One Christmas, when he was eight years old, the arrangements

that had been made for him and his younger brother fell through at the last minute. One of the social worker's friends took the boys in.

Something about her appealed to him, and he asked to return. A few months later, after spending the Easter holidays with her, he announced that he would not be returning to the home – he had come to stay.

"This was one of the stories with a relatively happy ending. It involved bending a few rules – in those days it was not generally acceptable for a single woman to foster or adopt a child. But in fact as a single person she could mould her life around his needs.

"Today he is in his twenties, a fully-functional adult. He is in contact with his mother, has an excellent relationship with his foster family and lives with his siblings," the social worker says.

Another child also coped better with a single mother than with conventional family situations.

Deeply disturbed as a result of sexual abuse, she had been placed in 14 foster homes by the age of five. Her last set of foster parents were professionals specialising in

child care and counselling – and they threw her out because they feared her sexually provocative behaviour would affect their son.

"The social worker couldn't throw her into the street, so I offered to take her home with me for a while," recalls her adoptive mother.

"She had been with me two weeks when she quietly packed her suitcase and announced that she was ready to go. She had never stayed in a place much longer than that, and was determined to reject me before I rejected her.

"I told her she wasn't going anywhere, and that whether we liked it or not we were stuck with each other – and after that I experienced far less bizarre behaviour than she exhibited with other people.

"But for many years she didn't know how to respond appropriately to situations. She is now in her late teens, and still shows strong signs of insecurity."

This child responded to the unconditional acceptance she received from her adoptive mother – but was still demanding. Not having to cater for a husband or small children was a definite advantage.

Taking over when parents need 'time out'

Most parents need time out from their children at some time or another. Some get it through a Children's Court judgment, when their children are placed in institutions or foster care.

"The main purpose of foster care is to give the child a temporary home while the parents rehabilitate themselves," says Child Welfare national director Helen Starke.

"The court sets a goal – for the parents to enter counselling, deal with a substance abuse problem, find employment, or whatever – and, in theory, when the parents have reached the goal their children are returned to them.

"In reality, it can be difficult to restore children to their parents. The parents are critical of the system, and accuse social workers of perpetually shifting the goalposts – but social workers see the situation as fluid, and their views tend to be dictated by the changing needs of the child."

She cites the case of a child who was removed from her unemployed alcoholic mother's care at the age of two years. Over the next three years the child had little contact with her mother, who was busy sorting out her life, and she bonded with the foster parents.

When the girl was five years old the mother, having overcome her alcohol problem, settled into a stable job and set up a home, wanted her daughter returned.

"In a case like this it is rarely in the child's best

interests to return to the mother but the courts will almost invariably find in the mother's favour."

"The real issue is that children are regarded, by the courts and by their parents, as possessions. We don't have a children's rights culture in this country," comments Starke.

A complicating factor is that many parents, when their children are restored to them, once again find it difficult to cope. The pressures involved in meeting the child's needs can be heavy and if the child is less than overjoyed to be removed from foster care, the strain can become overwhelming.

"The problem is that if we don't return the child, many of these parents will simply have another one and start the whole cycle again. And they will keep on having children as long as we keep taking them away, because for many of these parents, having a child is the only worthwhile, creative thing they have ever done.

"Sometimes it can make better sense to let them keep a child and focus on helping them – and the child – to cope," she adds.

For fostering to work, the biological and foster parents must agree to put the child's needs first. For many foster parents, this can involve welcoming one or two dysfunctional adults into their home, as well as a damaged child.

And foster parents must accept an almost impossible task: that of taking in someone else's

child and loving it as one of their own but never forgetting that their first choice must be to return the child to its biological parents.

A classic example of fostering at its best is that of two schizophrenic parents whose child has spent several years in foster care.

The foster parents welcomed this couple into their home, and the two sets of parents have established what amounts to a system of joint parenting. The foster parents are "mommy" and "daddy", and the biological parents, who see the child regularly, are supportive of them.

"It couldn't have worked if either set of parents had been threatened by the other," comments Starke.

"This is an unusually good case. In many more cases, the foster parents have to shield the child from his biological parents' inadequacies – and all the while the child may be crying out to go home to mommy and daddy."

Fostering can place enormous strain on any other children in the family. "People tend not to be aware enough of the effect of fostering on their own children.

"They can be deeply resentful of these children, who come and go and perpetually demand all the attention. It's vital for the younger members of the family to have a support network of significant adults who will give them moral support and affection when they need it," she says.

Laws eased so more can adopt

(298) Star 3/11/95

The restrictions on who may adopt children have eased significantly but for many would-be adoptive parents the wait for a baby can still be a long one.

"People need to understand that adoption services are intended to provide children with families, not to give childless couples children," says Helen Starke.

"Because normal, healthy, white newborn babies are in demand, our criteria are tougher than for hard-to-place children — but for any child our primary aim is to find a stable, caring family that suits the particular child."

Healthy, white babies tend to go to legally married, childless, white couples whose relationship seems stable. "This environment offers the best chance of a successful adoption," she explains.

Families modelled along less conventional lines are more likely to receive hard-to-place children, such as abandoned babies, mentally or physically disabled children and babies with HIV or those born to HIV-positive mothers.

Better suited

Black babies are also difficult to place, because the availability of adoptive homes in the black community is limited, and because there are so many of them.

In response to the need for adoptive homes Child Welfare now accepts applications from single people, older couples and homosexuals, as well as from people whose race group is not the same as the child's.

"On the face of it, people in these groups may not be as close to the 'ideal' as the conventional adoptive family model but they are infinitely better than any institution can ever be," says Starke.

"They are also thoroughly screened, to ensure they can offer a stable, happy home to the child. And in many cases there may be

factors that make them more suitable than a conventional couple."

For instance, an older couple, or a homosexual, could be ideal for a child with HIV. For older people the prospect of seeing the child grow up and produce grandchildren may not be a major issue; they may simply want to spend a few years in enabling the child to make the most of a short life.

Aids is generally better accepted within the homosexual community than among heterosexuals.

"A single parent is typically also more flexible than a married couple, and so would be a better prospect for a disturbed older child needing plenty of personal attention," she adds.

Where possible, the biological mother today plays a significant role in choosing her baby's new parents. In an increasing number of cases she chooses the couple she likes best from a short-list drawn up by the adoption agency, meets them, and, at the time of

signing the adoption papers, personally hands over her baby.

"This can be a wonderfully healing process for the mother. It gives her a sense of being in control, and it satisfies her that in entrusting her baby to the people she has chosen, she is performing a loving, caring act," she says.

Many biological mothers give the adoptive parents letters and gifts for the baby, to be passed on when it is old enough — and this, too, helps ensure that the child knows its adoption was an act of love.

"Children who are adopted in this way seem to experience far less of a need to trace their biological parents because the adoptive parents have met the mother and can tell the child about her," says Starke.

A fairly new development now gives adopted children the right of access to their adoption records. For some mothers who have given their babies away, anxiety about being contacted years later can weigh heavily.

Less painful

But the reality, according to Starke, is generally less painful than they expect. "Most children trying to trace their mothers are actually looking for information. Often an exchange of letters, or a meeting in neutral territory such as the social worker's office, will satisfy that need.

"They want to know why they were given away, what their father was like, where they have inherited any talents or personality traits and so on," she says.

In addition, the information provided by the biological mother when she makes the decision to adopt is invaluable to adopted children. In addition to the biological parents' family medical histories, covers such areas as their social economic backgrounds, education and religious affiliation.

WIDER HORIZONS & PROSPECTS



Edgars Club helps meet the needs of children in a wide variety of schools. Disabled children see their prospects widening through the use of sophisticated educational aids.

STAR
3/11/95

SPECIAL SURVEY
IN THE STAR

THE STAR / FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3 1995

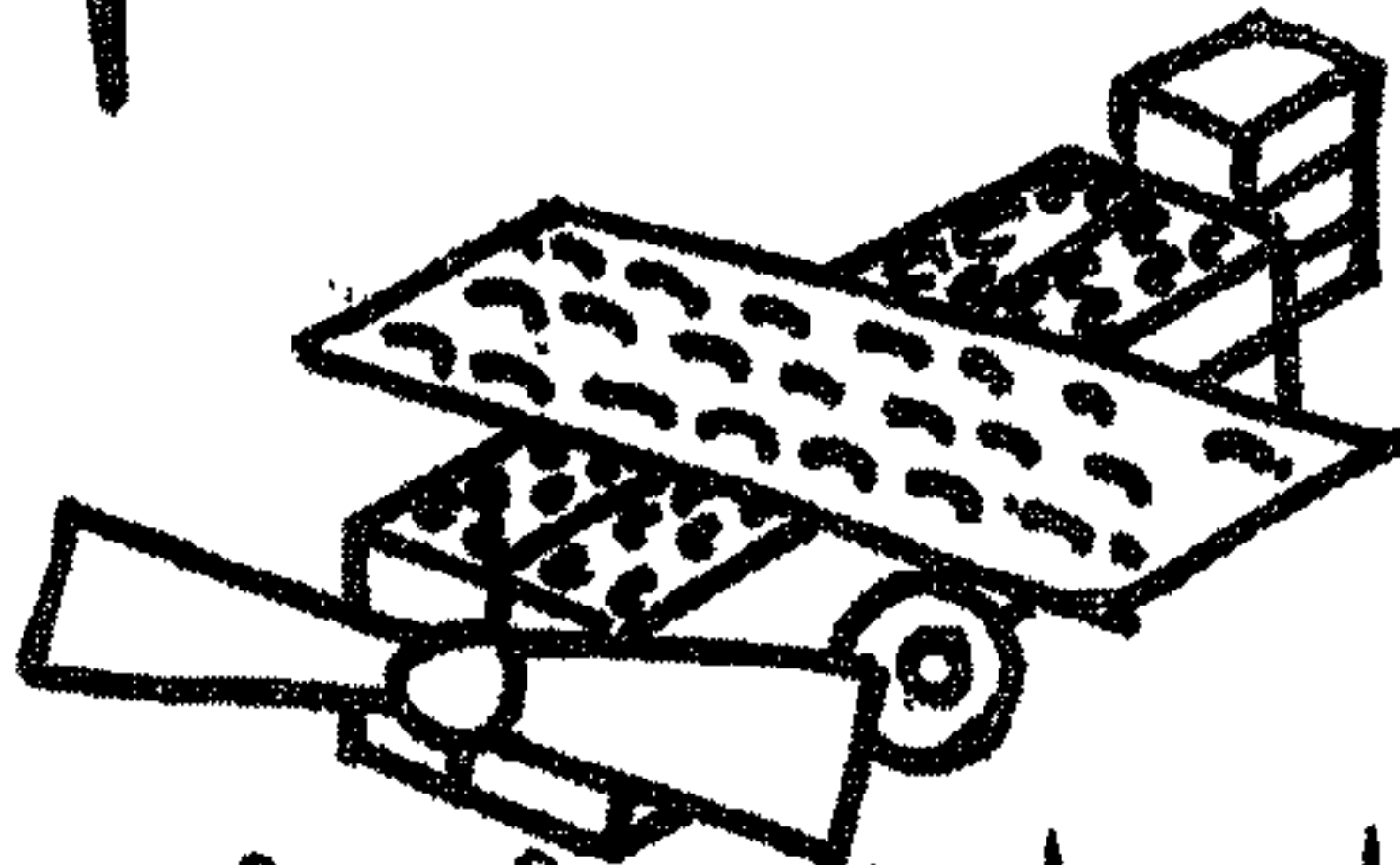
OUR CHILDREN'S DADA

(248)

STAR

31/11/95

Sponsor a Brick



And win a trip for four to Legoland with 

**Child Welfare and Clover SA invite you to join our children in building a healthy nation.
Every brick you sponsor will go towards helping a needy child.**

For just R2 a brick you can make a real difference. And, of course, the more bricks you sponsor, the greater your chances of winning. Complete and send in the coupon below, to be received no later than Saturday November 4 - Our Children's Day. Each brick you sponsor will carry a number to be entered into the draw.

If you prefer, you can also phone in your entry by dialling the MTN Children's Pledge Line on 083 98 10 010.

The winners will be announced on Sunday 5th November on Mini TV & Radio Metro. After the record breaking attempt of the world's largest LEGO/Mini TV tower at Sandton Square.

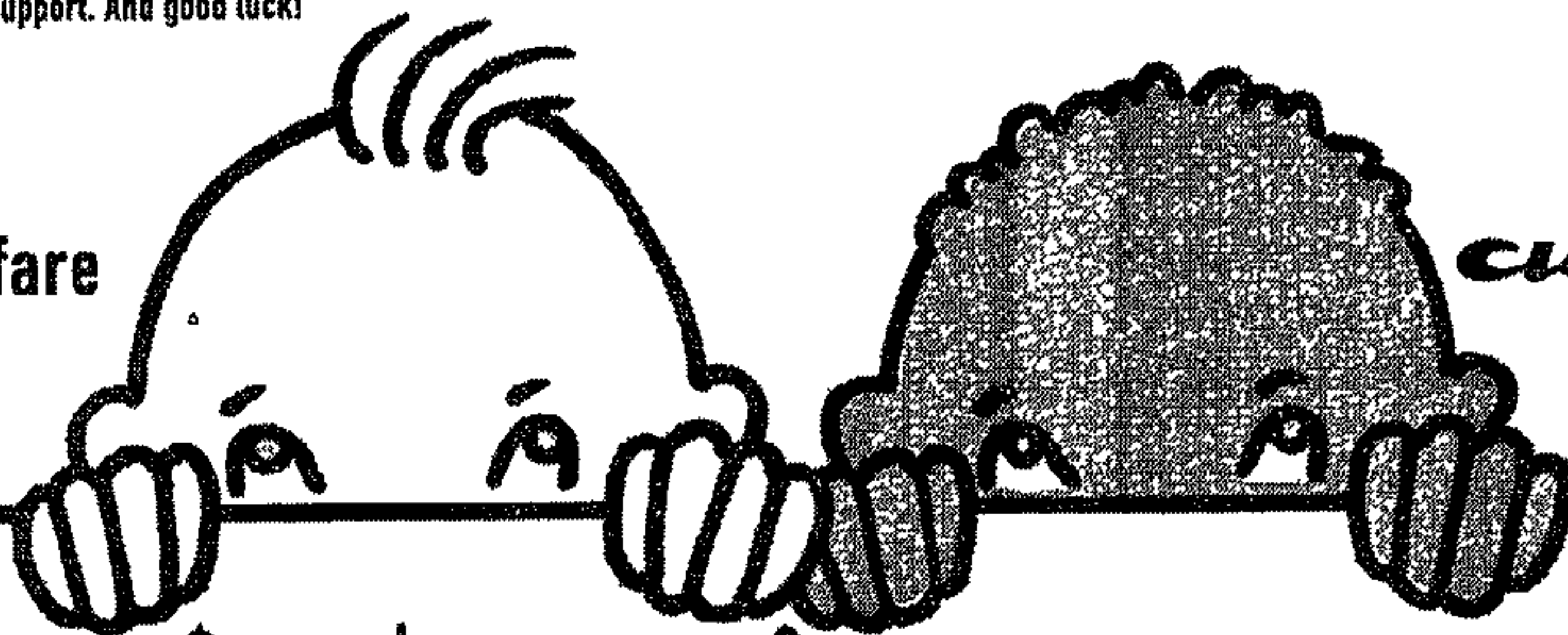
There'll be plenty of other record breaking events across the country. So keep a look out for details on street posters in your area. Thank you for your support. And good luck!



Child Welfare



Clover S.A.



Sponsor a Brick entry form

Name:

Address: Code:

Home telephone no.: Work telephone no.:

Age:

Number of bricks sponsored x R2 = R donation

Paid by cheque: ☐ Postal Order: ☐ (Please indicate)

MasterCard or Visa no.:

Please make cheques and postal orders payable to: Child Welfare Fundraising no. 01 100159 0003
And post entry form to: Sponsor a Brick Competition, Private Bag 32201, Braamfontein, 2017.

RULES OF THE COMPETITION: 1. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence concerning the results will be entered into. 2. The prize is not transferable for cash. 3. You may enter as many times as you like but each entry must be on a reasonable hand drawn entry form. 4. Entry is open to anyone except the project co-ordinators of Our Children's Day and their immediate family. 5. Cash contribution as a donation is not obligatory to qualify as an entrant. 6. Only entries received by 4 November 1995 will qualify for the draw. 7. Prizes may be claimed on Monday 13 November 1995 between 9am and 3pm by calling (011) 330 5741.



'Own action' threat by child protectors

TROYE LUND

Own Correspondent

(298)
AAL 4/11/95

JOHANNESBURG. — Soweto-based South Africa Stop Child Abuse (Sasca) and self-defence units have threatened to take their "own kind" of action if nothing is done to stop rampant child abuse in the township.

President of Sasca Tutu Mgulwa said his organisation dealt with about 65 cases of child abuse a week. Not all were reported to the police.

The Child Protection Unit (CPU) said it investigated between 150 and 160 complaints of child abuse in Soweto each month.

The issue has been highlighted by the brutal rape of two girls in Soweto this week. Police said a three-year-old was suffocated after being raped and a six-year-old placed on a table and raped in front of her aunt.

"Not enough people care about what happens to the children. The law acts too slowly and needs to be improved. We are not threatening, but we want changes immediately," Mr Mgulwa said, adding that the CPU did not have enough staff or vehicles to cope adequately.

Police spokesman Captain Wikus Weber said the police recognised how sensitive the issue was.

(298) *sowetan* 6/11/95
Child abuse protest

By Mongadi Mafata

THE South African Stop Child Abuse Organisation will stage a sit-in tomorrow at the offices of Justice Minister Dullah Omar at the Union Buildings in Pretoria to fight for stiffer sentences for child abusers.

Speaking at the launch of their Soweto branch, SASCA national president Mr Tutu Mgulwa said they would appeal to the Minister to introduce a law preventing courts from calling minors to testify in an open court.

Mgulwa had earlier led a march

from Moroka Police Station through the streets of Rockville and Molapo in an anti-child abuse campaign.

The placard-carrying children chanted: 'No bail for child abusers - Keep them in jail.'

The marchers headed for the Jabulani Flats and the local branch of SASCA was officially launched by Mgulwa.

Meanwhile, scores of young people from KwaThema in Springs yesterday joined a child abuse protest march organised by the newly formed Youth Against Child Abuse.

Changes may help millions of pensioners

Wyndham Hartley

CAPE TOWN — New regulations, which could benefit millions of SA social pensioners, would come into effect on March 1 next year, Parliament's welfare committee heard yesterday.

Kola Venter of the welfare department said the new regulations could have vast financial implications. The means test had been revised and houses occupied by pensioners would no longer influence the amount they were paid.

Venter told the committee that maintenance for children, regardless of whether they were illegitimate or not, would be paid for up to two children. Payment for all children, if the single parent qualified, would be phased out. (298)

The new regulations would apply to all pensioners and not just new applicants, Venter said. All existing pensions would be reviewed in the light of the new regulations, but she warned that this would be a time-consuming process which could take longer than a year. (299)

She said a national committee had been formed by Welfare Minister Abe Williams to investigate further the issue of maintenance.

BD 7/11/95

Child witnesses given their own courtroom

Star 8/11/95 (298)

BY DAISY JONES

When bewildered child-abuse victims are requested to testify in South African courts, the youngsters are either confronted with the intimidating prospect of a room full of imposing adults, or an adjoining chamber is rigged up temporarily for trial.

However, the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court has become the first court in the country to alleviate this stress factor for child witnesses.

This week was marked by the official opening of a small, child-friendly room adjacent to the regional children's court. It is decorated with murals, curtains and comfortable chairs, with toys on hand.

The room is monitored by a closed-circuit camera that links the testimony of child-abuse victims to the court, sparing little witnesses the trauma of appearing in the witness stand before lawyers and magistrates clad in black robes, and opposite the suspected perpetrator.

Court is an intimidating place for most people, and testifying in court is generally regarded as a traumatic experience, Child Abuse Alliance

(CAA) chairman Meryll Kantor said at the official opening of the children's court ante-room on Monday.

Children with a history of abuse often feel victimised in court; as if they are being prosecuted.

By removing the child from court to a colourful, comfortable environment with a trained intermediary alongside the child to illicit responses and rephrase difficult questions, the child is protected from the trauma of taking the stand, Kantor said.

In addition, the court benefits from the child being relaxed while answering questions.

Kantor said the project was initiated by the Child Protection Unit and co-ordinated by the CAA, with the services of mural artist Alan Coleman provided free.

She said the Protea Magistrate's Court in Soweto would be the next to have a special children's room.

The CAA hoped that the opening event, attended by officers of the courts, government officials, child-care organisations and the media, would start a nationwide trend towards protecting child victims from the traumas of their court cases.

ARC 9/11/95

Abe Williams answers critics

Political Correspondent (298)

WELFARE Minister Abe Williams has defended his record following harsh criticism by the national assembly portfolio committee on welfare.

Committee members this week criticised Mr Williams for his handling of the investigation into social payments fraud, and continuing failure to restructure his department.

Mr Williams said he had previously set up a committee, with representatives from the provinces, to investigate social payments fraud.

"Progress has been good and in most provinces vast savings have been effected."

Mr Williams, responding to criticism of his absence from this week's meeting of the national assembly committee, said the meeting had been arranged without consulting him.

His deputy, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, had attended.

"I had full confidence in her ability to handle the issues which needed clarification."

To criticism of the continuing failure to restructure his department, Mr Williams responded that this would be done as soon as the white paper on welfare was approved by the cabinet, which would probably happen in the next few weeks.

"Serious questions were raised about the delays in finalising legislation."

"I wish to set the record straight ... it should always be kept in mind that the legislative process takes time, especially because I insist on wide consultation."

Bills to be introduced in parliament next year included:

- The Welfare Laws Amendment Bill, which will amend the 1978 Fundraising Act; and
- The Child Care Amendment Bill.

Child-abuse groups threaten to take action if delays persist

(298) Star 9/11/95
By TROYE LUND

The Soweto-based South Africa Stop Child Abuse (SASCA) and self-defence units have threatened to take their own kind of action if nothing is done to stop rampant child abuse in the township.

Tutu Mgulwa, president of SASCA, said his organisation dealt with about 65 cases of child abuse a week. Not all of these were reported to police.

The Child Protection Unit (CPU) confirmed it investigated between 150 and 160 complaints of child abuse in Soweto each month.

The issue has been highlighted by the brutal rapes of

two young girls in Soweto this week. Police said a three-year-old was suffocated after being raped and a six-year-old placed on a table and raped in front of her aunt.

"Not enough people care about what happens to the children. The law acts too slowly and needs to be improved. We are not threatening, but we want changes immediately," Mgulwa said, adding that the CPU did not have enough staff or vehicles to cope adequately.

Police said they could not say for certain that child abuse was on the increase and speculated that more cases were being reported now that people viewed police more favourably.

R12m stolen from feeding schemes

(298) 60 10/11/95
Bonile Ngqiyaza

THE national feeding scheme for schoolchildren had been defrauded of about R12m according to investigations so far, Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi said yesterday. The commercial crime unit was investigating 42 cases of fraud and theft across the country.

Mufamadi alleged that distributors, suppliers and administrators of the scheme were involved in the scam.

The worst affected area, Algoa Park in the Eastern Cape, had reported losses of R3,5m, Mufamadi said. In KwaZulu-Natal seven arrests had been made in connection with fraud and theft involving about R3,8m. More arrests were expected.

The losses had come about through fictitious claims and invoices, stolen cheques and forged signatures.

In Potchefstroom food parcels were not distributed, but sold for a fee of R2 a parcel. Fraud and theft were being investigated in Upington, Naboomspruit, Orange Farm, Witbank, Nelspruit, Kimberley and other areas.

'Fraud in pensions, feeding schemes'

298

The Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG. — Corruption involving millions of rands in the country's social pension system and in the President's school feeding scheme has been uncovered.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi has announced that 42 cases of fraud totalling R12 million are being investigated in connection with school feeding schemes throughout the country.

President Mandela has expressed disgust at the wide-scale fraud of feeding schemes across the country. A spokesman said Mr. Mandela was "depressed" about the situation.

The largest amount involves R3,5 million of feeding scheme money in the Eastern Cape.

In KwaZulu-Natal, seven arrests have been made in connection with R3,3 million which has disappeared.

Mr Mufamadi said investigations into fraud around feeding schemes were also under way in Northern Province, Mpumalanga, Gauteng and Northern Cape.

Allegations centred on fraud and theft by distributors, suppliers and administrators of feeding schemes.

In many cases, fictitious claims had been submitted, cheques stolen, signatures forged or financial records lost.

And officials in the Ministry of Welfare and the police are involved in massive and extensive investigations in six South African provinces into at least 200 cases of fraud, theft and corruption involving millions of rands in State pensions.

In a statement, Welfare and Population Development Minister Abe Williams said investigations were being carried out in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Northern Province, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State and the Northern Cape.

He said citizens of Mozambique and Swaziland were also involved.

At least seven people have appeared in court and have been released on bail.

ARG 10/11/95

Pension and school feeding scams exposed

Star 10/11/95 (298) (BOP)

42 cases of fraud surrounding feeding schemes leave

Mandela 'depressed' while welfare officials have been suspended over massive state pension corruption

By Jovial Rantao
TAMSEN DE BIER
and TARYN LAMBERTI

Massive corruption involving millions of rands in the country's social pension system and in the president's school feeding scheme has been uncovered.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi has announced that 42 cases of fraud totalling R12-million are being investigated in connection with school feeding schemes throughout the country.

Presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana said Nelson Mandela was "depressed" about the situation.

"The president expressed disgust that students should starve because of criminal behaviour of greedy officials and businessmen," he said.

And Ministers of Welfare officials and police are involved in extensive probes in six provinces into at least 200 cases of fraud, theft and corruption involving millions of rands in state pensions.

Welfare and Population Development Minister Abe Williams said

investigations were being carried out in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Northern Province, KwaZulu Natal, Free State and Northern Cape.

He said citizens of Mozambique and Swaziland were also involved.

At least seven people had appeared in court and been released on bail.

Williams added that 45 cases of fraud, due to double payments, as well as 39 cases of pensions being paid to people who had died, had been reported in Mpumalanga.

He said there were suspicions that a syndicate was involved in the crimes and in cases where pensions were paid to citizens of Swaziland and Mozambique.

"Officials of pensions services have been suspended and the registration and payment of pensions to non-pensioners is under investigation," he said.

In Northern Province the Department of Welfare and Population Development had embarked on an extensive probe into the widescale theft of pensioners' cheques.

In KwaZulu Natal a 25-member

task team, consisting of SAPS members and welfare officials, had begun investigating at least 45 cases of reported fraud, the minister said.

Fraud had been discovered in Gauteng when applications for pensions were made. Fraud by state officials, where clerks were being used as paymasters in a cash payment system, had been detected. Reported shortfalls varied between a few hundred rands and R30 000.

By the end of last month, a total of 2 753 investigations had been carried out by eight departmental inspectors in the Free State.

The largest amount of feeding scheme fraud involves R3,5-million in the Eastern Cape. In KwaZulu Natal, seven arrests have been made in connection with R3,3-million which has disappeared.

The latest revelations are part of an earlier scandal when it was found in the Eastern Cape early in August that fraud and incompetence had consumed R76-million of the province's R113-million budget for the

► ... To Page 2

P.T.O.

New detention centres for young criminals

(298) (253)
JOHANNESBURG. — A secure facility to detain children facing serious criminal charges would be provided urgently in each province, the Welfare Ministry said. *ARCT 11/11/95*

This followed the large-scale abscondment of children awaiting trial from places acting as detention centres since the release from prison and police cells of 2 000 children last May.

The critical shortage of secure facilities was highlighted by the murders of Dr Stephan Pon at Johannesburg Hospital and a KwaZulu/Natal political leader. They were murdered allegedly by youths facing other criminal charges.

The plan to provide a secure detention facility in each province was approved by the welfare, safety and security, correctional services and justice ministries.

Each province would designate an existing facility to be converted into a "secure care centre."

Staff would receive specialist training and would be assisted by teachers, psychologists and social workers.

"We are transforming the youth care system in South Africa," the statement said. — Sapa.

Street people 'need respect'

DAVID BREIER
Political Staff

CAPETONIANS should show more respect for the city's homeless people who may react to "lack of respect" by indulging in "negative responses" such as scratching cars.

This is the suggestion of deputy minister for welfare and population development, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.

She was responding to a recent Saturday Argus report of growing police concern over the threat to public safety by the city's street children and older "strollers".

"Street children, unlike gangs, tend to be individualis-

■ The public should show more "respect" for Cape Town's street people, says the deputy minister of welfare.

tic and non-territorial. It is rare to see groups of more than five or six and it is not in their best interests to scratch cars or intimidate the public, who after all, are their only source of revenue.

"It may be that fear or aggression and lack of respect on the part of members of the public are contributory factors to eliciting negative responses from older youth and the unemployed adults who frequent the parking lots," she said.

Ms Fraser-Moleketi said that many children who begged at traffic lights did so to supplement their family income. "These 'day time strollers' return home every night," she said.

"A recent head count by a Homestead street worker revealed that in the early hours of the morning there were only 87 children found to be sleeping in the city between Sea Point and Mowbray," she said.

Ms Fraser-Moleketi agreed

with police spokesman Raymond Dowd that the underlying causes of homelessness in Cape Town were socio-economic.

"It is only large reconstruction and development programmes which will dramatically impact on communities at risk, that will prevent children from leaving what are in most cases untenable circumstances," she said.

The only way to prevent children from taking to the streets was through functional families with jobs and an efficient education system.

■ A special police unit has been formed to protect tourists who are increasingly being attacked and robbed in the city centre.

ARG 11/11/95

(298)

Lock-up threat to teenage offenders

ARG 13/11/95

(298)

ROGER FRIEDMAN, Staff Reporter

ALLEGED teen rapists and murderers will be kept in prison while awaiting trial if a proposed private member's bill proceeds through parliament unscathed.

Chairman of the Select Committee on Correctional Services Carl Niehaus said today he was busy drafting a private member's bill to amend Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act.

The amendment, which Mr Niehaus hopes to introduce in the next two or three weeks, is aimed at permitting the imprisonment of awaiting trial juveniles for longer than the present maximum 48 hours.

The proposed amendment seems to represent a complete about-face by the ruling party as Section 29 was amended last year specifically to forbid the imprisonment of awaiting-trial juveniles.

"The amendments we made last year had the very specific intention of trying to keep children, especially those under 14, out of prison as far as possible."

Mr Niehaus said he still strongly supported the principles of last year's amendment, which brought South Africa into line with international standards and guidelines.

But the new government had inherited a "terrible" lack of decent and secure places of safety. It was hoped that the amendment to Section 29 would be of a temporary nature, until

sufficient space in places of safety was created.

Mr Niehaus said his office was looking at identifying a specific list of categories of crime for which awaiting-trial juveniles could be imprisoned.

Mr Niehaus seems certain of winning the support of Minister of Justice Dullah Omar when he introduces his bill to parliament.

Yesterday, addressing a public forum in Ladysmith in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands, Mr Omar said: "The law must be amended at the first available opportunity to make it possible for the courts to imprison young people."

"Both myself and (Safety and Security Minister) Sydney Mufamadi have conveyed our sentiments in this regard to the Minister of Correctional Services (Sipho Mzimela)."

But it is understood that Dr Mzimela is not too keen for his department to draft the necessary amendment to Section 29 as Correctional Services does not want to re-inherit the major problems that imprisoning juveniles represent — hence the private member's bill.

● It was revealed yesterday that one of the Western Cape's two places of safety for awaiting-trial juveniles is to be closed down due to rampant criminality.

An investigation prompted by regional Health Minister Ebrahim Rasool uncovered horrifying abuse at Siyakhatala near Stellenbosch

Rape claims at place (298) of safety

CT 13/11/95
CHRIS BATEMAN

THE 46 awaiting-trial juveniles at the Siyakhathala Place of Safety near Stellenbosch — many of them victims of alleged routine homosexual rape and abuse by staff — will be transferred to the newly renovated Bonnytoun facility in Ottery by the week's end.

Between September and last week 131 boys absconded from Siyakhathala.

Health and Social Services Minister Mr Ebrahim Rasool said last night the staff would "stay put until we can sort out the wheat from the chaff", while the facility would be closed down for the second time since December.

He was referring to the "serious and pervasive" allegations of child abuse and neglect, including the shooting of a child allegedly by a staffer in October, and a fire which began the probes.

A research report by a member of UCT's Department of Criminology found that between one and three cases of homosexual rape were reported to social workers every week at Siyakhathala.

Omar calls for revamp of laws

298

Ladysmith - Laws should be changed to clamp down on teenage criminals, and magistrates' judgments should be cross-checked by community members, Justice Minister Dullah Omar said yesterday.

Addressing a public forum in Ladysmith in KwaZulu Natal's Midlands, Omar praised the Constitutional Court decision to abolish the death penalty but said violent crime would only subside once courts were functioning properly.

One of the biggest problems was that courts were lax in giving criminals strict and consistent punishment. Another difficulty was that the majority of criminals was not being apprehended.

"Almost every complaint from the public revolves around the fact that criminals are not being made to account for their crimes," Omar said.

One necessary change in judicial legislation would be to call in community members as court assessors to cross-check magistrates' judgments.

Some magistrates still resisted the idea of court assessors, despite the fact that they would soon be compulsory, Omar said. - Sapa.

Star 13/11/95

ANC's juvenile Bill a sign of policy shift

BD 14/11/95 (298)

Drew Forrest and Bonile Ngqiyaza

THE ANC plans to use a private members' Bill to outflank the opposition of Correctional Services Minister and IFP member Sipo Mzimela to the imprisonment of certain juvenile offenders awaiting trial.

The Bill, sponsored by ANC MP Carl Niehaus, would make it possible for juveniles suspected of serious crimes to be held in prison. It appears to flow from a toughening of the ANC's stance on crime.

The Bill would revise the controversial amendment of section 29 of the Correctional Services Act early this year which resulted in the release of more than 2 000 offenders under the age of 18 from prison and police cells.

A favoured project of President Nelson Mandela, the measure has run into serious snags because of the nationwide shortage of secure places of care with suitably trained personnel. Many juveniles — some charged with serious crimes — have had to be freed, and others have absconded.

Niehaus said yesterday that the private members' Bill had become necessary because of Mzimela's "reluctance to pass the amendment". If he could not win Mzimela's co-operation, the Bill would go to Parliament in the next session with the backing of Justice Minister Dullah Omar.

Nicola Jenvey reports that Omar

told a Durban news conference yesterday that although responsibility for amending the law lay with correctional services, "the time for passing the buck has stopped".

Omar said that inadequate laws allowing under-aged criminals back on the streets without fear of retribution had to be amended at once.

Correctional services spokesman Maj Bert Slabbert confirmed Mzimela was not in favour of changing the legislation. "The presence of unconvicted juveniles in prison violates international standards, and that's why the president wanted it changed," he said.

The National Children's Rights Committee said it was shocked by Omar's suggested amendment, and rejected the premise that children were the problem in SA's crime-ridden society, reports Sapa.

Meanwhile the justice, welfare and safety and security ministries have approved a R56m programme to provide at least one secure care facility in each province for youngsters awaiting trial for serious offences.

The welfare department said the plan, initiated by the interministerial committee on young people at risk, had been approved and was already being implemented at provincial level.

A meeting of the three ministries on October 26 had asked that the securing of facilities receive the highest priority from the committee.

Food scheme: Get involved, MEC urges

ARG 14/11/95

(298)

LINDSAY BARNES
Staff Reporter

PRIMARY school children, their parents and communities must become involved in feeding projects for pupils because the Primary School Nutrition Programme cannot continue pumping ever-increasing amounts into the scheme.

This was the message from provincial MEC for Health Ebrahim Rasool at the launch of a development competition for all primary schools involved in the nutrition programme in the Western Cape.

"We are having to feed 97 per cent of children in African primary schools and 63 per cent in coloured schools," he said. "We are coping but it is an ever-increasing amount of money that is being pumped in."

The launch of the competition was held yesterday on the site of the old Sidney Street Primary School in District Six, where Mr Rasool was, as a child, part of a school feeding scheme.

The nutrition programme

was announced as a presidential lead project during President Nelson Mandela's state-of-the-nation address in May last year and it was funded through the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

It serves more than 350 000 children in the Western Cape alone.

"We are doing quite good work but we can't keep putting more and more money into the schools feeding scheme," said Mr Rasool.

He referred to the saying that if you give a man a fish you feed him for a day, but teach him how to fish and you feed him for the rest of his life.

"This competition aims to teach small children and schools how to start fishing," he said.

He urged all 921 schools to be creative and to develop a project that aids their people, such as a community kitchen or vegetable garden. "It can be anything that helps the community to go forward."

Community and parental in-

volvement would be encouraged in the implementation of the scheme.

The school feeding scheme had had a major impact on the communities in which it was operating, he said.

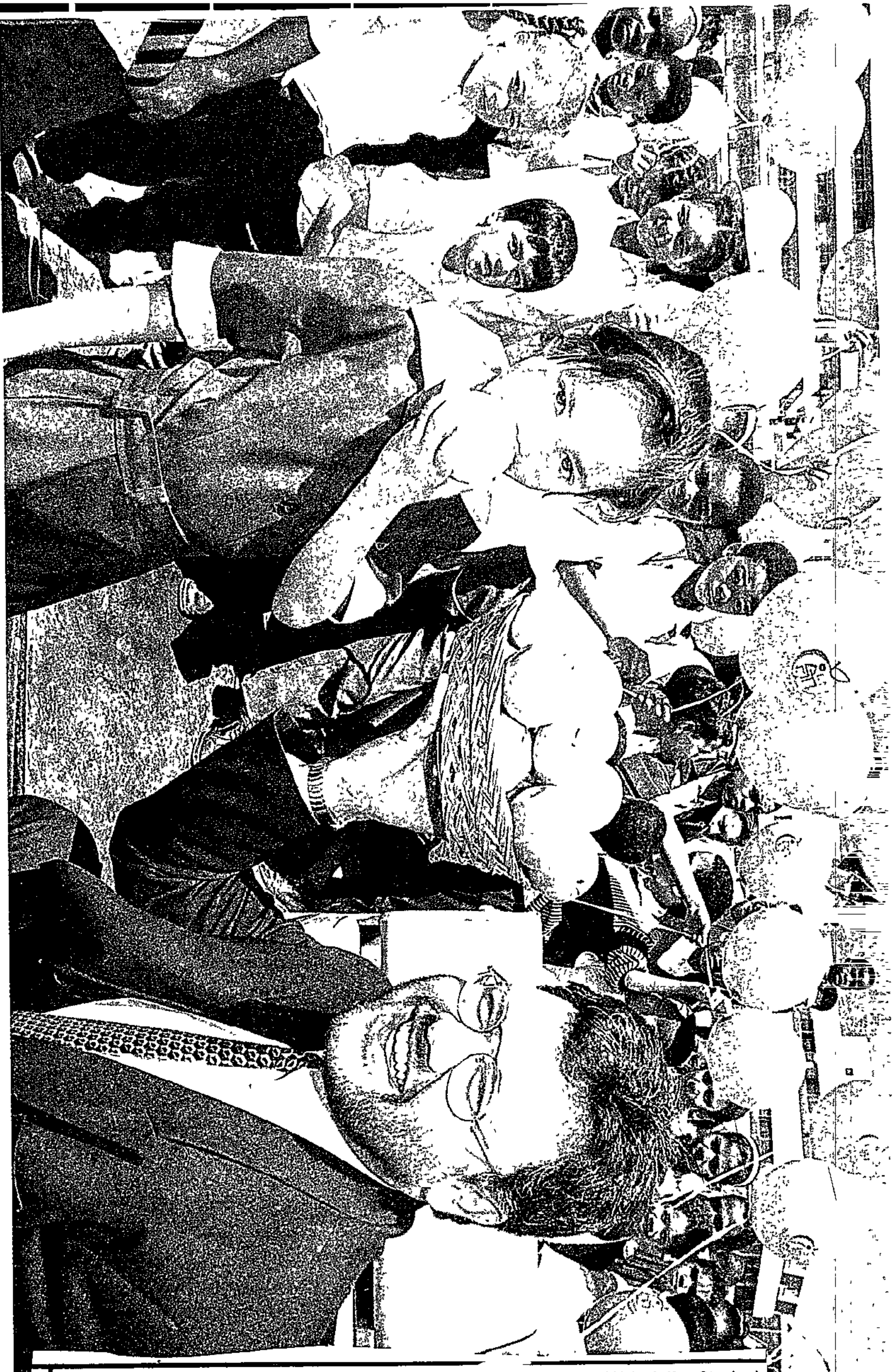
He demonstrated this with an example that in one community the number of children caught stealing food from shops in the area had been drastically reduced.

"We can all uplift our communities and we must take responsibility for them."

He urged those participating in the competition to "give it all they have".

First prize is R25 000, second prize R15 000 and third prize R10 000. "But the biggest prize is that we can look after our own people," Mr Rasool said.

Regarding nutrition, he said the previously popular milk and bread formula was being questioned as to its nutritional value and milk had now been substituted by a formula drink.



MUNCH! Chapel Street Primary school pupil Nawaal Casker, 8, is offered a juicy fruit by Provincial MEC for Health Ebrahim Rasool. They are surrounded by pupils from Rahmaniye and Chapel Street schools.

Picture. LEON MULLER, The Argus.

Early morning meal a must for children

(248) Staff Reporter RRG 14/11/95

WORKING mothers have a great impact on children's eating habits, says nutrition adviser Tessa Segal.

Ms Segal, who is currently presenting a national programme on nutrition in schools throughout South Africa, said that by the time many children got up in the morning their parents had already left for work, and they were left to feed themselves.

Children usually ate whatever they could find, and went through an entire day without eating a proper meal. It was only when their mothers got home in the evenings that a proper meal was prepared.

Ms Segal's educational nutrition programme is aimed at introducing children to the different food groups, healthy eating habits and making them aware of healthy lifestyles.

She said nutritional research showed children who breakfasted were brighter and more alert in class.

Ms Segal said breakfast did not have to be big and expensive.

Ready-to-eat breakfast cereals were a useful source of vitamins and minerals in children's diets.

Ms Segal's programme includes a puppet show and song and movement.

Rape victim centre

□ RDP money to be used on minister's instructions
ARG 14/11/95 (298) ~~(297)~~

Staff Reporter

A MULTI-disciplinary crisis centre for Cape Flats women and child victims of rape, battery and abuse is to be built using police RDP money on the instructions of national Reconstruction and Development Programme Minister Jay Naidoo.

Police statistics show South Africa has the highest rate of rape in the world, with Cape Town leading the country in the incidence of child rape.

According to internal police correspondence leaked to The Argus, the establishment of the crisis centres is a "high priority" for President Nelson Mandela.

And Mr Naidoo has asked the police RDP department that he be kept personally informed of any difficulties which may arise in the planning and implementation of the project.

Manenberg and Alexandra, in Gauteng, have been earmarked as pilot locations for the first crisis centres in the country. Should they be successful, further crisis centres are in the pipeline for other cities.

Although funding for the centres will be channeled by Mr Naidoo's office through the police RDP department, planning for and implementation of the projects will include other government departments, non-governmental and community-based organisations.

Other government departments could include welfare, health and education.

The projects are still in their infancy, with neither the police nor community roleplayers yet certain what facilities the crisis centres should include.

The centre would probably include overnight facilities, but details such as who would staff

it and the 24-hour availability of specialised staff still had to be determined.

Manenberg RDP Forum vice-chairman Mickey Adams said: "Because it is an RDP project it is important that all roleplayers should have a say in how and who should manage the centre."

"Geographically speaking, placing the centre in Manenberg would be ideal as it could cater for all the surrounding communities such as Guguletu, Nyanga, Hanover Park, Valhalla Park..."

According to correspondence between national police RDP co-ordinator Pieter du Plessis and local police RDP functionaries, the first step for the project should be the establishment of an "inter-group project management team" to plan and implement the Manenberg project.

It is believed the crisis centres will form a cornerstone of

the police's national co-ordinated victim support programme.

"The need for a comprehensive programme to support victims of crime and violence has been identified as long overdue by both mental health and criminal justice professionals," according to a document from the national police RDP office in Pretoria.

● About 21 percent of the nation's 2 044 child rape cases investigated by the police last year took place in Cape Town.

● Last year, a total of 32 107 rapes were reported to police nationally. It is estimated that as few as one of every 35 rapes is reported.

● The Western Cape's police Child Protection Unit is presently investigating about 700 child rape cases.

● About 70 percent of sexual attacks investigated in Khayelitsha this year have involved children under 16.

Don't jail children, justice minister urged

Star 14/11/95

(298)

The National Children's Rights Committee yesterday said it was shocked by Justice Minister Dullah Omar's statement that the law had to be urgently amended to make it possible for courts to imprison young people.

The NCRC said it rejected the premise that children were the problem in South Africa's crime-ridden society.

Children were the vic-

tims of some of the most atrocious crimes of the century, a statement said, yet no mention had been made of the perpetrators being brought to book.

"While we applaud the notion of crime finally being addressed in our country, we are horrified at the minister's statement," spokesman Liz Bennett said.

"This kind of knee-jerk reaction solves nothing. The

solution to juvenile crime is not to send children back to prison but rather to find viable alternatives."

It was the government's responsibility to put young offenders in appropriate institutions which took cognisance of their age and development.

Bennett said it was more urgent to focus on elders who committed crimes against children. - Sapa.

Jail for youths 'would signal failure by SA'

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

CT 15/11/95

SOUTH AFRICA would have failed its children if the government had to house juvenile delinquents in overpopulated prisons and expose them to hardened criminals, the Minister of Correctional Services, Dr Sipo Mzimela, said yesterday.

There was a solution that would not jeopardise public safety or go against international norms, he said.

"The problem lies with the safe and secure detention of these children in the places of safety already established," he said. "It is also clear that security at these institutions must be urgently upgraded."

Dr Mzimela's statement followed urgent discussions between the Departments of Safety and Security, Justice and Correctional Services about the release of young criminals before their trials.

The ANC's chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services, Mr Carl Niehaus, has said he is to submit a private member's motion providing for the longer detention of youths under defined circumstances.

The Department of Welfare has said places of safety for youths who have committed serious crimes are to be built in each of the provinces.

298

Police and RDP join up to aid abused women, children

BY ADAM COOKE

(298) Star 15/11/95

The RDP office, together with the SA Police Service, is to institute a number of pilot projects in selected provinces to deal with the escalating abuse of women and children.

Launching the regional United Nations report on human development yesterday, Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo said a number of "one-stop-shops" would soon be in place, offering private consultation and counselling for traumatised women and children.

"It is difficult for a woman to lean over the counter of a charge office and tell a male duty officer that she has been raped," said Naidoo, adding that a woman is raped, on average, every 83 seconds in South Africa.

He said the new strategy would provide training for selected police officers to help traumatised women and children. "The moral fibre of our country has been undermined by apartheid. This is one way we can start to correct this," he said.

Naidoo said it could take South Africa 25 years to "normalise" a country where income distribution is "racially distorted and ranks

among the most unequal in the world."

During the two-day development workshop attended by government, private sector and non-governmental organisation delegates from sub-Saharan Africa, UN Resident Co-ordinator for South Africa, David Whaley, said this country had been less successful than its counterparts in translating wealth into human development.

White South Africans' standard of living ranked among the top 40 in the world, but black development reflected a different pattern.

"If you look at black South Africans, the situation is very different. Right down to number 128, after Cameroon and just below Swaziland," said Whaley.

Naidoo said women often represent the poorest, most exploited and most marginalised sector of this society. He said the Government was leading the way in giving women access to decision-making positions, but in the private sector the situation was still bleak. "A survey of the top 100 companies in South Africa found that women comprised 35,6% of the work force but only 13% of management."

Child's abuse plea is ignored

(298) Star 15/11/95

Sad case of Jo'burg teenager highlights inherently flawed welfare system, says police Child Protection Unit inspector

By TROVE LUND

A suicidal 14-year-old girl, who has allegedly been sexually abused at home for the past 10 years, has been forced to return to her home in Johannesburg by welfare officers who have never visited her house.

The girl was found last Monday by the SAPS' Child Protection Unit (CPU) when she tried to jump from the roof of a block of flats where she had been hiding for three days. CPU members took her to a place of safety, but Department of Social Welfare officers insisted she return to her home - and her alleged abuser.

Outraged by the situation, Elizabeth Hartman, who runs the place of safety where the 14-year-old was taken for two days said: "This girl is one of thousands. But she will kill herself if nothing is done."

"I had to tranquillise her when she was told she had to go back home. After the few days the girl spent in my safe house, she was a totally adjusted normal 14-year-old - nothing like the problem child she has been branded (by welfare de-

partment social workers)".

Hartman, who is a trained child abuse counsellor, said the girl telephoned her every day "sobbing over the antics" at home.

"Social workers have not been into the home to see the filth and have not met the abusive, drunken abuser to understand the urgency of this case," said Hartman. She believes an investigation and family counselling should have been conducted.

The case has infuriated CPU members, who say their hands are tied because they are obliged to hand the matter over to the welfare department.

CPU reservists and Hartman have separately visited the home and have described it as "filthy", adding that the child's abuser is often drunk and aggressive.

The welfare department social worker appointed to the case said that, after two meetings with the girl and her mother, it had been decided not to keep the girl in the place of safety.

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'Abused' girl sent back home

(298)

From Page 1

Star 15/11/95

The social worker said she had never been to the house, but would visit there at the end of next week.

"She wants to leave home all the time and does not want to listen to her mother," the social worker said.

The girl laid a charge against the man in 1991 when she was 10 years old, but he was acquitted and she had to return home.

The girl's neighbour, who does not want to be named, is distraught. She said: "This welfare system is disgusting. My daughter, who is friends with this girl, was also abused. Let me assure you, to get help I had to go to the welfare offices and throw a tantrum before legal steps were taken to stop the abuse."

"But when a mother is sweet and pretends the child is the problem, there is no hope of getting help."

The social worker would not comment further on the case or elaborate on the department's policy regarding the removal of children from their homes, initiating investigations and issuing restraining orders. The two welfare spokesmen The Star was referred to did not return numerous calls.

CPU inspector Gert Jonker said: "On weekends and after 3.30pm during the week, there is absolutely no access to our inherently flawed welfare system."

Sexually abused girl describes her treatment by officialdom as 'disgusting'

By Trove Lund

The suicidal Johannesburg girl forced by welfare officials to return home where she was sexually abused has described her treatment by officialdom as a "disgusting, sick joke".

The ordeal of Janet (not her real name) was headlined by The Star yesterday and she can today take heart from assurances that Welfare Minister Abé Williams knows of her plight and that it would be investi-

gated at "the highest level".

A social worker and members of the Child Protection Unit brought her plight to public attention after a welfare official, who had never visited her home, had her removed from a place of safety and returned to her mother who lives with her alleged abuser.

Janet told her story yesterday in the interview arranged with her safe house mother, Elizabeth Hartman. Janet had brought her schoolfriend, who said she was also abused by her

father and her stepfather.

At first the girls were awkward but soon spoke easily and were adamant that "other children must realise, contrary to what some social workers and parents say, they do have rights, have to speak and are not to blame".

"When my mother was cooking or in the bath, he would come to my room and promise it would just be a minute," said Janet.

Her mother had not supported Janet when she turned to her for

help. Instead, her mother had accused her of being "a whore" and of seducing her mother's boyfriend.

Janet's friend was luckier. Her mother believed her when she revealed the abuse she was suffering first at the hands of her father and then her stepfather. But convincing welfare was an uphill battle.

"The social worker told my mother I was lying. I was lucky because my mother believed me. She went to the welfare offices, screamed and turned a table over before they

agreed to help." Her story has been confirmed by her mother.

Janet, who had her abuser arrested to no avail in 1991, added: "But my mother is as sweet a sugar to the welfare people, so I am told I have to go home and listen to my mother because I am a difficult teenager."

"The social worker has never been to my house once. I feel filthy. I really do not care what happens to me. I want to die, but then I am scared I might go to hell because of what has happened."

(298)

Star 12/11/95

Fate of juvenile prisoners debated

(298) ~~Star~~ Star 16/11/95

By PRISCILLA SINGH

Staff Reporter

The fate of juvenile prisoners hangs in the balance while various ministries debate whether to keep them imprisoned or hand them over to places of safety.

Correctional Services Minister, Dr Sipho Mzimela, said he had taken note of the controversy surrounding unconvicted children involved in serious crimes and the calls for certain categories of these juveniles to be detained in prison.

This followed urgent discussions between the departments of Safety and Security, Justice and Correctional Services on the status of alleged hardened young

criminals before their trials.

Carl Niehaus, the ANC's chairman of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services, said he would soon submit a motion defining circumstances in which youths could be detained in prison for longer time-spans.

However, the Department of Welfare said places of safety for youths who committed serious crimes were to be built in each of the nine provinces.

"But the problem lies with the secure detention of these children in the already established places of safety. It is also clear security at these institutions must be urgently upgraded," said Mzimela.

He added: "Unconvicted children do not belong in prisons where they are exposed to hardened criminals."

In 1993, the Carelse Commission found that responsibility for the detention of unconvicted children lay with the Department of Welfare and not Correctional Services.

The commission also recommended "children should only in highly unusual circumstances be kept in prisons and for as short a period as possible".

"Additional places of safety should be established for these children and existing facilities upgraded to ensure secure care," said Mzimela.

SANITADV

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Bonile Ngqiyaza

R5m to train child-care staff

THE RDP office has approved R5m to train and support government-employed child and youth care personnel in state-run facilities.

The move was announced yesterday at a news conference in Pretoria addressed by Minister without Portfolio Jay Naidoo and Deputy Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.

Fraser-Moleketi, who is also chairman of the interministerial committee on young people at risk, said the training would focus on self-awareness and self-de-

velopment, conflict management, advanced behaviour management practice and assault response training. "Initial training has already begun, with about 700 child and youth care workers about to complete a basic course."

The release of children awaiting trial to places of safety had placed additional strain on personnel and resources, she said.

The money would be used to finance a nationwide capacity building

programme for probation officers, social workers, correctional service personnel and child-care administrators in basic child and youth care practice, among others.

This, Fraser-Moleketi said, would be followed by a more intense training programme to enable personnel to work effectively with abused, traumatised and imprisoned children and youth.

Naidoo said RDP funds would be provided also for the training of non-governmental or-

ganisations and development workers involved in pilot projects, testing procedures and programmes within the new framework of services to children and families.

He said R200m — to be administered jointly by the departments of justice, correctional services, safety and security, welfare and the RDP office — had already been set aside in the 1996/97 budget for an integrated strategy that would address the plight of young people at risk.

(298) BD 17/11/95

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Financing of welfare programmes would have to be phased in over five years.

Mr Chauke, who works as a delivery driver for a

Ambitious new welfare programmes launched

□ *Juvenile justice, unemployed mothers to benefit*

ART 17/11/95

(298)

CLIVE SAWYER
Political Correspondent

TWO far-reaching welfare programmes, one aimed at ending the crisis in the juvenile justice system and the other at helping unemployed mothers, are to be launched as flagships of social reform.

The programmes coincide with cabinet approval of a draft white paper for social welfare.

National Minister for Welfare and Population Development Abe Williams said the programmes were being launched to ensure a balance between policy development and delivery of services.

The first programme, aimed at addressing the juvenile justice crisis, would transform child and youth care.

A national plan of action, to be implemented in all the provinces, includes youth justice, residential, community and secure care, treatment programmes and human resource development.

The draft white paper said that, where possible, children

would be diverted from the juvenile justice system.

The second programme would benefit unemployed mothers whose children were younger than five. This group was particularly vulnerable to poverty, Mr Williams said.

"The programme will focus on early childhood development needs and the economic empowerment of women."

Between 20 and 30 pilot projects were to be set up in selected provinces, in collaboration with non-government organisations.

Should these programmes succeed, their scale would be enlarged.

Mr Williams said the draft white paper outlined how to gear welfare services to developing people's self-reliance.

South Africa intended welfare to be a tool of social development, ending its image of handouts and of creating dependency.

The Department of Welfare was to start work on a five-year plan to reach these goals.

Priorities included:

- A national plan of action for families, children and youth;

- Poverty relief programmes;

- Combating the abuse of women, and helping their economic empowerment;

- Fighting alcohol and drug abuse;

- Addressing the impact of chronic illnesses like Aids; and

- Promoting the rights of people with physical and mental disabilities.

The way to achieve these goals would be through family-centred and community-based care and rehabilitation programmes.

"People in need will be cared for in communities, and institutional care will be used as a last resort where appropriate."

"One-stop" community units would be set up to aid access to services, co-operation between various sectors, cost-sharing and to limit duplication.

Mr Williams said 88 percent

of the department's R13,4 billion budget went to social security grants. More than 2,8 million people a month got pensions, disability grants and parent and child support from the department.

But welfare assistance programmes were badly underfunded.

"The harsh reality of the state of the economy has meant the department will continue to go without a hoped-for five percent real increase in its budget.

"We will have to juggle priorities to squeeze the money for our new mission out of our existing budget."

Ending racial and geographic inequalities in services and facilities was a top priority.

A task team had been appointed to make recommendations on how to restructure welfare services during the next five years.

Mr Williams said he would push for tax breaks for companies investing in social welfare.

Church accused of neglecting orphans

By Ruth Bhengu

TWO CHILDCARE WORKERS were at the clinic with sick children. Chickenpox is suspected. They arrived back hot and tired at 3 pm.

"The matron had handed out good clothes for the children to wear to visit the clinic. As soon as they returned, they had to change into awful clothes".

This is an extract from a report by a former volunteer at Emdeni Children's Home in 1991. The worker who did not want to be named, had a thick file detailing the conditions at the home. Four years later, nothing much has changed to ease the plight of the orphans at Emdeni, which is run by the NG Kerk.

Recently a commission of inquiry found that the principal had abused the children emotionally, physically and sexually. Headed by former Soweto mayor Mr Danny Kekana, the commission recommended that the principal be fired and charged for abusing the children. Apart from the neglect, working conditions for staff were appalling.

(298) Sowetan 17/11/95
NGK ministers said to be blocking the recommendations of commission of inquiry

The committee recommended that a new management board, made up of community members and church leaders, be set up. Human rights lawyer Mr Neville Chainee was given the mandate to implement the changes.

"The principal is still there and the conditions have not changed", said Chainee this week.

He said conditions at the home had deteriorated because the Welfare Department had suspended the children's subsidies because management had not submitted a financial statement by the end of September as required.

"The NGK ministers who manage the home are obstructing me in my efforts to execute the recommendations," said Chainee. "I understand they are trying to get the management of another NGK-run home to run Emdeni. But this is contrary to the recommendations of the commission of inquiry," he said.

He said he had arranged a meeting with Kekana to discuss the matter. Efforts to contact the management of the Emdeni home were fruitless.

The volunteer said she finally left the home because the management committee and the welfare department ignored her complaints.

In one report she wrote: "Believe me, a sentence to Emdeni is a punishment the children will take a lifetime to recover from."

She alleged children were sometimes served food infested with maggots.

"No fresh fruit or vegetables. This is only eaten when there is a donation. Most times the food is not handed over to the cook until it is rotten and then has to be thrown away."

Despite the recommendations by the volunteer and by the commission recently, there appears to be no serious attempt by the church to change the situation at the orphanage.

Fivaz backs Omar on child custody

ET 17/11/93

PRETORIA: Police Commissioner George Fivaz yesterday welcomed a call for serious juvenile offenders to remain in custody until places of safety were provided, saying the harsh realities of South Africa's present crime situation had to be recognised.

"I believe the position adopted inter alia by (Justice Minister) Mr Omar is highly realistic in the face of the violent crime epidemic, in which juvenile offenders play a disturbingly large role." — Sapa

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■ Western Cape Health and Social Services Minister Ebrahim Rasool inspected the revamped Bonnytoun place of safety for children in trouble with the law.

ADELE BALETA

Staff Reporter

BONNYTOUN Place of safety in Ottery is to be the high-risk centre for awaiting-trial juveniles in the Western Cape and it is likely to become the model for secure care centres in the country.

About R400 000 has been injected into Bonnytoun to make it safe and secure for both care workers and boys in trouble with the law after mass escapes from the centre.

The RDP has set aside R5 million for workers in places of safety, reform and industry schools and children's homes for additional support and training.

Bonnnytoun, formerly a haven for neglected children in terms of the Child Care Act, had to admit juveniles in trouble with the law after an amendment to Section 29 of Correctional Services Act declared that all unsentenced children be released from prison.

It is now the only centre for awaiting-trial juveniles after Western Cape Health and Social Services Minister Ebrahim Rasool was forced to close Siyakathala Place of Safety near Stellenbosch.

This was revealed by Saturday Argus following ongoing serious and pervasive allegations of psychological, physical and sexual abuse by the boys and staff at the facility. As a former prison, it was inappropriate to act as a detention centre for children.

Minister Rasool believes Bonnytoun could become a model for the rest of the country as the Western Cape had "moved faster" on the issue of places of safety.

Last week, National Welfare minister Abe Williams announced that a secure facility for children facing criminal charges would be provided urgently in every province.

Manager of Bonnytoun Isaac Mohali said there were only 24 boys at the home, 113 having escaped since May. Renovations to Bonnytoun are expected to be finished at the end of the month when there will be place for 192 boys.

Numbers will swell to 70 when 46 children from Siyakhathala place of safety are transferred early next month.

The focus of building operations is to make the facility secure.

One-way view windows have been installed so that the activities of the boys in the dormitories where sodomy has occurred can be more easily monitored.

Incoming boys will be assessed so that hardened juvenile criminal are not placed side by side with petty offenders. Dormitories accommodating hardened criminal juveniles will not have adjoining toilet and showering facilities.

Doors removed from their hinges by the boys have been replaced by thick cast-iron doors. Spiral staircases connecting monitoring rooms have been erected to allow for easy exits for care workers who are threatened by violence.

On a guided tour of Bonnytoun, Minister Rasool said priority would be given to the salaries and training of care workers.

"Many of the problems in safe care centres are a result of the lack of appropriately trained staff, low salaries and no opportunities for promotion. There were not enough rehabilitation programmes either. It's essential to employ staff with correctional services experience. A commensurate salary structure with additional compensation perks is vital."

In July, Bonnytoun Care workers staged a protest meeting outside Wynberg courts to demand that violent juveniles be removed from places of safety.

All had been trained to deal with children admitted to places of safety under the Child Care Act but that all changed after the Section 29 amendment by Correctional Services Minister Siphosiso Mzimela. They claimed they had been "duped" into doing the dangerous job of prison wardens.

New Bonnytoun's focus on security

ARLT

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Mr Rasool said a 24-hour assessment centre project started by probation officers revealed that 810 juveniles were assessed at the Cape Town Magistrate's Court from January to August this year. Of these, 168 were awaiting trial for serious crimes including theft, rape, armed robbery, assault and sodomy.

Of the 810 — 18 were aged between 8 and 10; 129 between 11 and 13, and 663 between 16 and 18.

He said juveniles aged between eight and 10 generally commit crimes of theft and housebreaking, those between 11 and 14 are involved in theft, housebreaking, shoplifting and motor vehicle theft. The older group 15 to 17 are involved in the whole spectrum including rape and murder. Of the 810 boys, 697 were first offenders. Three were fifth time offenders.

□ **ESCAPE ATTEMPT:** Care worker Valérie Samuels points out a hole in the ceiling of a dormitory made by boys who planned to escape.

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□ **COURTYARD:** Senior care workers chat in the courtyard of the Bonnyton Home.

Pictures:
LEON MÜLLER,
Staff
Photographer.

ALT

18/11/95

(248)

SATURDAY Weekend Argus, November 18/19 1995

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□ **ONE WAY:** Senior care workers Alfred Harris, left, and Patrick October show newly installed one-way view windows to Western Cape Social Services Minister Ebrahim Rasool during a visit to Bonnytoun Place of Safety in Ottery. Care workers will now be able to monitor boys' dormitories.



□ **WEAPONS:** An assortment of lethal weapons made by and confiscated from the boys at Bonnytoun.

Treatment a 'sick joke' says terrified 14-year-old

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG.—The suicidal 14-year-old who was made to return home by welfare officials — where she has allegedly been sexually abused for the past 10 years — has run away again.

Janet (not her real name) contacted The Star newspaper at 3.15pm on Thursday, pleading to be taken somewhere "safe". She was adamant she was not going back home.

After Minister of Welfare and Population Development Abe Williams was told about her plight, he referred the matter to his provincial department.

When Gauteng MEC Sadi Bhanke received the news, he took the address of Janet's hide-out, saying he would contact his officials to attend to the matter.

Her hiding place's address was also given to the Child

Protection Unit (CPU), who said they had three rapes to attend to before they could go to Janet.

"My sister is hunting all over the neighbourhood for me. If my mother finds me there will be hell to pay. She knows I have been telling people about her. I am not going back to that house. I am really getting scared," Janet said.

Four hours after the CPU had been informed of the address, they arrived at the house. The woman hiding Janet confirmed that no welfare officials had arrived.

After six hours — two hours of phone calls to welfare and police and then a four-hour wait — she was eventually taken to a place of safety by the CPU.

The suicidal Johannesburg girl, who welfare officials had previously forced to return to her alleged sexual abuser, described her treatment at the hands of officialdom as a "disgusting, sick joke".

Janet asked repeatedly during an interview if anything would be done to address her plight.

Her tale reveals a young girl terrified of going back home, but having no one to turn to. She can take heart from the assurance by a top official in the Welfare Department, who said Minister Abe Williams had heard of her situation after it was reported in newspapers and that it was to be investigated at "the highest level".

A social worker and members of the Child Protection

Unit first brought her plight to The Star newspaper's attention after a welfare official had her removed from a place of safety and returned to her alleged abuser.

"Janet" was keen to tell her story. A reporter met with her at a bus-stop near her home last week after school.

Two girls were waiting at the bus-stop, one in uniform, the other in denim shorts and Doc Marten lace-ups. Janet had brought along her school-friend and neighbour, who was also abused by her father and then by her step-father until two years ago.

At first the girls were awkward, but soon spoke easily and were adamant that "other children must realise, contrary

to what some social workers and parents say, they do have rights, have to speak and are not to blame".

Her mother had not supported her when she turned to her for help. Instead, she had accused her of being "a whore" and of seducing her mother's boyfriend.

Janet's friend was luckier. Her mother believed her when she revealed the abuse she was suffering, first at the hands of her father and then her step-father. But convincing welfare was an uphill battle.

"The social worker told my mother I was lying. I was lucky because my mother believed me. She went to the welfare offices, screamed and turned a table over before they agreed to help.

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"Eventually, after six months, for which time I had to stay living with my father, a social worker visited us. There was a court case, but my father got off and I did not even give evidence," said Janet's friend.

Her story has been confirmed by her mother.

Janet, who had her abuser arrested — to no avail — in 1991, added: "But my mother is as sweet as sugar to the welfare people, so I am told I have to go home and listen to my mother because I am a difficult teenager.

"The social worker has never been to my house once. I feel filthy. I really do not care what happens to me. I want to die, but then I am scared I might

go to hell because of what has happened."

The pair said the abuse became bearable after a while and if they curled up with their eyes shut, it was soon over. Until the next time.

Janet said "the sessions" happened usually after her mother and boyfriend had a fight or when she was sick and stayed at home for the day.

The friends agree "children should be given more rights and believed more. Social workers should come to the house before they force children to live there".

"I have tried to make them move me this time, but I have given up counting on welfare. The social worker promised me two weeks ago, when I tried to commit suicide, she would visit me.

"She still has not come and I don't expect her to. They are always on the mother's side," she said.

R5-m grant to redress youth-care crisis

ADELE BALETA

Staff Reporter

THE RDP has approved R5 million for the training of child and youth-care workers, most of whom deal with children in trouble with the law.

RDP Minister Jay Naidoo handed the cheque to Welfare and Population Development Deputy Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, who is also the chairperson of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Young People at Risk, this week.

The grant has come in the wake of the crisis in the child

and youth-care system, which was exacerbated by the release of children awaiting trial in prisons to inappropriate and unprepared places of safety.

This week Welfare Minister Abe Williams announced far-reaching welfare programmes aimed at ending the chaos in the juvenile justice system.

The RDP grant will finance a nationwide capacity-building programme for probation officers, social workers, correctional service personnel and child care administrators in basic child and youth-care practice.

Ms Fraser-Moleketi said the placement of young people into state residential facilities had placed additional strain on personnel and resources.

She said training would focus on self-awareness and self-development, conflict management, advanced behaviour management practice and assault response training.

Initial training had begun and more than 700 care workers had already completed a training programme.

This training would be followed by more advanced training to enable some child and

youth-care personnel to work effectively with young people who have special needs. This would apply to staff in facilities and programmes for young people who have committed serious crimes, who have been very badly abused or traumatised.

The RDP grant will also provide for the training of NGO and government personnel involved in pilot projects, testing procedures, processes and programmes within the new framework of services to children and families.

■ New Bonnytown a high-risk centre. See story on page 21

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■ New Bonnytoun a high-risk centre. See story on page 21

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Cheating the children

(298)

ARG 18/11/95

But keep feeding them, says Madiba

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Staff Reporter

IN spite of theft and corruption in school feeding schemes countrywide, President Nelson Mandela will not halt these schemes and allow children to starve.

This emerged after the National Party called on President Mandela to halt all feeding schemes following disclosures that the police were investigating corruption and fraud involving millions of rands in the national school feeding scheme.

Parks Mankahlane, spokesman for the office of President Mandela, said although Mr Mandela viewed the fraud and corruption in a serious light, he would not allow children to starve.

"Obviously, the president is very concerned about this issue. The police are investigating several cases, but in the meantime it would make no

■ President Mandela will not stop school feeding schemes even though police are investigating corruption and fraud involving millions of rands in the national scheme.

sense to let the children suffer because of the crimes of others," said Mr Mankahlane.

Safety and security minister Sydney Mufamadi recently disclosed that the police were investigating at least 42 cases of fraud and theft totalling about R12 million in the feeding scheme.

Willem Odendaal, National Party MP spokesman on health, said it was a disgrace that food intended for needy children never reached them.

He said the school feeding scheme was undermined by fraud and theft. It was ironic that feeding projects could not get off the ground because of the very bureaucracy which was created to make the schemes work.

Mr Odendaal said projects in provinces where food did not reach the children should be stopped.

He said health and welfare minister Nkosazana Zuma's handling of her portfolio left much to be desired. An investigation should be instituted into the minister and her department's capabilities.

Mr Odendaal said the longer Mrs Zuma retained control of an important portfolio, the greater the problems that would develop around health issues in South Africa.

Some of the provinces where the alleged corruption and fraud took place include the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

Fighting township abuse

(298) R4 18/11/95

Some traditional healers are advocating the rape of babies

ADELE BALETA

Staff Reporter

A GUGULETU lay priest who is on trial for allegedly raping four girls, but now is out on bail of R100, is the most serious case involving child abuse handled by a township social worker.

Counselor Nozipho Ncatal said the most harrowing aspect of the trial was that the children, aged between eight and 10, were the only ones brave enough to testify against a priest.

"We believe there could be about 20 children involved, but most are too scared to testify," said Ms Ncatal, who works for the non governmental organisation Ithaba Labantu.

Charles Tsweu who is a lay priest at the Old Apostolic church in Guguletu. He has been married for 20 years and will face judgment on December 13 in the Wynberg Regional Court.

The State alleges he lured the children by using sweets and cool drinks. Part of the evidence was that an eight-year-old girl was beaten by her mother for "lying" about being raped by a priest.

Ms Ncatal said child sexual abuse and woman battery and rape was increasing at an alarming rate in the Cape Town townships.

Of the rape cases reported this year, four involved 15-year-olds, 30 cases were between the ages of eight and 14, 10 between six and seven and 24 between the ages of two and five. Three cases of sodomy were reported.

Three women have reported rapes and 40 were battered by their husbands or lovers.

"These are the reported cases but the real figures are much higher."

Ms Ncatal said a major problem was that men believed they owned their wives as they had paid lobola and therefore they could do with them what they wanted — hence the high

■ Child sex abuse is dramatically increasing in the townships, with bail of as little as R100 being allowed for alleged multiple rapists.

Incidence of marital rape and assault. "Women are reluctant to report rape or assault because in our culture we are supposed to obey our husbands."

Director of the Phambili Women's Organisation, Evelyn Rabaji, said some traditional healers had advocated the rape of babies as they maintained it was unlikely the babies had Aids. "We are currently working with traditional healers to prevent the spread of such myths."

"Our community workers have come across hundreds of cases where children have been raped by their fathers."

"We are counselling a 16-year-old girl who was abused by her father but managed to escape before he raped her. She has now been adopted by another woman in the township."

Mrs Rabaji said there was a concern that non governmental organisations like Lawyers for Human Rights were threatened by a lack of funds.

"Without these lawyers, who are aware of these issues, we have little hope of bringing thousands of cases to court."

She warned that the government could not do without the NGOs who worked with children and women in the townships.

"Our community workers have net-works that take time to set up. If anything, we need funds poured into these organisations as fast as possible."

She said that sex education at schools needed to be speeded up.



□ ABUSED: Evelyn Rabaji chats to a 16-year-old victim of abuse, at the Phambili National Women's Organisation in Johannesburg.

Avalanches: Fears for SA travellers

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Several families in South Africa are concerned that their relatives may be among those killed while hiking in the Himalayan mountains when avalanches hit Nepal last weekend.

At least 50 hikers are thought to

they were hiking in the vicinity of the avalanches.

Two South Africans who have been alternating work in London with travelling, left a few weeks ago for a year of travel in the Far East and Australia.

Warren Richardson, 27, and Roz-

According to family member Jill Bradford, the family received a postcard two weeks ago saying the couple were off hiking in the Himalayas, before flying on to Bangkok. Friends and family of 29-year-old computer analyst Andrew Forrest, who arrived in Kathmandu 10 days

travelling below altitudes where the avalanches happened.

David Hall, 25, who had been working in Australia as a kayak instructor, for the past four years, may also be hiking in Nepal, but his father John was unsure.

Associated Press

Halt feeding schemes, NP urges Mandela

(298)
Cape Town - The National Party has called on President Mandela to halt all feeding schemes for needy children following disclosures that police are investigating corruption and fraud involving millions of rands in the national school feeding scheme.

But presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlane said that, although Mandela viewed the cases of fraud and corruption in a serious light, he would not allow any children to starve.

"Obviously the president is very concerned about this issue. The police are investigating several cases, but in the meantime it would make no sense to let the children suffer because of the crimes of others," he said.

Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi recently disclosed that police were investigating at least 42 cases of fraud and theft in the feeding scheme.

NP health spokesman Willem Odendaal said it was a disgrace that food intended for needy children never reached them. - Own Correspondent

Star 18/11/95

Constitutional Court must decide how to limit rights

By CARMEL RICKARD

FUNDAMENTAL rights guaranteed by the constitution were not incompatible with community demands to be protected from criminals, according to a prominent human rights lawyer.

Ann Skelton, the national co-ordinator of the Lawyers for Human Rights programme on child rights, was commenting on remarks by the Minister of Justice, Dullah Omar, at a national legal forum this week. Mr Omar said he had asked the

Law Commission for help in resolving the tension between these two competing claims.

Ms Skelton said that in balancing community safety and individual rights, some people's rights "may have to be curtailed so that the rights of the majority can be protected". The Constitutional Court should ensure the curtailment did not go too far.

Mr Omar said earlier he was considering legislation to enable courts to confine young offenders for serious violent crime. Ms Skelton

ST 19/11/95 (298) (298) said legislation such as that which saw 2 000 young offenders released from prison and sent to places of safety should not be contemplated until the necessary infrastructure was in place.

She backed a compromise, proposed by an inter-ministerial committee on young people at risk, to establish "secure care facilities", which were neither prisons nor places of safety. Mr Omar seemed to propose that young offenders be sent to jail as a temporary measure, but this risked becoming permanent, she said.

Handling of abused children to be discussed

Gauteng MECs to meet in light of authorities' shoddy treatment of runaway 14-year-old girl exposed by The Star

By TROYE LUND

Gauteng MEC for Welfare and Population Development Sakkie Blanché will meet Safety and Security MEC Jessie Duarte to establish why abused children are being "inefficiently handled" by the system.

Blanché said yesterday he had committed himself to finding out where the system was breaking down.

This follows the recent experience, exposed by The Star, of a 14-year-old girl who received no help when she turned to the system.

She said she had been sexually, physically and verbally abused for the past 10 years, but was made to return home by officials who had never visited her home.

After having run away from home for the second time on Thurs-

day afternoon, she was taken to a place of safety.

She arrived at the safe house at 11pm that night after waiting for four hours for members of the Child Protection Unit (CPU) to arrive after they had been notified, and then having to travel in a police vehicle for five hours while other emergencies were being attended to.

When she appeared in court the next day, there were insufficient welfare reports and the relevant investigating CPU officers did not arrive.

The magistrate said this forced her to take "the middle-of-the-road line" and send the girl to a school of industry until the required investigations, home visits and paper work had been completed.

Responding to allegations made by the CPU and other welfare service organisations that Gauteng's welfare system was grinding to a

halt, Blanché said yesterday: "There is so much conflicting evidence as to who - police or welfare - have acted incorrectly in this case."

"It seems the CPU are not well trained to handle all cases. The two sectors need to sit down and pinpoint where things are going wrong and how they can be changed."

Blanché, who has taken a personal interest in the 14-year-old girl's case, has assigned his highest-ranking officials to it and will meet them today to assess their full report.

Blanché said many legal and practical aspects of the system may have to be reviewed. He hoped that one result of a meeting with Duarte would be the establishment of a specialised pilot unit, consisting of welfare staff and police officials, which would ensure that cases of abuse were handled "correctly and efficiently" in the future.

Star 20/11/95

Horrific violence in KwaZulu-Natal — it is scenes like this that have led to the traumatising of countless children.

Healing delicate souls

Sowetan 21/11/95

(248)

By Joe Mdhlela

CHILDREN traumatised by violence in KwaZulu-Natal — where more than 10 000 people have died between the mid-1980s and 1993 — got Ms Ruth Bhengu interested in starting a rehabilitation centre at Imbali near Pietermaritzburg.

The butchering of children and the scores of families who are forced to flee their homes focused Bhengu's mind on trying to ease the pain.

Says Bhengu "Violence is a terrible thing... if the minds of children are scarred, how on earth can anyone expect them to assimilate anything at school?"

In her search for solutions she established Imbali Rehabilitation Centre in 1993.

She says her focus on the process of rehabilitation is "on human reconstruction".

She recalls that it was a daily occurrence at Imbali and Richmond to see children and their parents bludgeoned to death.

Children traumatised by violence have a broad shoulder to cry on

It was in that madness that the young heroes — from both sides of the political spectrum — bravely, and often blindly, assumed the role of being protectors of life.

The heroism with which these children went about their business often gave them a sense of superiority and the belief that they could remake the world.

What they did not realise was that they were still children who were being consumed by the violence — and in the process becoming dehumanised.

Says a social worker: "These children had been rendered incapable of seeing death as death. They were also rendered cold to the pain of death, unaware that death was an emotional event calling on people to mourn it."

This, for the social worker, reflected denial, which often manifested itself in toy-toying over dead bodies they saw sprawled all over Imbali and Richmond.

Loss of humanity

Expressions such as "their heroes are dead" and that it did not really matter was indicative of a loss of humanity among these young people, and indeed even among many elderly people.

Continued the social worker: "The rehabilitation process must ensure that these children are challenged to see death as death; something that people can cry and become emotional about. Crying and being emotional is part of

the healing process."

However, all is not lost. In Bhengu Centre traumatised children are allowed to relive their experiences.

They do so through theatre and poetry. On occasion the children's experiences are reflected in books which they read over and over again.

"By reflecting their sad memories of loss in books these children learn to deal with what was their reality, instead of denying it," says another social worker.

Recalling the effects of violence, Bhengu says: "There was a time when I could not hear the birds chirping. Their beautiful singing, especially in the morning, was overwhelmed by the sound of guns and other weapons of destruction."

She also testifies that her own three-year-old daughter was deeply affected by violence "to a point she would play funeral games".

To add salt to the wound, Bhengu's troubled life took a nosedive when her

daughter was raped.

When she talks about these experiences, she openly breaks down.

"I would like to talk to somebody about some of these terrible experiences. They are hurting, even though some people think I am a strong person."

"The sexual abuse of my daughter, plus seeing my child play funeral games got the better of me and I had to be admitted to hospital," she says.

Emotionally brutalised

However, Bhengu takes comfort from the knowledge that the centre she helped establish is now involved in the healing of people who have been emotionally brutalised.

"We must take solace from the fact that the world is full of people who are dedicating their lives to helping others recover from emotional wounds," she says.

● For more on Bhengu watch NNTV today at 7.30pm.

NEWS FEATURE



Preparing for the future ... Street children attending lessons at the YMCA school in its Residence Basement in Braamfontein.

YMCA streetchildren

By Coudule Amankwa

THE JOHANNESBURG Young Men's Christian Association has been in existence for 107 years. In that time, it has established an enviable track record in the area of youth development.

The holistic approach of the YMCA – attending to the body, mind and spirit – has ensured its effectiveness. Many community, church and business leaders can look back and recognise the important role it played in their lives.

The Johannesburg YMCA has tried to meet the needs of a devastated young generation, whose lives were shattered by a destructive social and political order.

It now runs a 160-bed residence, which is used mainly by students and young working people. However, it is in the inner-city community that the

There are 10 000 streetchildren in Jo'burg who must be fed and taught

organisation's activities have really grown.

There is a drop-in centre for street children, providing food, showers, counselling, sport and recreation and life-skills courses. About 60 to 80 children attend regularly, but this will increase quite dramatically soon.

At the drop-in centre, there is also a small clinic which offers primary health care facilities and personnel for both children and adults. It offers a daily hot meal to about 150 adults and street children.

A key project of the Johannesburg YMCA is a school for streetchildren, which employs three fulltime teachers and also makes use of a number of volunteer teachers.

There are currently 116 children at the school, but this will expand to between 300 and 400 once the YMCA receives support from the Gauteng Department of Education.

The street children cannot be transplanted from the streets into a formal school environment. Because of their glue-sniffing and other anti-social behaviour, they would be ostracised and drop out of school.

As a result, there is a desperate need for alternative bridging education for streetchildren. The YMCA attempted to tackle this challenge by starting a school in its Residence Basement in Braamfontein in July 1994.

With money donated by the Toronto YMCA in Canada, three fulltime teach-

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ers were employed and the expert services of educationist Ms Suzanne Buchalter was obtained.

Each child was assessed and his or her educational level determined so that the syllabus could be tailored to the needs of the child.

Subjects offered include literacy, numeracy, English, two local languages, mathematics, health care, history, basic accountancy, arts and music appreciation.

A model school

The YMCA school is being used as a model for the Gauteng Education Department's research into a curriculum for street children. No such curriculum exists in South Africa as yet.

Gauteng education MEC Ms Mary Metcalfe has given the YMCA project her full support.

The YMCA was recently given premises in the suburb of Mayfair, at the

former regimental headquarters of the army.

It will relocate the school and expand its service. The growing number of pupils is a daunting challenge. There are about 10 000 streetchildren in Johannesburg.

And because they cannot learn on empty stomachs, the YMCA provides them with daily meals. The YMCA school also needs assistance to obtain basic infrastructure like desks, chairs, books, blackboards and chalk.

American Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt once said: "The giving of love is an education in itself."

Please help the Johannesburg YMCA to providing practical love in the form of financial donations.

● If you are interested in helping the Johannesburg YMCA, please contact The Secretary, YMCA, PO Box 23222, Joubert Park 2044, or telephone (011) 403-3426.



A second chance ... There are about 10 000 street children in Johannesburg. The YMCA is trying to provide some of them with alternative education.

Call for special secure facilities for dangerous youths

(298)

CT 22/11/95

BARRY STRECK
POLITICAL STAFF

DANGEROUS juvenile criminals should not be housed in prisons or places of safety but in special secure care facilities, city Child Welfare Society director Mr Alan Jackson said yesterday.

Although the national inter-ministerial committee on children

at risk decided to provide financial support for one secure facility in each province, the Western Cape's Department of Social Services had inexplicably decided not to do this for the time being, he said.

Mr Jackson said in a statement that prison was no place for children, "even for those children who are the most difficult to contain".

"Prison is a university of crime,

especially for young people."

He said these children constituted only about 10% of those in trouble with the law.

The Minister of Correctional Services, Dr Sipo Mzimela, had said South Africa would fail its children if the government had to house juvenile delinquents in over-populated prisons where they were exposed to hardened criminals.

"The terrible irony is that convicted children are held under exactly those conditions, and Minister Mzimela does not appear to have any problems with this."

Mr Jackson said places of safety were never designed to hold dangerous juveniles. "The solution lies not in returning some children to prison, but in providing new social care facilities

(high security alternatives to prison), as a new category of institution alongside places of safety.

"It must be small (up to 20 children), have secure care facilities, have hand-picked staff with excellent conditions of service, and they must receive specialised training from people who are expert at dealing with very dangerous situations," Mr Jackson said.

More protection for Rand children

(298) *Sowetan* 24/11/95

By Mokgadi Pela

THE East Rand townships of Katlehong, Thokoza and Vosloorus will breathe a sigh of relief when a community-based Child Protection Unit opens in the area in the new year.

The unit, to be based at Natalspruit Hospital, "is a dream come true for the residents in the light of the high prevalence of child abuse cases in our area," said newly-appointed principal district surgeon Dr Margaret Mojapelo in an interview with *Sowetan* yesterday.

She said for a long time Kathorus relied on the Benoni Child Protection Unit for such service.

Combat the problem

"This meant we had to struggle to get help as Benoni is quite far from Kathorus.

"The distance also contributed to the high under-reporting we have been experiencing.

"I hope with the latest move that the picture will become clearer so that we can combat the problem," Mojapelo said.

The unit comes in the wake of calls by communities in Kathorus and sur-

rounding informal settlements of Zonk'izizwe and Zama-Zama for a Child Protection Unit.

Social workers, police, civic associations and the community in general have complained that such a service was "long overdue". They said the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) would not take place in the environment which did not protect the child.

Negative effects

The groups have further emphasised the urgent need to educate the public about child abuse and its negative effects on society.

Mojapelo, along with three other district surgeons, would like to see the new unit adopting a multi-disciplinary approach to the problem.

"We would like to involve churches, pre-schools and schools from the early stages.

"Our goal is clearly to make the unit as accessible as possible.

This is why we would like to invite the community to visit the centre so that we can talk about its importance in the future of the children," the district surgeon said.

By MARLENE BURGER

POLICE set a trap for a senior magistrate who allegedly coerced a Johannesburg advocate into sharing her fees with him.

Senior Southern Transvaal regional magistrate Hennie van der Watt, 54, was relieved of his duties as chairman of an inquiry into alleged irregularities in a government feeding scheme on Monday after he appeared in the Pretoria magistrate's court.

President Nelson Mandela appointed Mr van der Watt to conduct an inquiry into the Department of Health's Protein Energy Malnutrition Scheme.

Mr van der Watt was taken into custody by an officer from the Commercial Crime Unit. No charges were put to him when he appeared in court on Monday and he was released on warning and told to appear in court again on April 15.

However, sources close to Mr van der Watt said he had instructed his lawyers to seek an earlier date for his court appearance "preferably before the end of the year" in order to "clear his name".

Last year, he led the inquiry into corruption and the manipulation of lucrative state contracts for prisons food.

This led to the early re-

Police swoop on senior magistrate

tirement of a Correctional Services general and senior public servants found to have been involved in fraudulent schemes which saw prisoners being fed substandard food for a number of years.

The commission's findings also led to a R9-million claim against the state for breach of contract by soya product manufacturers Rodlion, which lost the prisons contract to Johannesburg-based company ProTol, found by the commission to have given of-

ficials gifts, free holidays and vast sums of money to secure the tender. The case is due to resume in the Transvaal Supreme Court on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the Department of Justice, Pieter du Randt, said Mr van der Watt had allegedly claimed "in a corrupt manner" R3 150 of the fees due to Mrs E Kilian, an advocate appointed to assist him during the inquiry.

Mrs Kilian had laid a complaint and a police trap had been set, Mr du

Randt said.

The Department of Health said the only claim submitted by Mr van der Watt since the inquiry began sitting in Pretoria on October 1 was for an amount of R467 in respect of the R10 daily allowance for "entertainment and incidental expenses" to which he was entitled as chairman of the commission.

Mr van der Watt, a candidate for the post of chief magistrate in Johannesburg, would not discuss the matter this week.

The commission will continue to function under the direction of Professor Pauline Khuzwayo, of Medunsa, and advocate N R Rathidili until a replacement for Mr van der Watt is appointed.

Mr van der Watt is on leave.

ST 26/11/95

(298)

MEC facing charges

THE Mpumalanga MEC for Safety and Security, Steven Mabona, is due to appear in the Pretoria magistrate's court tomorrow on various charges, including one of attempted murder.

Mr Mabona has laid a counter-complaint of crimen injuria against Pretoria

traffic officer Petrus Potgieter. Mr Mabona's bodyguard, a Mr Ndlovu, has laid a charge of assault against the officer.

Pretoria police spokesman Captain Dave Harrington said Mr Potgieter pulled a car off the road near the Loftus Versfeld

rugby stadium at 10.30pm on Wednesday to issue the driver with a ticket for reckless driving. The occupant was Mr Mabona.

The two had words, then in the process of issuing a ticket, Mr Potgieter went to the front of the vehicle to write down the registration particulars, whereupon the car allegedly went forward

'Youth need courage, commitment'

CT 27/11/95 (298)

BRITS: South Africa's youth faced serious problems because of years of deprivation, violence and interrupted education, President Nelson Mandela said at the opening the Young Christian Workers' World Council at Oukasie, near here, yesterday.

Mr Mandela said great courage and

commitment were needed for young people to fully enjoy the benefits of South Africa's fledgling democracy.

"Religious organisations which concentrate on the youth can help bring reconciliation to our country and build the rainbow nation most South Africans yearn for." — Sapa

No 'shelter' for streetchildren

MG 27/10 - 2/11/95 (298)

Ann Eveleth

TENNYSON SHANGE spent the last five years helping KwaZulu-Natal's growing numbers of "streetchildren" get back into mainstream life. As a "house-father" at Khayaletu street-children's project in Pietermaritzburg, he steered dozens of young boys away from the harsh realities of the streets and back into school.

Shange died recently, stabbed to death outside the shelter by one of the older youths who had been kicked out of the centre for attacking another child care worker. "He had just finished calling the kids in to sleep on a normal Sunday evening when the assailant jumped out of the shadows and stabbed him. He died within minutes," remembers Denis Drennan, coordinator of Youth for Christ, a partner in Khayaletu.

Shange's 20-year-old attacker is just one of a growing number of predators lurking in the corners around child care centres such as Khayaletu. Drennan says the release of some 300 awaiting trial juveniles in the province earlier this year has increased the negative influences on the boys who are trying to get their lives back on track.

Older boys prey on the younger boys and they prey on the even younger boys, making their victims commit crimes for their benefit, demanding a cut of the day's takings and extracting domestic

labour from the minor groups.

"Now, even adult criminals have begun to prey on the boys. They know the boys will only be held for a couple of days, so they make them take the risks," says Drennan. "There are no places of secure care for juveniles, so they are either returned to society or put in places of safety which they just escape from. Now every day there are incidents where boys in our programmes are influenced by the older boys or adults capitalising on the fact that they can't be held."

When Khayaletu staff identified a growing criminality among boys at the centre, they called on the police and government to take action against a list of identified criminal youths.

While the promised police protection failed to save Shange's life, centre chairman Yvonne Spain said the subsequent responses of Safety and Security Minister Sydney Mufamadi, Justice Minister Dullah Omar and Deputy Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi were positive. "They responded promptly and promised to support our proposals to increase security for the children."

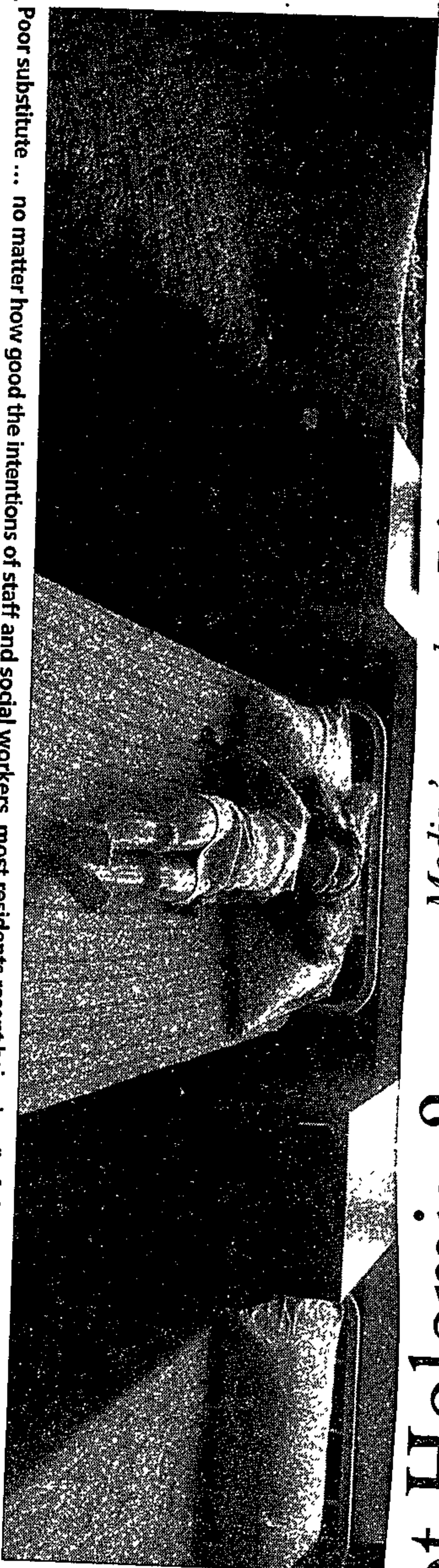
Fraser-Moleketi said the Cabinet has established an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Young People at Risk to deal with the issues facing Khayaletu. Omar recently announced plans to tighten the conditions under which juveniles were released.

Licensed gun-owner
isn't the problem

*Modise's men also
killed civilians*

Assuming that Magnus Malan is in-

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Poor substitute ... no matter how good the intentions of staff and social workers, most residents resent being in a "safe house" and long for "normal" lives.

A 'safe house' children can't learn to love

The young residents all come from troubled backgrounds and have suffered physically as well as mentally. In spite of therapy, care and affection, many have scars which will never fully heal

By TROVE LUND

Quant gardens with pink roses, apple pie kitchen-smells, discotheques on Saturday and intense therapy.

These are features social workers at Norman House, a place of safety in Edenvale, used in an attempt to make government-brown brick walls homely and soften past experiences of 85 abused teenagers who live there.

The institution's newest resident is a 14-year-old girl whose harrowing tale of sexual abuse was recently exposed by The Star.

She now shares a room with a depressed 12-year-old who, as a result of physical abuse, continuously slashes herself with

sharp objects. She has meals in the same dining room as the 13 year-old-boy who, although now brain-damaged by the bullet, was the only member of his family who lived after his father shot the rest of the family before turning the gun on himself.

She goes to school with a 15-year-old boy who stabbed a friend to death when his friend tried to steal his bike.

On her way to her bedroom, she walks past the "observation bedroom" where an uncontrollably aggressive 18-year-old sleeps so wardens in the next room can keep a constant watch through a window.

Like her peers at Norman House Janet (not her real name) "hates it". She said: "I cannot understand what I have done to be

here. I did nothing wrong."

But, after four years as a social worker at Norman House and two years as the superintendent, Edith Pretorius offers another perspective.

"It is normal for teenagers, who come from stable backgrounds, to rebel against rules. These children are just the same but also have much to work through."

"At the same time as making this environment as homely and normal as possible, with outings, affection, medical care and education, rules and routine are essential in our aim to make them realise enjoyment in life is coupled to certain responsibilities and standards," she said.

The daily routine is typical of any board-

Star 28/11/95 (298)
ing school. But leisure time differs for each child and depends on the group they are classified in - Golden, A, B, C or D.

Golden members have earned the most privileges and are the only grade allowed to be taken out by family on Sundays. The D group have no privileges and are not allowed out of the grounds. Other groups are treated with outings.

Each child is discussed at a fortnightly staff meeting. Depending on participation in group activities, table manners, hygiene and progress in therapy, a child is promoted or demoted to the appropriate group.

A panel of social workers, psychologists and educationists decides where the child should be placed permanently.

(298)
**Disabled to
lose school**

Star 28/11/95

BY ABBEY MAKOE

Soweto Bureau

More than 150 disabled children face a bleak future following reports that their remedial school in Orlando East, Soweto, is to close down amid allegations of embezzlement of funds by school officials.

The 25-member staff at the Ikemeleng Remedial Education Centre are owed R100 000 in salaries which have not been paid for the past four months, they say.

The school's bankruptcy is being blamed on two top officials who have since left.

Shisana comment 'shocks'

HEALTH Department director general Olive Shisana was taken to task yesterday for apparently trying to play down the R2,3 million Eastern Cape school feeding scheme fraud.

She told parliament's public service committee that statistically the misappropriation was small compared with the R500 million allocated to the

project nationally. (298)

"In the scale of magnitude it is not as large as it could have been," she said.

In a written report she said: "Only R2 391 665 was misappropriated" ARG 30/11/95

National Party MP Sam de Beer said he was "quite shocked". — Sapa

IN a small room in Levubu in Northern Province, a group of small children sing *Hosi katekisa Africa*, the Tsonga version of the national anthem.

Singing the song formerly used by "terrorists" and "communists" in the stronghold of conservative white farmers gives credence to the claim that some things have changed in South Africa.

But, in other ways, things have changed for the worst. Under the old Transvaal Provincial Administration, the children's creche was one of 74 creches in the Levubu, Tshipise and other areas that received a Government subsidy.

The coordinator of the creches, Ms Karen Viljoen, says the creches used to get R2,45 a child a day since 1993. The subsidy was stopped in April without any explanation.

"I have tried everything possible to get the Government to continue the subsidy scheme but all my efforts have been in vain," she says.

Parents

"Most of the parents earn a meagre wage of R180 a month as they are farm labourers who cannot finance the creches. We cannot ask for more than R5 from the parents".

Viljoen has helped to establish creches on the farms over the past five years. She says she wanted to improve the plight of farmworkers, who could not care for their children as they spend most of their time working on the farms.

In most areas, says Viljoen, farmers were requested to provide old buildings.

The parents would renovate these to use them as creches. Parents elect a committee that governs the creche.

Preventing conflict

The committee is charged with appointing a caretaker. The caretaker earns an average of about R180 a month. This is to prevent conflict as more parents could aspire to become caretakers rather than work on the farms.

In some creches, the farmer pays the caretaker, while others depend on the Government subsidy.

Says Viljoen: "Most of our creches have been unable to pay their caretakers since the subsidy was cut off. We depend solely on sacrifices to continue with the creches."

The creche "teacher" does not necessarily need to have a matric, the main

Most of the parents earn a meagre wage of R180 a month as they are farm labourers and cannot afford to finance the creches

Bleak days for creche kids

criticism is love for the children. The teacher gets some training in caring for children.

"We cater for children from the age of six months to six years. We can improvise and cook porridge and potatoes for the toddlers, but you cannot feed a baby this stuff."

"In some creches, we are forced to boil water for the young babies. They have to live on water throughout the day until their mothers return from work in the evening."

She says most of the toddlers have lost weight since the subsidy was stopped.

The manager of Tshipungulu creche, Mr Frans Magada, says the children have been badly affected.

He says children used to have eggs, bread, oatmeal porridge and juice for breakfast. They would have rice and meat for lunch and tea shortly before going home.

"But all this is now history. They eat porridge and potatoes all day long."

It is frustrating but there is nothing we can do. We only hope our Government becomes aware of our problems," says Magada.

Reasons

Why has the subsidy scheme been stopped? Viljoen says she believes the restructuring process is the reason.

In an attempt to integrate the former administrations and decentralise government, the administration of welfare services in her area now falls

under Thohoyandou.

Viljoen says: "While the idea of bringing services to people is good, the problem is that some people do not know their job."

"A social worker said the person who is supposed to process our claims is going for training."

"I cannot understand why somebody should draw a salary for a job she must still be trained to do. I think this is mismanagement of public funds. We deserve efficient service."

(298) *Source: 11/12/95*

50 babies abandoned every week

Star 1/12/95

(298)

By LARA SMITH

The four-day-old baby girl found in a plastic bag on a city bus last week is only one of dozens of newborn babies abandoned in Greater Johannesburg every week.

An investigation by Thea Jarvis, author of a soon-to-be-released book on the problem of abandoned children, found that in Gauteng 50 newborn babies a week were abandoned during 1993 - 3 000 in total for that year.

Jarvis, who is currently fostering seven such babies herself, said in most of the cases they had been abandoned as a result of socio-economic circumstances.

"It is mostly young girls who find themselves homeless and jobless after the birth of their babies that resort to abandoning them. They usually don't have the means or a support system in place to care for the babies. Out of desperation they leave them."

Although the majority of the babies are black, Reva Goldsmith, child care manager at Cotlands, said they had been found in every conceivable part of Johannesburg, not only in the townships.

"Sometimes we find the babies in dustbins, sometimes in storm water drains, in bushes, in the veld, the sub-

urbs, everywhere. Some are so young they still have the umbilical cord attached when they are found."

Although Cotlands takes in mainly HIV-positive babies, this was not the main reason for their abandonment.

"Most of the mothers don't know the babies are HIV positive," Goldsmith said. "It is usually their economic situation that causes them to leave their babies."

Of the 42 children currently staying at Cotlands, 70% had been abandoned. All are younger than 18 months.

According to the assistant director of social work at Baragwanath Hospital, Lea Smith, the hospital dealt with 38 abandoned babies between March 1994 and May this year. Of these, five had been left in the hospital's maternity ward after birth. The others were discovered in Soweto and taken to the hospital by the police. All were younger than two weeks.

Smith said she found the majority of urban women were aware of contraceptive methods and used them, but the problem arose with women coming from the rural areas.

"Often they get here, don't have accommodation, move in with a man and before they know it they find they are pregnant and no longer have a place to stay."

Haven for abused children urgently

(298) Star

By CHRISTINA STUCKY

Four children press up against the gate to Moira Simpson's office, watching intently as she carries a tiny, whimpering kitten to a litter box in a corner of the room. "Moira, Moira, you know what you must do, eh?" one boy calls to her, craning his neck to see where she has gone. "You must get a big box and put sand in it, then the kitten won't run away."

But Simpson needs no lessons in keeping kittens - and children - off the streets. For the past three years she has been ersatz mother to a fluctuating number of up to 120 street children, giving them "all the things that parents normally give": security, a sense of belonging and love.

In February 1992, Simpson, the ink on a degree in social work from Unisa barely dry, began feeding children on the

streets of Benoni. "I soon realised that you can't feed and shelter children on the street. You have to provide a home," she says.

By October that year she found a home for the children in the abandoned Kleinfontein hospital, a run-down 100-year-old building outside Benoni. Initially she housed and fed 20 children; today 120 girls and boys aged two months to 20 years live under her care. Simpson's "Kids' Haven" is more than a shelter for

street children and differs from traditional children's homes in that she chooses which kids stay there, rather than having a court place children

At other homes, kids have no choice - here they have a choice. As long as they follow the rules, they can stay

in the home.

"At other homes, kids have no choice - here they have a choice. As long as they follow the rules, they can stay."

Simpson's rules are far from draconian. Drugs and glue-sniffing are taboo and any child who



MAMA MOIRA: Simpson is mother to more than 100 street children whom she houses at "Kids' Haven" in Benoni, a home she runs on meagre funds and loads of dedication PHOTOGRAPH TULEMON

poses a threat to the other children remains outside the fence that surrounds the home. "The kids know that if they want to be inside they must be sober. They can't have one foot on the street and one in the home."

Drug abuse is one of the biggest problems Simpson faces with the kids. Twelve-year-olds who have been drug addicts since the age of five show up at her doorstep, asking to be taken in. As soon as they have sniffed glue, they become violent, threatening Simpson's staff and the children. Nevertheless, she has seen an improvement.

Simpson's work requires the patience of angels - but pays off in ways that cannot be measured in financial terms. It shows on their faces and in the respect and love the children openly display towards Simpson. When she walks into a room reserved for toddlers, a 6-year-old girl, a victim of sexual abuse who spent months locked inside her shell, immediately attaches herself to Simpson's hip while two little boys reach up to her, smiling broadly, in a gesture that is both

unaffected and genuine.

The majority of the children settle into home life quickly. Like Vanessa, who arrived at Kids' Haven three years ago, a confused and pregnant 15-year-old. Today she acts as the home's efficient receptionist and is about to leave on her first job together with her small child.

But about 20% take "a long time, sometimes up to three years", she says.

These children need special attention to help them lower

If I see the slightest spark of compassion or remorse I keep trying. If I'm not reaching the child, I give up

their guard and learn to trust Simpson. One of the most tragic cases is that of 10-year-old Margaret. Margaret is actually Martin, but he has been sexually abused for so long that he thinks he is a girl. At first, Simpson let him stay on the girls' side of the

home; now he sleeps in a bed in an empty room that adjoins the boys' side, not quite ready to take the final step back to his true identity. It has been a long, hard battle to get him there.

Sometimes, even Simpson gives up. "In the beginning I never wanted to give up on the kids, now I do sometimes. But if I see the slightest spark of compassion or remorse, I keep trying. If I'm not reaching the child, I give up. But sometimes I have given up and 18 months later the child returned and became one of our senior boys or girls."

Simpson may be forced to give up, however, if the home does not get adequate funding soon. At the moment she relies on public donations, a few regular cheques from local companies and the Rotary Club's payment of her phone bill. Making matters worse, Simpson will soon no longer be able to rely on payments from her ex-husband and may have to look for a job.

While she remains hopeful that eventually the money will come, she adds that "eventually may be too late".

2/12/95
needs help

Massive fraud bedevils school feeding schemes

(298) ARG 2/1/96

□ But, Western Cape's projects are in the clear thanks to top NGO management

MICHAEL MORRIS
Staff Reporter

MULTI-MILLION rand fraud may have undermined confidence in school-feeding schemes elsewhere in the country; but the Western Cape's virtually trouble-free feeding project is being held up as an enviable example.

The grave difficulties in getting vital nutrition to South Africa's hungry children — a presidential lead-project launched by President Mandela in 1994 — have highlighted huge gaps in the government's database, with some of the new education authorities literally not knowing how many schools they have, where they are or even how many teachers and pupils are in them.

It is precisely these gaps which have enabled unscrupulous individuals to defraud the feeding scheme of millions of rands ... R2,8 million in the case of the Eastern Cape alone.

But, much of this loss could have been avoided if regional governments had had the sense to use the expertise of independent non-governmental organisations (NGOs), many of whom have years of experience in the field.

And this, largely, is the reason for the Western Cape's shining success.

The Primary School Nutrition Programme in the Western Cape is driven by NGOs, mainly the Peninsula School Feeding Scheme, an organisation with 37 years' experience and a solid record in efficiency

and sound management.

Writing in the development journal, *Leading Edge*, Rod Amner of the Development News Agency, notes that, in contrast, NGOs working in the Eastern Cape "were thanked for their efforts, but told their services were no longer needed".

He goes on: "It is perhaps more than coincidental then, that the government-sponsored audit of the Western Cape's feeding scheme by Deloitte and Touche showed that just one of the 921 schools involved in the scheme in this province was implicated in fraud. The amount? A relatively meagre R4 000."

Mr Amner suggests that "NGOs and communities have a responsibility to demand a

greater say in how their RDP rands are spent".

His point is borne out by David Sanders, chair of the Western Cape feeding scheme's technical task team, and professor of public health at the University of the Western Cape.

"Frankly," he noted, "the government doesn't have community development expertise and they haven't got a clue of how to convert the scheme into something developmental."

He believes the Primary School Nutrition Programme's R500 million annual budget would go a lot further if it were NGO-driven.

In the Western Cape's case, the Peninsula School Feeding Scheme was in touch with each of the 712 schools it serviced,

and it provided meals for 280 000 children-a-day between Cape Town and Lutzville on the west coast, Plettenberg Bay in the east and Beaufort West in the Karoo.

Each meal consisted of two slices of brown bread spread with 20 g of peanut butter and 15 g of jam, 200 ml of a soyabased milk product and an optional extra of a cup of nutritious soup.

For many of these children there was simply not enough food at home.

But, one of the main lessons learnt from the first full year of Mr Mandela's lead-project was that, without the expertise of NGOs, the central government — or regional governments — alone would fail to live up to the president's laudable intentions.

CP 31/2/95
Feeding scheme under scrutiny

AN AUDIT is being undertaken of Mpumalanga's National Nutrition and Social Development Programme following alleged irregularities uncovered by government investigators.

The NNSDP administers more than 350 programmes, including feeding schemes and other social development programmes (298)

Law scares abused kids

Sowetan 4/12/95

(298)

By Ruth Bhengu

SOUTH African children's courts are insensitive in their handling of children who have been sexually abused

Many professionals in the field believe that while the legal system has been greatly improved by the introduction of Child Protection Units – made up of police trained in interviewing and calming traumatised victims of child abuse – the courts are still locked in a mindset that further victimises the victim.

Inside the courtroom, adults who have lawyers still wield power. Apart from the fact that children testify via closed-circuit television, they are subjected to the same kind of cross-examination as adults

Former chairman of the Child Abuse Action Group Ms Shelley Bainbridge says the courts dealing

with child abuse are "backward" and believes they should become "child-friendly".

"Very few magistrates and prosecutors have the training to handle child abuse cases because these need special courts. Legal professionals should be made aware of the psychological effect on children of sexual abuse," she says.

Ridiculous questions

"Also, the law takes too long to bring cases to court. By the time the child testifies in court, he or she has forgotten some of the events and they lose credibility"

Bainbridge also criticises the way children are questioned by lawyers, prosecutors and magistrates, who have not been trained to deal with sexually abused children

"Some of the questions they ask

are ridiculous. Can you imagine someone asking an eight-year-old child, 'Did you get an orgasm? How many minutes did it take?'

"Anyone knows a child's concept of time is far different from a grown-up's"

SA Stop Child Abuse Organisation president Mr Tutu Mgulwa has criticised the lack of sensitivity shown by courts. "Child rapists are allowed to go free daily because the law is soft on them," he says.

"Children also get asked questions like, 'Did he put a finger or a penis in you?' How is a three-year-old supposed to know that?" There are many cases where a suspect is acquitted because of technicalities.

"A child rapist is arrested and in an hour he is walking the streets menacing the victim again," says Mgulwa "One wonders if the law is serious about protecting kids."



Stop child abuse ... there is a need for courts to be more friendly to victims of child abuse.

By Charity Bhengu

Child-friendly courts needed

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD Soweto girl stands outside a crowded courtroom waiting for her name to be called

She fidgets with her hands, looking for familiar faces. She catches sight of a tall man (her alleged rapist) walking towards her. She runs to her mother and buries her head in her skirt and starts crying.

The girl was raped and assaulted by the man, who lives in the same street as she does. She has been subjected to endless court proceedings and has been interrogated by the suspect's lawyer

Often she cries when asked questions during cross-examination like "Show us how he moved when he raped you?". When she was asked "If I told you it was night and that you should go to sleep, would you?"

She wept and said: "I don't want to sleep with him!" She then refused to

Raped children are traumatised again by their court experience

answer any more questions. The mother said it was then suggested in court that the girl could not talk and the case was dismissed

The child has gone through all kinds of pain. She has been raped and threatened with death, then she is tried like an adult in court

Abusive experience

Clinical psychologist Ms Thandeka Mgoduso said the child's experience in court can cause further psychological damage.

She said, "No one came to her rescue in court. Instead she was dragged through another abusive experience by a male lawyer to the extent that she breaks down and can no longer talk." Mgoduso said the child could be feeling very guilty about the experi-

ence or think there was nothing wrong with a man sleeping with her or end up being promiscuous when older.

"Her whole identity and confidence as a child and trust in adults is crushed. Her security is threatened," Mgoduso said

SA Stop Child Abuse president Mr Tutu Mgwila, who was present during the child's cross-examination, described it as secondary abuse. "Some cases end up being dismissed because the child is either giving inconsistent testimony or is afraid to talk in court."

Stop Child Abuse, Child Abuse Action Group and Soweto's Child Protection Unit police have called for the establishment of more child-friendly courts and social workers.

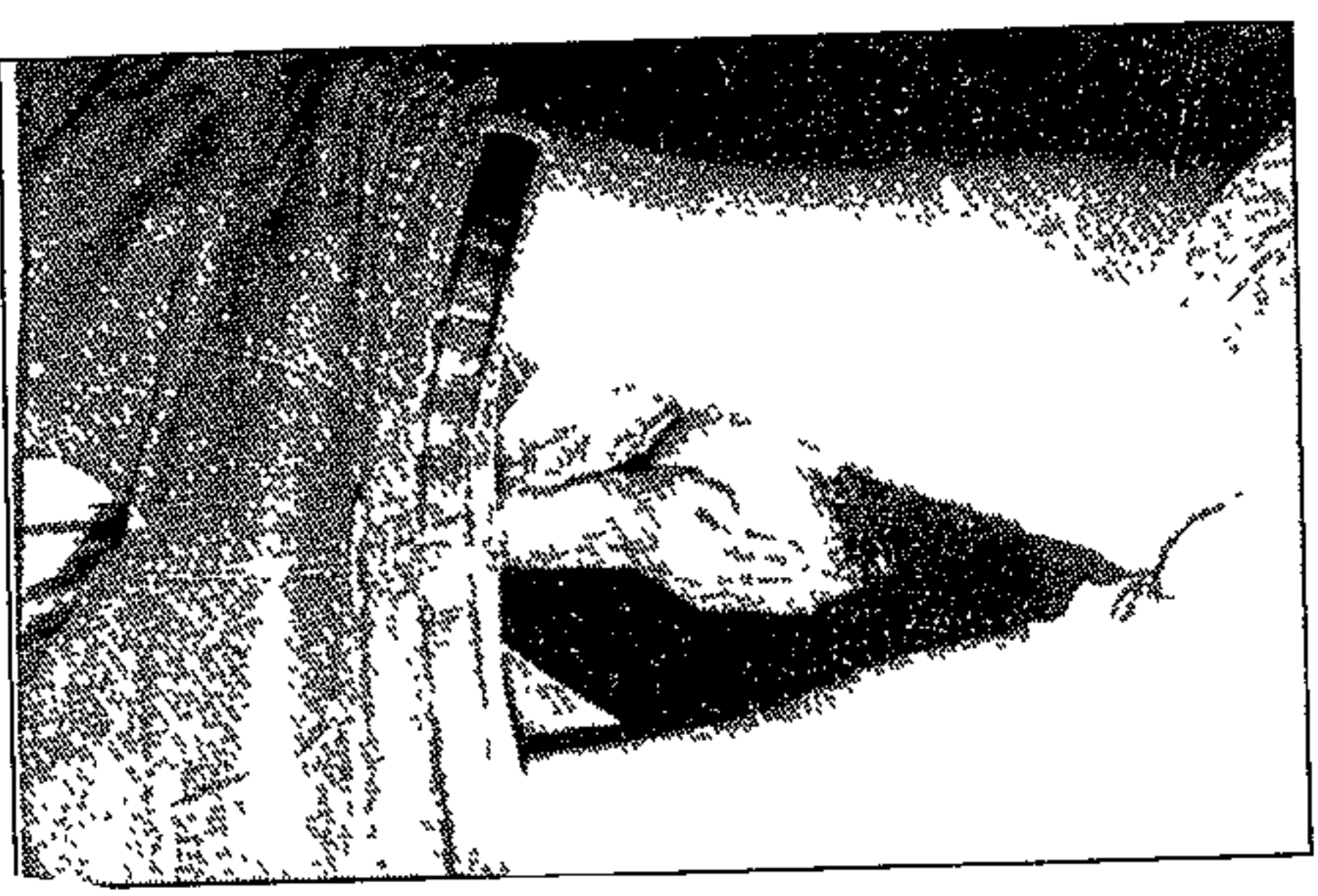
The Protea Magistrate Court's public prosecutor, Mr Gerry du Bruyn, said his

court has increased its number of social workers to eight and has added a second room where children can give evidence

The Concerned Citizens Committee, which is campaigning for the reinstatement of the death penalty criticised South Africa's legal system

"The Government and its courts are duty-bound to protect innocent children," said its national coordinator Mr Milton Impey. "If the armed struggle was justified in the fight against apartheid, the death penalty is justified in the fight against the rape of children."

CPU spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Anneke Pienaar disclosed that a shocking total of 20 356 children were abused during eight months, of whom 11 102 were raped. The Soweto police said the number of child rape cases was increasing, despite the 409 arrests the CPU made recently.



Survey on abuse 'needed urgently'

Star 5/12/95

(298)

Headmasters of 15 farm schools believe 79% of their pupils are victims of sexual harassment

By TROYE LUND

A survey geared to determining a way of reducing the rate of sexual abuse among 5 000 pupils of the 15 farm schools in Johannesburg's rural Witdrift area is urgently needed, say headmasters of these schools.

They have asked Unisa to co-ordinate a study.

After conducting some informal surveys, the two year-old Witdrift Community Council against Child Abuse (WCCA), made up of headmasters and representatives of the Child Abuse Alliance, believe 79% of the pupils are victims of sexual harassment.

"Sexual abuse and harassment are rife. But before we can tackle them, we need exact data. We need to know who the perpetrators are, what types of abuse exist and what the best methods will be to deal with children and parents," said Itereli School's headmaster, Morgan Mkhathshawa.

Witkoppen School's headmaster, Sam Makama, believes if children had transport to and from

school the rate of sexual abuse would be "drastically reduced".

"Children walking to school - some have a 20 km walk - are being offered food and money in return for sexual favours. I have tried to prosecute some of these men but they have got off," he said.

Headmasters are also concerned at how many girls, some as young as ten, are leaving school to earn money as prostitutes.

Headmaster of Riversand school and WCCA chairman, Thlage Petlele, told The Star where to find some of his and other school's "ex-pupils".

A group of four young girls, three dressed suggestively, were found yesterday standing on the R511 near the Indaba Hotel.

One of the girls, who claimed to be 15, said: "I started earning money like this before I left school last year. Rich men in big cars used to stop us on this road and give us R20 to go with them in the car.

"We used to call them 'stoute base' (naughty bosses), but the ladies here call them clients. I was not learning at school. I will be

rich anyway if I save the money I am making. Some weeks it is more than R200. Then I think I will stop this and get another job."

Another younger girl said she was still at school and was "just visiting her friend while she waited for a car to stop". The other two girls would not say anything.

Makama stressed how much this problem was rooted in the socio-economics of the area:

"People are desperate for money and this money is immediate and very lucrative. Many children are also used to abuse and what we may consider to be abuse may always have been part of their life at home. Parents also have to learn to confront the situation and not be ashamed."

Headmasters agreed that workshops on parenting skills are likely to play an integral role in reducing all forms of abuse.

"The whole community has to become involved in eliminating abuse and neglect if children are going to have the future they deserve," said Petlele.

A number of child abuse cases highlighted in the media lately, more notably that of the 14-year-old girl whom Welfare officials allegedly sent back home — where she has allegedly been abused for the past 10 years — raises a number of concerns in relation to child abuse. Director of the Child Welfare Society, Alan Jackson, spoke to GORRY BOWES TAYLOR.

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ARL 5/12/95

Cutbacks spell crisis over abuse of children

THE issues which raise deep concern include the attitude of social workers to allegations of abuse, and the role of the courts in making decisions in this connection; draft Welfare policy which emphasises the need for children to remain with their families as far as possible; the massive pressures on social workers working in this field; the ever-dwindling financial resources provided by the State to address this critical issue, and the increasing tendency on the part of the public to hold the social worker responsible in the case of a tragedy.

Dealing with the attitude of social workers to allegations of abuse, Mr Jackson says: "It is the responsibility of social workers who receive allegations of child abuse to investigate these thoroughly, and together with their supervisor, to make recommendations to the courts with regard to what action should be taken.

"Reports from some members of the public indicate an alleged insensitivity on the part of the social workers to the level of concern among clients and the public who make such allegations."

The role of the courts is to make decisions regarding the recommendations made to them by social workers after careful investigation of the circumstances. It is indeed appropriate that the courts make these decisions, he says.

"However, this principle has at times meant, as it did recently in Gauteng, that social workers (after very thorough investigation) backed by colleagues with enormous expertise and many years of experience, strongly recommended that a child be removed from the family. The court not only made a decision to keep the child in the family, but ordered the social worker to supervise the family. Should the child be further abused, or even die, the social worker will, no doubt, be held responsible.

"Another case, one of many, involving allegations of sexual abuse against the principal of a children's home, has dragged on for over two years now, without any evidence being led to date. In view of this time lag, there is now little chance that a conviction (which in any event is difficult

to obtain) will be obtained," says Mr Jackson.

"A major feature of the Draft Welfare Policy is that children should remain in their families as far as possible. No one can argue with this policy in principle, especially in view of the shortage of alternative placements for children in foster-care and in residential care.

"However, what will inevitably occur, is that pressure to keep children in their families will mean that the risks of child abuse will be greater. This is especially so because resources to support families are virtually non-existent," says Mr Jackson.

"Over the past two years, the number of child abuse and neglect cases dealt with by Child Welfare Society in Cape Town has increased by 15 percent. Even before this increase, the daily pressures on social workers undertaking this work was huge. After this increase the tension is close to breaking point, and mistakes far more likely."

Mr Jackson says social workers cannot be expected to simply absorb this continuing increase indefinitely, especially as this work is the most difficult undertaken by social workers, and because of this, it is

generally done by young social workers (who move out of this field as soon as the opportunity arises).

"In spite of these pressures, the State, which is responsible for this work, is cutting back on its financial support to organisations undertaking it.

"This has meant that no additional posts are created to cope with the increasing work load, and that salaries are at a totally inadequate level (special workers begin with a salary of R2 167 per month, after four years of university training).

"Though private organisations like my own would dearly like to increase salaries to appropriate levels, this will not be possible without severe cuts in services, which has unfortunately become inevitable. We face a projected R950 000 deficit going into the 1996/97 year," says Mr Jackson.

"Child abuse services in many of the rural areas are virtually non-existent, and many of the people in those areas who should know better — teachers, headmasters and police — turn a blind eye to child sexual abuse, for example, because it has 'been happening for the past 50 years'.

"It is the responsibility of the social



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

CUTBACKS: Alan Jackson says the State, which is responsible for this work, is cutting back on its financial support to organisations undertaking it."

worker to act effectively and professionally within the framework of the information available. There is, however, a growing trend to see the social worker as automatically responsible if abuse or death occurs. This is somewhat akin to Nelson Mandela being held responsible for the recent execu-

tion of the nine activists in Nigeria — another ridiculous assertion," he says.

If anyone would like to express support for the Child Welfare Society or is willing to join a campaign around the issues raised above, contact Alan Jackson, at ☎ 761-7130 or fax 787-3390.

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ALG 5/12/95

Violence and lack of love linked

HERE are some of the reasons babies are abandoned, battered, abused and neglected.

WOMEN

- Lack of partner support.
- Inadequate financial support.
- Unpreparedness for motherhood because of age, information or circumstances such as rape or one-night stands.
- Emotional immaturity means she is not ready for the responsibility of parenting.
- Undealt-with emotional issues such as not getting enough love and attention from her own parents, so her ability to provide sufficient love could be impaired.

MEN

- Not ready for the responsibility of fatherhood.

● Emotional immaturity (jealous of the attention given by the mother to the baby).

● Being unable to live up to society's expectations, eg: traditional role of male as breadwinner.

● Male abuse of power over women and children.

● Undealt-with emotional issues, for instance if he has problematic behaviour such as wife battering, drug abuse, violence it could also lead to the baby being abused.

Important telephone numbers:

● Child Protection Unit (SAPS):

☎ 592-2603/5

● Child Welfare: ☎ 761-7130

● Childline (toll free): ☎ 0800 123 321.

AR 6

5/12/95

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It might not be home but at least it's not prison for young offenders

Captive fun ... an inmate makes the most of his time lifting weights - one of the many activities to which juvenile awaiting trial prisoners at the Meritum Youth Centre in Krugersdorp have access.



JODI BIEBER

(298) Star 6/12/95
BY DORRY BROWN

Inpatient youths file pass, each one blurring out his roll-call number on his way to collect his lunch of a soya burger patty, a generous scoop of mealie meal covered with sauce and a cup of concentrated juice.

Number 529 is a tiny 13-year-old burglary suspect, a softly-spoken boy who hits the punching bag with more determination than anyone else but who is nevertheless given away by the scared expression on his face.

It is easy to confuse the Meritum Youth Centre for juvenile awaiting-trial prisoners in Krugersdorp for a summer camp. The 172 youngsters currently at Meritum have access to a gymnasium with a boxing ring, basketball court, soccer field, several board games and computers. A small weekly clinic and DIY workshops are on the drawing

Access to a gym, boxing ring, soccer field, games and computers means that these prisoners could mistake the Meritum Youth Centre for a summer camp

This centre, and similar others, was opened in June by the Meritum Group of Companies after Parliament declared that minors were no longer to be kept in prisons with adults, but was financially unable to enforce the new law.

There are many different people at the centre and it is of concern to know that suspected petty thieves are housed together with suspected rapists, murderers and habitual criminals.

"We have never had any serious violence."

"The boys get up to naughtiness and some smuggle in marijuana and dangerous weapons, but we keep an eye on them and try to keep them busy," said Themba Snyman, the senior manager of the six-month old centre converted from a hostel for mineworkers.

Many of the youngsters, in tattered clothes and broken shoes, are obviously either from a poor

background or are street children, while others appear to have no need for money.

The twins, numbers 543 and 544, whose mother is a teacher and father an engineer, are well-dressed and eloquent 17-year-olds.

Both are awaiting trial for allegedly breaking into a car to steal the stereo.

"We just want to be home for Christmas and the New Year," 543 said.

In the meantime, they have to make do with the cement floors of the nine-sleeper dormitories.

The poorer suspects are supplied with everything from clothes to towels, face cloths, soap and bedding, similar to jail.

However, civilian clothes, instead of a standard uniform, are worn.

Each one washes and dries his own clothing and much of the work is done on a voluntary basis.

JODI BIEBER





Clean living ... an awaiting-trial juvenile goes about his daily chores, hanging up his washing.

Awaiting trial and wishing he were home at Christmas

BY BOBBY BROWN

One of the youngsters at the Meritum Youth Centre for awaiting-trial juveniles in Krugerdorp is one of the inmates accused of firing the shot which killed a Johannesburg man killed in a hijacking attempt.

The accused is a well-spoken teenager who smiles easily and who enjoys all the activities you would expect a youngster to enjoy.

"Tennis is my favourite, but I also like soccer and movies. I think Sylvester Stallone is a great actor and haven't missed any of his films yet," he said, adding that he also liked computers a lot.

The Star first met the youth, youngest of four children, in Meritum's 10-unit computer room.

"He never speaks about the trial to anybody, but most of the other youngsters like him ... I like him," said Fred Opperman, the PRO for Meritum.

He said those accused of the murder were both very bright and eloquent boys who spent most of their time in the computer room or at the facility's library.

One spoke freely of his personal life, but clamped up when we ventured into conversation about the trial.

"I cannot speak about that. I am still

only an accused," was all the well-groomed teenager with his feminine eyelashes was prepared to say.

The accused are the only prisoners who do not share their dormitory with others.

The rooms are separated by two other dormitories and theirs are also the only units that have bars on the windows and the doors - at the request of Justice Minister Dullah Omar, Opperman explained.

"The extra security does not bother me, but I would have liked to be home for Christmas," one youth said.

"This is the first year I will be away from home."

He said that his father and his mother were very worried about him and visited him often.

He grew up in Soweto, moved to Botswana and back to Johannesburg when his father bought a house in Eldorado Park on the West Rand. The family currently lives in Boksburg.

"I could not write my end of year exam, because I did not know I could and when I found out, I could not get my books from my school to study," he said, citing the family's continuous moving as the reason for the discrepancy between his age and the stage he has reached at school.

Parties clash over child prisoners

□ Places of safety 'not secure'

ROGER FRIEDMAN, Staff Reporter

A POLITICAL wrangle is brewing over the thorny issue of where to hold juvenile awaiting-trial prisoners alleged to have committed serious crimes.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Correctional Services said Minister Sipo Mzimela (of the Inkatha Freedom Party) might ask President Nelson Mandela to intervene if senior African National Congress officials continued to press for a change in the law that would allow awaiting-trial juveniles to be held in prison.

Dr Mzimela recently rebuffed approaches by the (ANC) ministers of Justice and Safety and Security — Dullah Omar and Sydney Mufamadi — to pilot an amendment to the Correctional Services Act through parliament as an "interim measure".

This prompted Carl Niehaus, the ANC MP who heads the National Assembly's portfolio committee on correctional services, to start drafting a private member's bill to amend section 29 of the act.

Section 29 was changed last year to expressly forbid the incarceration of allegedly dangerous awaiting trial juveniles in prison.

But, during the past year it has become apparent that places of safety are too insecure and just not geared towards holding such a dangerous category of alleged child offender.

Mr Niehaus is on record as saying he still "strongly supported" the principle of keeping awaiting-trial juveniles out of prison and his proposed amendment to section 29 would be of a temporary nature — until secure places of safety were built.

But, Dr Mzimela said the proposed amendment would show "a total disre-

gard for the (United Nations) Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as international rules and guidelines regarding the detention of children, including the Beijing and the Tokyo Rules to which South Africa subscribes".

Said Dr Mzimela: "At the time of the announcement (last May) that unconvicted children will no longer be kept in prisons, it was welcomed by political parties and interest groups over a wide spectrum.

"It is obvious that the problem lies with the safe and secure detention of these children in the already-established places of safety. It is also clear that security at these institutions must be urgently upgraded," he said.

Dr Mzimela said his department had offered to assist the Department of Welfare with the training of staff and the establishment of guidelines. He was even prepared to deploy members of his department temporarily to run security at places of safety.

Meanwhile, the director of the Cape Town Child Welfare Society, Alan Jackson, joined the fray, saying: "Prison is no place for children, even for those who are the most difficult to contain. Prison is a university of crime, especially for young people."

Mr Jackson said it was a "terrible irony" that Dr Mzimela stated South Africa would be "failing" its children if the government housed awaiting trial juveniles in prison, when convicted juveniles were held in prison anyway.

He suggested the solution to the problem lay not in returning children to prison, but in providing new, secure care facilities ("high-security alternatives to prison") as a new category of institution alongside places of safety.

The state's case against generals

AR4 1/12/95

DURBAN. — Former defence minister Magnus Malan and other officers were linked to secret plans for operations against backers of the African National Congress and its allies in the 1980s, prosecutors said today.

The allegations were detailed in an indictment put to General Malan and 19 others, among them former key officers, in the heavily guarded regional court here.

They are to be tried for an attack on the home of ANC supporters at Kwa-lakhutha in KwaZulu-Natal on January 21 1987, in which 13 people were killed, most of them women and children.

General Malan warned the government on Tuesday that it risked political and financial turmoil by putting him on trial for murder.

The 20, who have not been charged and have not been asked to plead, are to stand trial in the Supreme Court here on March 4 next year. They are all on bail.

Political leaders are largely split on trial lines over the trial, which will begin soon after the first formal sittings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

General Malan, who has proclaimed innocence, has said he will be prepared to give evidence to the commission but wants the case to proceed through the courts and does not plan to apply for amnesty.

The State alleges in the indictment six of the accused KwaZulu home-



PROTEST: PAC demonstrators stand outside the magistrate's court in Durban today during the appearance of Magnus Malan and 19 others.

News/5

Nov 9/12/95

'Resign or curb teen criminals'

(298)

Pietermaritzburg - The National Party yesterday said Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela should resign from the Cabinet unless he intervened to solve the crisis surrounding juvenile criminals.

The NP's attack followed the release of three juvenile gangsters suspected of murdering a 19-year-old pizza deliveryman on Monday night.

Douglas Comrie, a Debonair's Pizza employee, was stabbed to death, allegedly by the three gang members, after offering the suspects a lift.

The suspects were released into the custody of their guardians on Tuesday. This prompted angry reaction from residents. In a statement yesterday, NP justice spokesman and Kwa-Zulu Natal leader Danie Schutte said Mzimela should personally intervene to stop the release of dangerous juvenile criminals, thereby committing himself to solving crime.

"It does not help to amend the bail laws if criminals cannot be detained because of a lack of facilities (of secure safety)," Schutte said.

"Mr Mzimela must either do something or resign."

■ Meanwhile in Durban, 39 inmates awaiting trial at Westville prison launched a damages claim of R900 000 this week for injuries they allege were sustained in a fight that broke out with warders in August.

The prisoners' claims range from R12 000 to R100 000 and were forwarded to Mzimela after all medical reports were eventually compiled and assessed.

The warders accused of the assault are still carrying out their regular duties. - Sapa

Act against juvenile crime or resign, NP tells minister

ARC 9/12/95
MARITZBURG. — The National Party said Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela should resign from the Cabinet unless he intervened to solve the crisis surrounding juvenile criminals.

The NP's attack followed the release of three juvenile gangsters suspected of murdering a 19-year-old Maritzburg pizza deliveryman on Monday night.

Douglas Comrie, a Debonair's Pizza employee, was stabbed to death, allegedly by the three teenage gang-members, after offering the suspects

(298) a lift.

The suspects were released into the custody of their guardians on Tuesday because there was no adequate place of safety in Maritzburg. This prompted angry reaction from residents.

NP justice spokesman and Kwa-Zulu-Natal leader Danie Schutte said Mr Mzimela should personally intervene to stop the release of dangerous juvenile criminals, thereby committing himself to solving crime.

"Mr Mzimela must either do something or resign," Mr Schutte said. — Sapa.

'Youngsters and women need legal protection against abuse'

Star 12/12/95 (298) (23)

By LARA SMITH

The establishment of a separate system for juvenile criminals is just one of the changes to the South African legal system under consideration, Justice Minister Dullah Omar has announced.

"The abuse of women and children in our country is a matter for serious concern and the law is, at present, being reviewed to see what steps can be taken to protect women and children against abuse," he said at the launch of the 1996 Unicef report on The State of the World's Children in Johannesburg yesterday.

Omar said children's cases

should as far as possible be diverted from the formal justice system, and communities should be given the resources and support to rehabilitate juveniles and reincorporate them into the community.

Other areas of the justice system that needed examination included the procedures of children's court inquiries; an investigation into legal representation of children in such inquiries; sentencing of sexual abuse offenders, including children who abused other children, the protection and rehabilitation of children from the use of and trafficking in drugs; the question of recovering child maintenance

and problems relating to refugee children and the children of illegal aliens.

Task groups had been set up to examine these and other aspects relating to the rights of children within the South African legal system, he said.

At present, women and children were afforded some protection by the Prevention of Family Violence Act, but the justice department also wanted protection for women and children outside the narrow confines of the marriage relationship.

Omar said many South African children had been exposed to a legacy of violence.

Separate justice for juveniles?

(298) ~~298~~ ARG 12/12/95
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The establishment of a separate justice system for juvenile criminals is just one of the changes to the South African legal system under consideration, Justice Minister Dullah Omar has announced.

"The abuse of women and children in our country is a matter for serious concern and the law is, at present, being reviewed to see what steps can be taken to protect women and children against abuse," he said at the launch of the 1996 Unicef report called *The State of the World's Children* in Johannesburg yesterday.

Mr Omar said children should, as far as possible, be diverted from the formal justice system, and communities should be given the resources and support to rehabilitate these juveniles and reincorporate them into the community.

Other areas of the justice system that needed looking into included the procedures of children's court inquiries; an investigation into legal representation of children in such inquiries; sentencing of sexual abuse offenders, including children who abused other children; the protection and rehabilitation of children from the use of and trafficking in drugs; the question of recovering child maintenance and problems relating to refugee children and the children of illegal aliens.

Task groups had been set up to examine these and other aspects relating to the rights of children within the South African legal system, he said.

At present, women and children were afforded some protection by the Prevention of Family Violence Act, but the justice department was looking at extending its ambit in a way that would further protect them from the narrow confines of the marriage relationship.

Care-worker diplomas may be 'worthless'

□ Watch-dog body to set standards

Staff Reporter

PROTEA Technical College divisional head Christa Hans has sounded a warning against expensive training sessions for lay care-workers that leave people with nothing but worthless diplomas.

Ms Hans was speaking at a Provincial Department of Labour workshop, where it was decided that a new Western Cape watch-dog body would be founded to address problems associated with lay care-workers.

Ms Hans said people had paid up to R3 000 for 3-month training sessions that left them with "worthless" diplomas.

"They call themselves private institutions and give very bad training. These malpractices need to be addressed," Ms Hans said at the workshop, which was attended by role-players in the field of lay care-work.

The new body would supervise diplomas and provide protection against fraudsters who offered care training without having the proper education themselves.

Ms Hans said the lack of registration and supervision in health-care training made it easy for fraudsters to conduct their business.

Hjalmar Enderstein, chief training adviser at the Department of Labour, said: "There is a big gap. Nobody is supervising training standards for lay care-workers, whereas other industries do have their own training boards. The Western Cape urgently needs its own watch-dog body."

St John's Ambulance, Protea Technical College and the Provincial Department of Labour have, together with a wide range of related organisations, said they recognise the urgent need to co-ordinate their training activities in the fields of:

- Care of the aged;
- Child care and youth development;
- Care of the handicapped; and
- Care of the sick at home.

The new training board — its official name is not yet known — will accredit training institutes and set standards.

Mr Enderstein said: "Trainers should come to us to get their courses accredited with the board and in return we would put a stamp of approval on their diplomas. In this way we can regulate the proliferation of diplomas."

Another advantage was that a certificate recognised by the board would make it easier for the holder to get the diploma recognised nationally and internationally.

Ms Hans said: "At present, a diploma might not be worth anything to another employer and employees have to start from scratch. We need to ensure the portability of qualification."

The new board would also have the task to remove barriers between different care professions.

"If lay care-workers want to change from child care to elderly care in the present system, they have to complete full training without any regard to the knowledge and experience they gathered in their child-care work."

"The legacy of the past is a very fragmented training situation. We need to assess what people already know and give them the credit for it."

The new lay-care body is part of the National Qualifications Framework, which was created as a key element of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

The framework aims to:

- Enable successful learners to progress to higher levels without restrictions;
- Assure training quality by registered accrediting bodies; and
- Assess and credit on-site experience.

Education Foundation statistics showed the necessity of improving training. About 44 percent of the adults in the Western Cape were functionally illiterate.

World urged to protect children as 'untouchable'

(298) ET 12/12/95

JOHANNESBURG: Children's rights campaigner Ms Graca Machel called on governments across the globe yesterday to protect children as "untouchable" even in wars.

Ms Machel, widow of Mozambican president Samora Machel, was launching the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) Anti-War Agenda for 1996 in South Africa.

"We also must develop the legal structures that will ... provide for the absolutely essential and unnegotiable protection of our children," she said.

The Unicef 1996 report, issued around the world yesterday, calls for a ban on the pro-

duction, sale and use of landmines, and for zones to be set up to protect children from harm in the midst of a conflict.

Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar said South Africa was grappling with the reality of children who were once abused and victimised but who now victimised others.

Proposing that juvenile justice should be administered outside the courts, Mr Omar said the responsibility for youths' rehabilitation should rest with the community.

Communities should be given the resources and support needed to rehabilitate juveniles.

—Reuter

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 12 5

ET 12/12/95

Juvenile detention (298) ~~(298)~~ row in spotlight

ANEEZ SALIE

THE controversy over the detention of juvenile criminal suspects is expected to come to a head tomorrow when a major press conference is held at the justice ministry in Pretoria.

Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar, Deputy Minister of Welfare Ms Geraldine Moleketi-Fraser and senior prisons officials, along with ANC MP Mr Carl Niehaus, head of the parliamentary portfolio committee on correctional services, will attend.

Reversal

Mr Niehaus has prepared a private member's motion that will effectively reverse the scrapping of the detention in prisons of awaiting-trial juvenile suspects.

Such children were transferred from prisons around the country to existing places of safety.

However, these proved unsuitable in many cases to contain violent youths, a number of whom escaped only to be rearrested for further serious crimes such as murder, rape, serious assault, car-hijackings and armed robbery.

Correctional Services Minister Dr Sipo Mzimela has been opposed to sending children back to prison, no matter how serious the offence, which gave rise to Mr Niehaus' motion.

CONCERN FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

Kids may be jailed again

(298) ex 14/12/95
THE PRINCIPLE that children should not be held in prisons or police cells stands, but public safety must also be taken into account, says Mr Carl Niehaus. **ANEEZ SALIE** reports.

CHILDREN accused of serious crimes could again be detained in prisons or police cells if a private member's bill is passed by Parliament.

At a press conference in Pretoria yesterday the chairman of the ANC's correctional services study group, Mr Carl Niehaus, released details of the bill he will introduce when Parliament re-opens.

And Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar has announced an urgent investigation by the Law Commission into a new juvenile justice system, a more effective sentencing policy and protection for victims and witnesses. The investigation is part of the national crime prevention strategy.

Mr Niehaus said: "While the principle that children accused of offences should not be detained in prisons or police cells remains the goal of a society based on human rights, considerations of public safety have forced us to propose extraordinary interim measures for the protection of the public."

Earlier this year scores of awaiting trial children were released to comply with government policy and international conventions.

They were sent to places of safety, from where a number escaped to commit further serious crimes.

Mr Niehaus' bill seeks to amend section 29 of the Correctional Services Act of 1959.

It proposes that young people



NEW BILL: Mr Carl Niehaus

accused of serious crimes may again be detained in a prison, police cell or lock-up, subject to three conditions:

- The offence is a serious one within a category to be determined by the Minister of Justice.

- The presiding officer is convinced that the detention is necessary in the interests of the administration of justice.

- There is no suitable place of safety available.

The detention orders would also have to be reviewed weekly by the court.

Mr Niehaus proposes that the measure expire after one year to prevent it becoming a permanent feature of the justice system.

He said: "It is clear the public cannot be protected where potentially dangerous young persons are able to escape from places of safety or to threaten other inmates and those responsible for their care."

Correctional Services Minister Dr Sipo Mzimela is opposed to any amendment, which is why Mr Niehaus, who also chairs the relevant parliamentary portfolio committee, is piloting the bill.

Inaction on abuse slammed

□ No funds: Safeline, Peninsula's only 24-hour child helping must close
(298) ARG 14/12/95

Staff Reporter

THE Departments of Justice and Health have been lambasted by a "gravely disturbed" Cape Attorney-General's Rape Forum for a "serious lack of commitment" to addressing the burgeoning problems of rape and child abuse.

And in another setback for abused children, Safeline, the anti-child abuse centre on the Cape Flats which runs the Peninsula's only specialist 24-hour telephone service for children in distress, announced today it would have to shut down the service due to lack of funds.

Cape Town was the nation's child rape capital last year, with about 21 percent of the nation's reported child rape cases taking place here. The trend has shown no sign of abating this year.

The Rape Forum was established three years ago as a partnership of government, non-governmental and community-based organisations.

In an angry statement, the

forum outlined its reasons for claiming the government's talk about prioritising the fight against crime affecting women and children, appeared to be so much hot air.

● The Wynberg sexual offences court, G Court, is still being run as a "pilot project", three years after making history as the first specialised rape court in the country. The court is so stretched, some cases are only heard two years after the alleged offence.

● There is still no Xhosa-speaking social worker at G Court in spite of the "constant flow" of Xhosa-speaking complainants.

● There are still no full-time district surgeons in Guguletu, Mitchell's Plain or Khayelitsha. Khayelitsha victims of sexual crime were regularly made to drive 60 kilometres in the back of a police van to a district surgeon in Wynberg — if a police van was available.

● The regional government

planned to slash the budget for children's services and welfare over the next five years.

● Child abuse had not been identified as a national policing priority in terms of the Community Safety Plan.

Meanwhile, the total national incidence of child abuse outnumbered murder by 4 500 incidents last year.

In the last three months, 101 rapes were reported in Khayelitsha and 58 in Guguletu.

In Mitchell's Plain, where 110 cases were reported in the corresponding period, the day hospital treats an average of eight rape, five sodomy, six incest and 20 violent physical abuse of minors by adults cases daily.

In addition there were 20 or so teenage suicide attempts each week which were "directly related to sexual offences".

The forum accused government of displaying a "serious lack of

commitment" to women and child victims of crime, although South Africa had ratified United Nations and other international conventions on the rights of women and children.

"Requests to government on key issues are met with disheartening apathy. Women's and children's rights are human rights."

There were 24 000 rapes and attempted rapes reported nationally in 1992, 27 000 in 1993, 32 000 in 1994.

"We are seeking urgent meetings with the relevant ministers," the forum said.

Safeline director Lorenzo Davids said his organisation was in serious financial difficulty and it looked as if the 24-hour toll-free line would have to close.

"It's not just operating the telephone line, it's also about being able to provide the necessary back-up service, speedily, at all hours of the day and night," he said.

"A lot of crises happen in the evening and early hours of morning. That's when children are most in need."

"We have eight social workers but the state only pays for three of them."

According to the latest figures at Mr Davids' disposal, Safeline dealt with 181 new cases in September and October.

"That's up by about 20 percent," he said.

"At the end of the day the State must take a key part of responsibility, yet, instead, we are seeing cut-backs... there has to be some kind of emergency service for children."

● Regional Health Minister Ebrahim Rasool is presently investigating proposals regarding setting up a new system of community medical officers to replace part-time district surgeons. The system is due to be phased in over two years, a move agreed to by district surgeons.

ST 17/12/95 (298)

Minister takes up dads' rights

By NICOLA KOZ

NEW legislation is about to be tabled to allow unmarried fathers to challenge mothers for the custody of their children.

This was revealed in a letter that the Ministry of Justice wrote to Lawrie Fraser, a man involved in a legal battle to prevent his unborn child being given up for adoption. The letter says a draft Bill on fathers' rights would be presented to cabinet and Parliament during the forthcoming parliamentary session.

The Bill is based on recommendations by the South African Law Commission.

The letter, signed by the head of the department's ministerial services, J N Labuschagne, also said the Minister of Justice, Dullah Omar, had "much sympathy for fathers with illegitimate children".

Mr Fraser, 28, failed to secure an urgent interdict in the Rand Supreme Court last week to stop his pregnant former lover, Adrianna Naude, 26, from giving away their son at birth later this month. In a similar case, Armin Killat, the father of a child due to be born next week, is contesting the mother's plans to have the baby adopted.

Both men plan to petition the Constitutional Court next year.

The letter from the Ministry of Justice, which Mr Fraser received yesterday, said that little could be done to help him under current laws, but that the minister believed he should "at least be afforded the opportunity to be heard by the relevant commissioner". Mr Fraser's legal representative, Peter Soller, welcomed the letter and the plans to reform the law.

● Bringing up father: Page 23

FEATURE NEWS

New fund to help the youth

(298) Sowetan 18/12/95

By Joe Mdhlela
Political Reporter

IN keeping with the saying that the future belongs to the youth, Mpumalanga MEC for youth affairs Mr Steve Mbuyise is going to ensure that the youth in his province roll up their sleeves and get involved in reshaping it.

"That is the only way we will get things done. After all, the youth constitute slightly more than half of the country's population," he said.

In some ways, Mbuyise is the province's trump card, all geared up to help revitalise the province's economy.

Economic programmes

In his plan, he has put in place programmes to address the socio-economic problems facing the province. These include measures to address illiteracy, unemployment and drug abuse and to help with health awareness, education, training and economic development.

To achieve all these aims, he believes that a youth fund must be established.

"In principle, the cabinet has agreed to the establishment of a fund, which will be funded by private companies," he said.

The institutions to be mobilised to start the fund include Absa Bank, Sasol, First National Bank, Nedbank, Highveld Steel, Columbus, Eskom and Gencor.

"We are hoping to launch the fund in February," he said.

Mbuyise added that a board of trustees will be established to manage the fund and will include representatives from the youth, business and community leaders.

Mpumalanga premier Mr Mathews Phosa is expected to serve on the board as well.

The Youth Affairs Ministry will also help to reintegrate "streetchildren" into society.

The province is active in other areas too. Its Department of Local Government will manage the transformation of third-tier government, said local government MEC Mr January Masilela.

Some of the tasks allocated to the ministry include the training of newly elected councillors. From its own ministry, a budget of R960 000 has been allocated to take care of the training. To supplement this, the province is expected to receive at least R5 million from external resources.

"About 80 percent of the newly elected councillors have not had training of any sort, as most of them have been activists," Masilela said.

"We need to provide them with top-class training to equip them for the task ahead."

The province is also faced with the task of

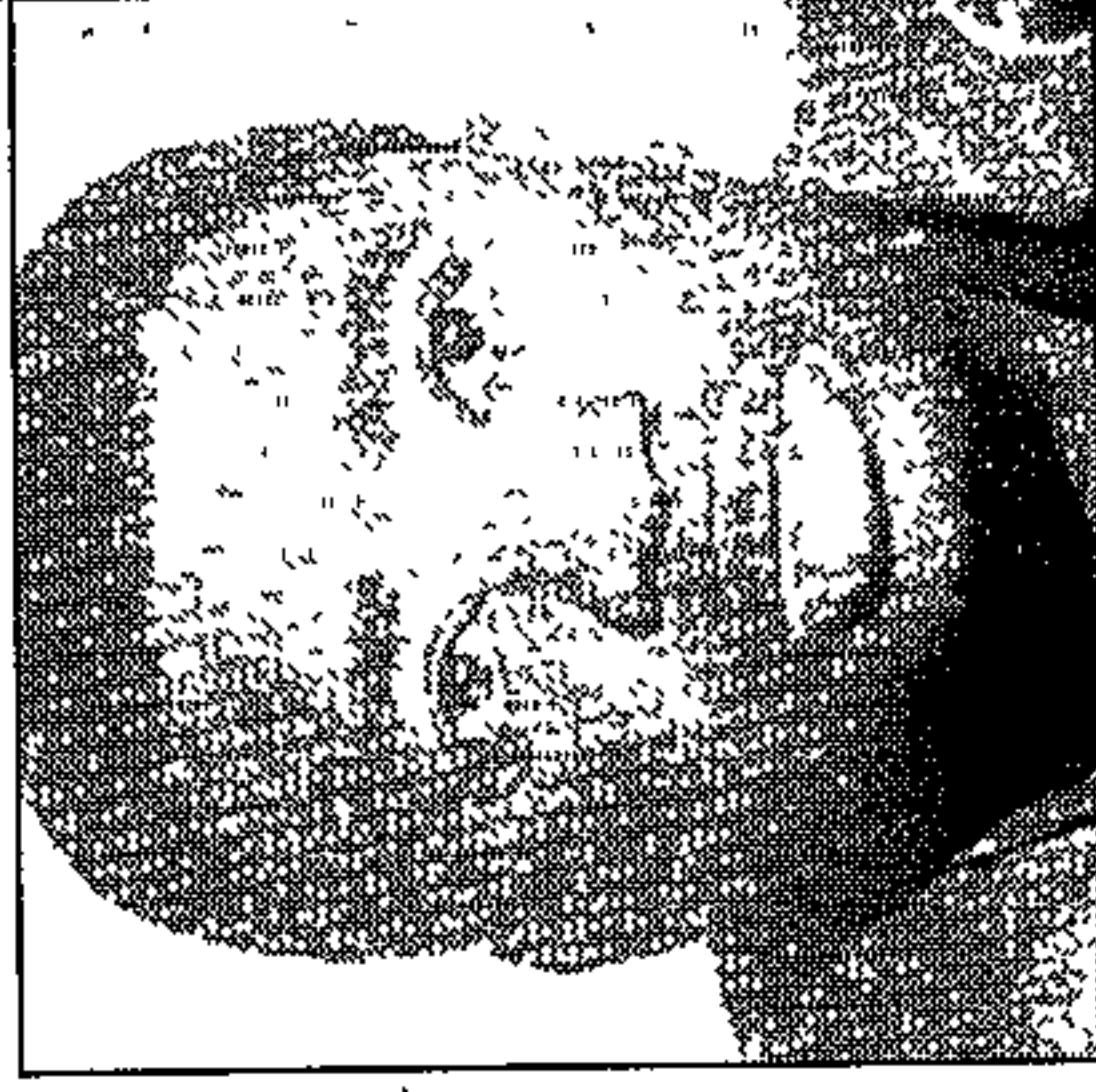
inculcating a new culture of payment for municipal services.

"We must understand that we can no longer justify the boycott for services we consume in our areas," said Masilela.

"We now own the instruments of government and we need to service them."

The Department of Local Government is able to raise at least 56 percent of its budget from rates and tariffs.

"The shortfall will have to be met by the annual inter-governmental grants of about R45 million," said Masilela.



Youth Affairs MEC Steve Mbuyise ... he wants the youth to play a role in reshaping the province.

R4-m for child survival drive in KwaZulu Natal

(298) ~~(298)~~ ~~(298)~~
BY MATTHEW BUCKLAND

Star 19/12/95
More than R4-million is to be pumped into a project to improve health services and educate the underprivileged communities of the impoverished Bergville district of KwaZulu Natal over the next four years.

The project, which is a result of a joint initiative by World Vision, a Christian development and relief organisation, and USAid, an American agency for international development, is expected to be implemented around March.

Project manager Monika Holst said the project, dubbed the Child Survival Programme, aimed primarily at improving infant mortality and morbidity rates in the region through a widespread education campaign that specifically targets mothers and children.

The project, which will affect about 3 000 children and their families, will involve sending community "health promoters" and "motivators" into rural villages and schools with "clear and simple health messages".

"We will be bringing in outside consultants and setting up health centres where communities want them. Health information systems will also be set up to capture information from the community and feed it back to the community to be used," she said.

Working closely with the KwaZulu Natal department of health, the project also aimed to train government health staff and provide technical support for existing government activities in order to sustain the project in the future.

"In the old administrations there were people working separately for the national, Natal provincial, KwaZulu homeland, municipal and private health services. We hope to bring these all together under one health system. We see this project as a catalyst to establishing a pilot district health system like they have in England. It is the new way that national health policy is going," Holst said.

Gauteng centre caters for teenagers' needs

Kathryn Strachan

NOW that they are on holiday, teenagers from Gauteng's townships are streaming into a clinic in Johannesburg's Carlton Centre. Unlike other clinics, this "youth centre" caters specially for the needs of teenagers, and is an experiment of the Planned Parenthood Association's AIDS prevention strategy in Gauteng.

The centre is all about promoting the prevention of sexually transmitted disease (STD) through the use of condoms, educating youth about STDs and counselling. It diagnoses and treats STDs and distributes condoms and other contraceptives.

Here the teenagers can rest assured they will not run into "reproachful aunts" and they will be treated by nurses who are sensitive to their needs and who can relate to them, says the association's Gauteng director Jusa Ngcobo-Mbere. A common complaint in clinics is about nurses' negative attitude, especially toward younger people with STDs, and lack of confidentiality.

The centre is also open until 6pm and on Saturday to allow schoolchildren to get

there, but they are always busier at school holidays. The clinic has been running for two years as a pilot project, and the association is now lobbying government to take it over and provide similar youth centres across the country.

The clinic is the nucleus of the association's AIDS prevention strategy. From this base the association reaches out to township schools.

More than 200 schools from Soweto and Pretoria townships have each sent a teacher on the association's life skills and sex education programme, which lasts five days.

"Teachers are faced with questions on sexuality every day, and they have to deal with children who have been sexually abused — now they know how to approach them," she said.

The course covers anatomy, communication, life skills and self-esteem — and the message of HIV/AIDS underlies all lessons.

"The children also respond well because they have a better understanding of themselves," she said.

The project runs workshops for youth organisations and hopes to work with parents

in the future.

The programme has been endorsed by the health department, but it has not yet got the backing of the education department. Once this is forthcoming it is hoped the programme will gain momentum.

The association's AIDS strategy is also making inroads into places where there are no health services — such as Orange Farm squatter camp. A group of people from the squatter community are selected and trained to give information on reproductive health. Under the supervision of a nurse, they go from shack to shack giving out condoms and contraceptive pills, and pamphlets with information on sexual health.

The association has ambitious plans for next year, embarking on a project to get men involved in family planning decisions and in use of contraceptives.

The project will begin with research to find out the extent to which condoms are used, attitudes to condoms, and how involved men currently are in deciding how many children to have.

Once it has established the extent of the problem, the project is to plan its strategy.

Draft Bill on fathers' access

Deborah Fine

298

BD 20/12/95

A DRAFT Bill regulating the access, custody and guardianship of illegitimate children by their biological fathers is expected to be placed before Cabinet and Parliament during the forthcoming parliamentary session.

This was confirmed in correspondence between the justice ministry and Gauteng fathers Lawrie Fraser and Armin Killat, both of whom recently applied unsuccessfully in the Rand and Pretoria Supreme Courts to prevent their former lovers from handing over their illegitimate children for adoption.

According to present common law principles and provisions of the Child Care Act, neither Fraser nor Killat have any access, custody or guardianship rights to their illegitimate children. The men appealed to the justice ministry to intervene for them.

According to the draft Bill, courts may grant fathers access to, custody and guardianship of their illegitimate children if the courts are satisfied that this is in the child's best interests

Important ruling on illegitimate children

(298)

Star 21/12/95

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban - A landmark court ruling could change the fate of fathers who want custody of their illegitimate children.

On November 27 Mr Justice Andrew Wilson granted a custody order to Nico Coetzee of Pongola to retain custody of his son after the child's mother consented to the custody order.

Coetzee's lawyer, John Murray, of Mooney, Ford and Partners, said the child had been living with Coetzee for the past three years and the judgment was a landmark decision for parents of illegitimate children.

In his judgment Mr Justice Wilson said it was "unusual in our law for such an order to be granted". "In the present case it appears to me that there are special circumstances ... that the father is in a position to provide undoubtedly better accommodation and educational facilities than is the mother of the child ...

"I think it also constitutes a special circumstance that the defendant, in person, indicated her willingness to waive her right to custody of

her child in the best interests of the child," Mr Justice Wilson said.

That particular case ended happily for all concerned, but a similar case in Johannesburg has been referred to the Constitutional Court for a ruling.

In the Johannesburg case, musician Adrianna Naude has agreed that her unborn child could be adopted while the father, Lawrie Fraser, has argued that he should be given custody of the illegitimate child.

According to the present law, Fraser has no say over the child's adoption and does not even have the right to be informed of the adoption or who the new parents of the child will be.

Meanwhile there is legislation pending before the national Parliament which seeks to change the status of unmarried fathers.

However, the bill has not yet seen the light of day. At the moment the law does not favour the fathers of illegitimate children and while they are obliged to pay for the support of children born out of wedlock, they have virtually no rights in relation to the children.

Shock child abuse in city

CT(BR) 21/12/95

(298)

JACKIE CAMERON
CRIME REPORTER

SHOCK statistics revealing the extent of child abuse in Cape Town were released by police yesterday.

More than 1 000 children have reported that they had been sexually and physically abused so far this year.

Police believe this is an indication of a growing confidence in the judicial system.

According to police statistics released to the Cape Times yesterday, the specialist Peninsula child protection unit received more than 1 338 reports of child abuse between January and November this year.

Last year about 1 050 cases were reported to the unit, which only investigates cases involving children aged 15 and younger.

The unit's head, Superintendent Johan Meyer said it was difficult to compare this year's figures to last year's because up until September 1994, the unit only investigated cases involving children aged 12 and younger.

It is also impossible to gauge the extent of the scourge: Like adult rape victims, children who have been violated often keep these crimes a secret.

Some children are intimidated by their attackers while others mistakenly feel they have somehow encouraged the abuse.

Supt Meyer said: "More cases have been reported this year because people have more confidence in the justice system. More people are willing to testify."

"There have also been many awareness programmes on the radio and television and at schools. More and more children, it seems, are speaking out to adults about these crimes."

About 80% of the victims were girls.

Child abuse has always been a difficult crime to prove.

Block out details

"There is often little evidence. We find ourselves with a situation where it is the child's word against an adult's. Some children find it difficult to explain what happened, or try to block the details out of their minds," a detective said yesterday.

Anyone who wishes to contact the unit after-hours can contact them at 0836252478 (southern Peninsula) or 0832556323 (northern Peninsula) or at (021) 592-2603 (office hours).

● See Page 3

Safeline's aid services threatened

Cash needed for abused women, children

DAVID BREIER
Staff Reporter

ABUSED children in Cape Town face yet another blow this Christmas as a key aid organisation may be forced to stop some of its vital services due to a cash crisis.

Safeline, which provides help for abused women and children, is on the point of cutting its 24-hour service due to lack of funds.

Hundreds of abused children and battered women need something much more than gifts over Christmas. They need urgent protection from violence. But the cash crisis means their help will soon dry up, the organisation has warned.

The Safeline organisation has provided a lifeline for thousands of abused children and battered women in Cape Town for seven years.

The crisis has hit Safeline at a time when calls for help from terrified women and children are growing. In the past two months new cases have soared to about 120 a month compared to about 70 a month previously.

The police child-protection unit, with which Safeline liaises closely, has dealt with 1 338 reports of child abuse between January and November this year.

Safeline, with headquarters in Athlone, provides a vital service including safe-houses, food, clothing and medication for women and children in crisis situations.

It runs on an annual budget

■ As more and more children and women become victims of sexual and physical abuse, a vital Cape Town service may have to close down some of its functions due to lack of funds.

of R550 000 from the State and from private and company donations. But its projected income for the current year is only about R250 000, Safeline's director, Lorenzo Davids, said.

Some of Safeline's key programmes would come to a "dead standstill" unless it received an injection of funds urgently, Mr Davids told Saturday Argus.

It cost a lot of money to pay social work counsellors and volunteers to work overtime, and the 24-hour service might have to be cut at night when crisis situations often develop, warned Mr Davids.

Safeline, founded in 1988 to rescue abused women and children and provide them with a safe place, counselling and therapy, also helped victims of abuse lay charges against offenders, with the police child protection unit, said Mr Davids.

"The phenomenon of child abuse is rampant in our society. A lot of people now have the courage to report cases, but there is also a real increase in child abuse," he added.

Safeline dealt with cases of sexual, physical and emotional abuse of children and women, he said.

It ran safe-houses for abuse victims who were taken to private homes of association members trained to care for them. But, Safeline had to pay for food and clothing and often medical costs — the aver-

age cost being between R30 and R50 a day for each victim.

One programme directly under threat by the cash crisis was the training programme run by a team of eight social workers, three of whom are subsidised by the State.

This vital programme — also used to convey the message to the community about the need to combat abuse — was taken to schools, hospitals, community organisations and churches.

The 24-hour crisis service, also incurred costs in transport for social workers when they had to race out to help a victim of abuse, at 2am if necessary.

Therapy and rehabilitation of victims also cost a lot — many needed medical attention for a long time — paid for by Safeline. "We carry the cost of treatment. Not one victim pays for services," Mr Davids said.

Safeline's building in Athlone also needed maintenance, another drain on resources. Its toll-free number for emergency calls also cost plenty.

Anyone who can help Safeline can contact Mr Davids at 633 1135 or fax 633 4900.

More urgently, abused children and women needing help this Christmas can call the toll-free number 0800 035 553. Or they can phone the office number, 638 1155, or the paging service, 23 3333 and ask for a social worker.

(298)
ARC 23/12/95

Violence killing our kids — hospital chief

ST(m) 31/12/95

BY CHARL DE VILLIERS

SOUTH African children are being swept up in an epidemic of violent injury that is killing more youngsters than any other cause — but which is largely preventable.

This is the blunt message from Red Cross Children's Hospital trauma chief David Bass, whose unit is the only of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa and which treats up to 15 000 young patients a year.

While motor vehicle accidents involving young pedestrians and passengers account for most of the 3 000 to 4 000 deaths a year, gunshot injuries and sexual abuse are an increasingly alarming trend, says Dr Bass.

"Not a day goes by that we don't have at least one child in our beds because of assault or intentional injury. Children are not becoming more violent — but more kids are becoming victims," he says.

Red Cross trauma unit staff have treated at least 12 patients with gunshot wounds this year, many of them caught in the cross-fire between warring street gangs.

"This is something we never used to see before. There are a hell of a lot of guns around and children are now as much at risk as adults. Gunshot-related mortality and disability rates are high," he adds.

At least half of the abuse cases treated at the hospital took place within the family, and usually involved the victim's father or mother's boyfriend.

"The rest involves strangers, and is usually rape. These types of non-accidental injuries account for about 10

percent of hospitalised patients," says Dr Bass.

While organisations such as the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa were doing stirring work in using education to prevent children's trauma, injuries to youngsters had to be taken up as a national issue by the government, he says.

"Trauma is an epidemic in this country, and a huge killer of children. Education can be effective because it makes people aware that injuries are not something to be dealt with fatalistically — they are preventable," he says.

Trauma has become an overwhelming problem for cash-strapped state hospitals, which have experienced a 400 percent increase in patients with gunshot injuries in the past two years, says Red Cross medical superintendent Dr Rod Marshall.

"Our resources cannot cope any more and some weekends the situation is acute. This is an appalling reflection on society," says Dr Marshall.

Red Cross at times did not have the staff to deal with multiple trauma cases and ambulances sometimes had to be re-routed elsewhere because of the patient load.

"As a hospital manager, I find it distressing that I can't provide more staff. But that's not the solution — we have to address the violence," he says.

The Red Cross out-patients department saw up to 1 000 patients daily — for 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. The hospital has 353 beds, of which 10 are devoted to trauma cases.



IT HURTS . . . One of the many youngsters who are treated by the Red Cross hospital's trauma unit
Picture: JUSTIN SHOLK