SOCIAL SECURITY-CHILD CARE 1996

August $=D E C$

# Cotlands cares for Aids babies 

Staff at the sanctuary for ill and abused children believe that 'babies are babies
and there is no difference whether they have Aids or not ${ }^{\prime}$
and there is no defence when..........................
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## By Priscilla Singh

TThe Cotlands baby sanctuary, home of South Africa's tryst official Aids baby hospice, is celebrating 60 years of common-ty service this year

The sanctuary, situated in Turffontem in southern Johannesburg provides a haven for abused and abandoned children, as well as care for babies infected with HIV and Ards

A satellite home, "Ikusasa House", was established in Yeoville in January last year and acts as a halfway house tor chicdren waiting to be fostered or adopted. It accommodates eight children.

The biggest project for Cotlands staff is the specialised Aids care unit which has facilities to care tor 20 babies at a time But about R100 000 is needed to keep this essential service running

Judy Sexwale, wife of Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale, and tolevision and radio personality Eon de Dos are the home's patrons

One of the fundraising strategies has been the issuing of 5000 invitations "not to attend the Cotlands phantom ball to be held at 25 h 00 on Sunday 32 September 1996 at a make-beleve venue, Cloud Nine". The gimmick obiously worked, sard Amanda Gunnugham, who helped devise it , as RF 000 was raised within a week of posting the invitations.

Nurse Theodora Henry is


Looking after the babes ... Nurse Theodora Henry cradles baby Shamice Knight who is only four months old. Knight was born with AIDS and was handed over to the Cotlands AIDS baby hospice unit a month ago.
based at the Aids unit and spends her days looking after afflicted babis.

Her latest patient is four-month-old Shamice Knight, who came to Cotlands a month ago.
"To me babies are babies. There is no difference whether they have Aids or not. They are
just wonderful to hold and care for," she sard

Little Tsepo (3), also stricken with Aids and abandoned at birth, spent all his life in hospital and was transferred from the HF Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria to Cotlands in March with the dagnosis that he had only a week to
live.
Four months later he is still fighting to live, chiefly because of the love and care of the Cotlands staff

Anyone interested in contributing towards the Cotlands Aids uni can contact the sanctuarg on (011) 683-7200


On the first day of the week-long public hearing into the stampede at Tembisa station where 16 people were killed, Cornelius Maponya, right, tells how he was almost crushed under a mass of people.

## Witness asks for protection

Nomavenda Mathians \& BD6/8196
A WITNESS at the commission of inquiry into last week's Tembisa railway station disaster yesterday asked for police protection following threats by strangers objecting to his saving commuters who had fallen onto the railway line.

Patrick Manele yesterday told the commission sitting at the Kempton Park Civic Centre that last Wednesday morning he had accompanied his girlfriend to the station and was abused by security guards even before he could buy her a ticket

He said the security guards said they were going to fix the Tembisa "dogs who were troublesome and did not want to buy train tickets". After buying the ticket, he found himself trapped between the guards at the bottom of the stairs and the hundreds of commuters who were pushing their way down onto the platform.

As the train approached, pandemonium erupted between commuters and security guards who had started using electric prods.

Some commuters had fallen onto the rallway line. Manele had jumped onto the line and carried them out of harm's way, he sand
Another witness, Cornelius Maponya, said security guards had told him they did not want anybody at the top of the stairs and instructed him and other commuters to move to the train platform. But he could not move because of the crowds waiting to be allowed through. When the guards opened the gates, there was a stampede, he said.

Another commuter, Caiphus Maroreng, said he did not understand why he was electrocuted as he had a ticket. Witnesses sard only two of the four windows where tickets were sold were open.

Thè hearing continues today

# Mandela's fund earns R20,5m for children 

 298) BD 618196 (R150 000) for five years.During the past financial year, ending March 31, $56 \%$ of total funds received were from overseas, including two donations by individuals Denzel Washington and Teddy Forstman of $\$ 1 \mathrm{~m}$ each.

Large local pledges include those of R150 000 or more by members of the President's Club such as the Donald Gordon foundation, the SG Menell Trust, Anglo American, Rembrandt, Sanlam, Standard Bank, Sun International, Iscor, M-Net, Transnet, United Tobacco and others.

Smaller donations were a R1 a month pledge by a pensioner and R2 400 raised by three children who sold Labrador puppies.

To date, the fund had made grants totalling R3,4m towards the homeless, education, the disabled, young offenders, disaster relief and places of recreation.

It had to distribute or use at least $75 \%$ of its net income for the current year within the next 12 months, while $25 \%$ may be transferred to distributable reserves, CE trustee Jeremy Ractiffe said.

# Govt may hold bogus degreeinquiry 

## Farouk Chothia

DURBAN - The University of Zululand would welcome a govern-ment-appointed commission of inquiry into the scandal over bogus degrees being sold at the institution, university rector Prof Charles Dlamini said yesterday.

This was despite the fact that the university had appointed independent auditors to assist in an
internal investigation
Students had expressed fears last week that the internal inquiry would be a cover-up, and had called on Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu to intervene.

Education department deputy director-general Ihron van Rensburg will visit the university today to try to reach agreement on a mutually acceptable way to invegtigate the scandal. 618996

## Children still ${ }^{\left({ }^{(288)}\right.}$ basic rights - Madiba

ALL sectors of society should assist the Government in improving the lives of children, President Nelson Mandela said yesterday.

Speaking at a luncheon in honour of Lesotho's Queen Mothei Mamohato at his official Pretoria residence, Mandela said children were the country's future and therefore deserved to be nurtured by society with love and care.

Too many children stall lacked basic rights such as shelter, healthy living conditons, education, medical facilities and employment opportunttes, he said

Mandela noted that Queen Mamohato was a patron of numerous organssations in Lesotho working to improve the lives of children, adding he and the Queen Mother shared particular interests and concems.
Lesotho and South Africa could work
together to improve the lives of children because "our nations have shared so much history," he sald

Mandela sald if organisations working in this field in both countries were to coordmate therr efforts and learn from one another, this could benefit the children.

The President also praised the work Queen Mamohato did for the development of women and young girls in Lesotho.
"The denial of equal rights to women in the past and their treatment in so many instances as second-class citizens is both an historical injustice to women and a loss to our societies which have been denied the full benefit of their skills, talents and leadershıp." he said

Leaders should ensure that the constitutional rights accorded to women were translated into reality, he said. - Sapa.


# T FAREWELL GIFTS: Regional land claims commissioner Wallace Mgoqi with some of the traditional gifts he was given by the aboriginals in Canada. <br> Land claims: We'll need a faster process 

## GLYNNISUNDERHILL

Chef Reporter
!.AND Commissioner Wallace Mgoqi anis to ensure that the land clams -ocess in South Africa will not be as iong and protracted" as in Canada.
Mr Mogoqi, back from a two-week -et-finding mission at the invitation of e Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs in Canada, said the purpose of his visit ad been to expose South Afrieans to the situation of Canada's aborıginal people or "First Natıons" as they preferred to be called, and particularly those in the province of Manitoba
One aspect South Africa does not want to repeat is the long drawn-out claims process that has occurred in Canada, he said
"It is important for our land claims process to be over as short a period as possible for the purposes of promoting certainty and stability for the country," said Mr Mgoqi, regıonal land claıms commissioner for the Western and Northern Cape

While the visiting South African delegation was able to look at the land claims process in Canada, it was also showered with gifts reflecting the culture, customs and traditions of the aboriginal people, he said.
The delegation included the chief land claims commıssioner Joe Seremane and members of the African National Congress

The group also attended the annual session of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
"What was striking was the extent to which First Nations hold on to their traditions and customs in spite of years of domination and even attempts at cul-

A South African delegation was overwhelmed with the warmth, generosity and humaneness of the aboriginal or First Nations people in Canada, says regional land claims commissioner Wallace Mgoqi on his return from the fact-finding visit. A lesson we should learn from the Canadians, he said, was not to allow our land claims process to drag on too long.
tural assimilation which failed
"Like African people here, the love traditional songs with the accom panıment of a drum, beating rhythmically.
"They attach a lot of value to the land, calling it Mother Earth, the bear er of resources, such as plants, wate and minerals." he said
The South African delegation also visited a few Indian reserves, said Mr Mgoqı.
"We were informed time and again that in the 1930s South African official went to Canada to study the system of the Indian reserves, for purposes of designing the homeland system back home," sard Mr Mgoq1
In some of these reserves conditions left much to be desired.
For example, at the Mathias Colomb community in Puktawagan they have serious health problems, housing shortage and overcrowding and they are cut off from communication
"It is accessible only by charter flight, as it is surrounded by hundreds of lakes
"In other reserves such as Opaskwayak Cree Nation, conditions are relatively better and there are projects which are community-driven including a huge shopping mall
At the time the delegation visited they opened a new hotel which is also
community-owned," he said
Other reserves had interesting eco nomic development ventures, such as breeding the buffalo, said Mr Mgoqi
"Every reserve we visited had a care centre for the elderly, as First Nation place a high value on their elderly.
"They are regarded as the bearers of knowledge and wisdom and a link with the ancestors
"They undertake regular teaching of community norms and values," he said.
Canada is handling two types of land claims at present, said Mr Mgoqi. The one involves "comprehensive claims" based on traditional native use and occupancy of land, he said.
"They involve a group of bands or native communities within a geo graphic area and are comprehensive in their scope, including for example land, hunting, fishing and trappins rights and other economic and socia benefits," said Mr Mgoqı
The "specific claims" are claims made by First Nations against the Federal Government which relate to the administration of land and other First Nations assets and to the honouring of First Nations treaties with the crown
"First Nations people believe firm ly that the treaties signed with the crown are to last 'for as long as the sun shmes and the rivers flow and the
grass grows green' Hence their relentless pursuit of their land claims 125 years after they were promised a return of their lands," said Mr Mgoqi.

The delegation attended a two-day conference hosted by the Indian Claims Commission and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

The Indian Claıms Commission is a temporary body set up in 1991 It has been carrying out its mandate to inquire into and report on specific land claim disputes between First Nations and the government.

Mr Mgoqi said the delegation learnt much on its trip, including the importance of linking restitution with economic development of communities.
"Restitution of land rights in itself may be bare, if unaccompanied by development projects, in respect of which government and the private sector should play a significant role," he sald.

Whether dispossessions arose from conquest, as in South Africa, or cession through treaties in Canada, what is certain and a common denominator is that there can be no lasting peace, reconciliation, growth and development, without "balancing the scales," he said
This would correct the evils of the past and create a solid foundation to enable South Africa to build a future shared by all, said Mr Mgoqı.
He said he had seen how land claims in Canada could drag on
"Hopefully here we are blessed with a government which is responsible for introducing these measures and will show the political will to see to it that justice is not only done, but also seen to be done," he said.


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# New police units to fight child abuse 

POLICE are planning two new child protection units to stem the alarming increase in child abuse reported in the Western Cape over the past two years.

Plans are underway to set up one unit at - Mitchells Plain and a second one in the - Northern Suburbs.

The Mitchell Plain unit will serve surrounding areas, including Guguletu and the Wynberg district.

The second unit, proposed for the Bellvile area, will also look after suburbs
such as Kraaifontein and Khayelitsha.
Conceding that even this might not be enough to cope with the increase in child abuse, the Western Cape Child Protection Unit commanding officer, Superintendent John Meyer, said: "We are simply relieved at government's indication that additional staff will be deployed at these units once they start operating."
The entire Peninsula, as well as a number of small rural towns, has had to rely on a single understaffed child protection unit for years.
Meanwhile, the number of sexual abuse cases involving children has almost doubled from 10000 in 1993 to 16000 nation-wide in 1995.
Last year, the Western Cape unit investigated about 1500 cases, of which more than half have still not been prosecuted: Keyer said he had 24 officers burdened with a workload of up to 60 cases at a time.
He said the increased abuse figures stemmed from the fact that more people were prepared to come forward.
His "staff had been shrinking over the last few years and could not be replaced due to the government moratorium on filling vacant posts.

His officers had to cover the entire Peninsula and sometimes got referrals from rural areas as far afield as Worcester, Allantis, Paar and Stellenbosch.

This unit was now supposed to cover the Helderberg substructure following its incorporation into the Cape Metropole in May, but there was simply. not enough staff.

Government officials and police were working on a plan to beat the problem, said Meyer. "We hope the plans will come together within the next two months and that it would ease the workload."

But without more staff an effective service to the community would be mmpassible, he added.

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Johannesburg social workers who haverbeen sleeping outside the provincial legislature to demand that the ${ }^{2}$ social welfare budget be doubled They plan to march through Johannesburg today to highlight the financial \{plight facing the social service sector. Picture ROBERTBOTHA

# -Social workers plan to march Bernarastatekge 96 

JOHANNESBURG social workers, who have slept outside the Gauteng legislature for two nights to demand the social service sector gets sufficient funding, plan to march through the city centre today to further highlight the financial limitations they face.
A spokesman for the Greater Johannesburg Social Welfare Organisation Priscilla Gerrand said that the provincial government had to address the "crisis with sufficient funding, otherwise the social service sector will collapse".
is She said the social service secfor was made up mainly of private welfare organisations, responsible for providing daily care, support and protect services for millions of people, including abused and nethected children, families in crisis, the aged, the physically and intellectually disabled, those struggling with drug and alcohol depentency and HIV-infected people.
Subsidies were government's
1,4 Gesponsibility,- she 'said. Also, salaries were poor, with a continLual drain of experienced staff, 4: Gerrand said Gauteng's social services budgets were hopelessly inadequate and under threat of peing cut back even further. The euts to services would hit the disabled and aged, and lack of funds made it difficult to respond even to cases such as child abuse.

## Lobby to give

 youth a voice (298) ct/4/8196 PRETORIA:The National Youth Commission is lobbying the government to set up a department of youth affairs to facilitate youth representation in Parliament.The chairman of the commission, Miss Mahlengi Bhengu, said yesterday discussions with the government were at an advanced stage.
"Our mission is to work out an integrated youth development policy," Bhengi said. "We will focus on key issues like education and training, unemployment, violence and drug abuse."

The commission would set up a secretariat in Pretoria and two satellite offices in Cape Town, one of which would conceñtrate on Parliament. - Own Correspondent


GREAT ESCAPE: Welfare Portfolio Comimittee chairman Mr Cassim Saloojee inspects a broken window yesterday out of which 99 children escaped from the Bonnytoun place of safety in Wynberg last week.

PICTURE: GUY ADAMS

# Police to guard Bonnytoun place of safety after escape <br> ERIC NTABAZALILA <br> these children," Saloojee sait. <br> Those who were recaptured will 

POLICE will be called in to guard the Bonnytoun place of safety in Wynberg from which 99 boys escaped last week

Members of the Portfolio Committee on Welfare visited Bonny. toun yesterday to investigate the establishment of secure facilities following the breakout.

Mr Cassim Saloojee, chairman of the Portfolio Committee on Welfare, said: "If we have a transit facllity like this, it must be secured.
"It is necessary for the departments of Welfare, Correctional Services and Justice to collaborate to ensure that these facilities are secured in a way that would serve

One of the portfolio members, who asked not to be named, said there was a lack of assessment and management at the place of safety because some of the boys were 24 years old.
"These boys were 17 in 1989 and are still 17. The old boys influence the younger ones," he said.

During the escape, three staff members and 12 boys were injured. Therr injuries were not serious.

An assessment of the boys who absconded butsíwere recaptured and are being held in Pollsmoor Prison started yesterday with a view to readmitting them to the place of safety.
appear in court today.

Asked whether the escapees had joined gangs, Salojee said: "It's been confirmed that there were elements here who had contact with gangsters. A message came through that they (the gangsters) are mobilising against Pagad (People Against Gangsterism and Drugs), so these people who had contact with the gangsters put pressure on the boys here to get out to respond to the call."
Tomorrow psychologistsfrom the Victims of Violence and Trauma Centre will start counselling the boys and staff members who were present when the boys absconded.








The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE
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Force?


 Senator Dr G W KOORNHOF: Mr President,
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era of the liberation struggle These three bons-one set out of the whole range-are try's national flag tin the ribbons of official tradtion to reflect the colours of a counbronze (thrrd) category It is an heraldic except where a llight brown has been
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May 1996 was $218 \%$. the bed occupancy



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The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:嫘
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 The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: I have
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LAND AFFAIRS• Mr President, na I cannot,

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Truth and Reconciliation Commission: interim
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Minister of Justice, Dr Tshabalala-Msimang. The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE In that case The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE: No, I
have not, Mr. President. has had occasion to appear in the Senate before The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: Order! I am
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## By Mokgadi Pela

The task team set up by communities of Katlehong, Thokoza and Vosloorus to look into the formation of a child and family centre in the area, has until August 31 to present its progress report.

Some of its briefs are to evaluate documents presented by the Kathorus Children's Foundation as well as the future for the victims. Documents by KCF have identified priority areas in Kathorus in terms of abused children, displaced, destitute and orphaned chuldren.

The team is also expected to look at documents still to be presented by the Kathorus Antu Child Abuse Forum It is expected to identify the possible location of the main centre which will then work in conjunction with satellite stations in the area KCF felt that the centre to be formed should have a "homely environment where children will be afforded the love, warmth and health they deserve".

District surgeon Dr Maggie Mojapelo says a proper child and family centre
needs to adopt a multi-disciplinary approach. "It should be able to provide an environment where social workers, child protection unts, community, doctors and nurses work together to resolve'problems afflicting society," Mojapelo says

Those elected to serve on the team are: Messrs M Molefe, Ken Moetsi and Goodness Dlamini (Katlehong), Dr Maggie Mojapelo, Messrs Mahlomola Mabotse and N Sebotsa (Thokoza) and Messrs Kehla Mshibe, Sandile Lerutle and Nonhlanhla Nciza (Vosloorus).

The team was conceived after a workshop organised by the Greater Kathorus United Against Abuse and Family Violence in Vosloorus on July 20. Among those who attended the event were mayor of Greater Boksburg Mr Eric Gxayıya and representatives of the social services unit of the Reconstruction and Development Programme who have impressed upon the Kathorus communities the need to act fast in the implementation of the idea.

Speakers at the workshop say the idea of the centre has the support of everyboc, in Kathorus.

# Numsa action follows metal sector deadlock BD $20 / 8196$ 

## Reneé Grawitzky

THE National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) has adopted a programme of action in protest against the Natal Engineering Industries' Association (NEIA) failure to sign the metal wage agreement last week, which its fellow Cosatu affiliate - the CWIU has yet to sign.

Numsa spokesman Elias Monage said yesterday that a KwaZulu-Natal regional shop stewards' council meeting at the weekend resolved that the estimated 20000 Numsa members in the province would participate in lunchtime demonstrations this week.

Monage said this action formed part of a broader campaign to defend the new wage agreement in KwaZulu-Natal and to ensure its implementation.

KwaZulu-Natal shop stewards would approach employers this week on whether they supported the position adopted by NEIA or whether they supported the agreement.

NEIA refused to sign the agreement after Seifsa agreed to withdraw from the main agreement a penalty clause relating to publicholidays.

Seifsa has indicated that NEIA has 245 member companies employing an estimated 17000 workers. However, this did not mean that all Seifsa mem-
bers in KwaZulu-Nata would get be party to the agreement as many belonged to a number of the 39 associations affiliated to Seifsa

Monage said'employers would'berequested to send letters to NEIA and to Numsa indicating their positions.

On Friday the union would assess the responses of the KwaZulu-Natal employers and, depending on the outcome, members would ballot for a legal strike to ensure the agreement was implemented in the province.

Monage said before the ballot was held, members in KwaZulu-Natal would hold a one-day action which would also be decided on Friday.

Seifsa indicated after the signing of the agreement that it anticipated the agreement would be extended to nonparties, as was the usual practice.

Meanwhile, it is understood that the Chemical Workers' Industrial Union - also party to the negotiations -has not yet signed the agreement.

Seifsa spokesman Dave Carsons said the union had asked employers to increase their offer of $9,7 \%$ to $10 \%$. Seifsa had refused to do this.

It is believed that the union' did not have a mandate to accept, ani increase below $10 \%$, as the agreementiprovided for a $9,75 \%$ increase on the minimum rate.

## Child labour shame revealed in shock survey manio mincomio (298) Nat $22 / 8 / 96$ <br> HUNDREDS of thousands of South African

 children are being used in "sweat shops", inclưdıng some in Cape Town, says the latest survey of the Network Against Child Labour (NACL).'Many of these children were employed as vrtual slaves in the homes of prominent people,' it was alleged at a conference in Cápe Town yesterday.
"The survey said that more than " 200000 children between the ages of 10 and $=14$ and another 200000 between the ages of 15 and 18 were engaged in paid labour.
the children worked in commercial agriculture, while many worked as hawkers and newspaper sellers in most parts of South Africa.
"The NACL, "formed in 1990, said' that children should be free to develop their full potential through education and recreational opportunities. It said many children were employed as domestic workers.
The increase in the number of street chlldren had resulted in some being used in criminal activities. Many were exploited through child prostitution
Michael Peters's of the Domestic Workers Union sald children came to Cape Town from rural areas to find work.

He said that in most cases, the children's parents sent or sold their children to employers in the city.
"The employers usually make all kinds of promises and assure the parents that they will take good care of the children," he said.
He șaid employers 'promised' parents between R100 and R300 a month. Because the parents were usually poor, they had no choice but to accept the offer.
Mr P Peters said the parents usually received a first payment of R50 and then never heard from their children again.
He said most of the children involved who came from rural areas were illiterate.
He said young women and children brought to the city were first paraded and then put through extensive questioning.
Prospective employers then collected the girls whom they liked.
"In most cases the girls are sexually abused or become prostitutes."







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Children as young as 12 and 13 "are being "dumped" illegally and indefinitely in appalling conditions in top-security jails as they await trial for minor offences, Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela has disclosed.
An angry Mzimela said 62\% sof the hundreds of juveniles in prison awaiting trial should not be there because they were not being tried for serious crimes such as murder or rape.
"So it is the authorities themselves who are committing a crime by putting children into prison when they should not be there. They are just dumping them and getting them out of the way, that is all."

The number of children in jail has escalated rapidly since - amendments to prison legisla.tion were approved in March to allow for the detention of await-ing-trial juveniles, aged between 14 and 18, suspected of serious arimes. There were 998 juvenile's awaiting trial in prison and the conditions they were being held in were "just plain cruel",
 a dit was the midity ates who * sent these childicarto prison, 'ang the policé whio picked them Fition and took them there. ${ }_{2}{ }^{4}$ But I have also been tokd -1 though I don't have the proot I that because the legislation stipulates
 Wg thal wita and 13-year-olds are booked by police as 14 yearoldjs, that, to me, just skows how uncaring the system "s," said Mzimela.

Masentenced children were

W.

"The act stipulates very clearly that the ages of the children must be from 14 to 18. But there is just no regard, they just dump them. Nobody really cares and they are going to be waiting there indefinitely."

Many of the children interviewed by Mzimela at Durban-Westville Prison were barefoot and dressed in threadbare clothes. A few said they were 13 and were being held for minor offences such as breaking into vehicles. Others said they were streetchildren. One of the children had festering sores on his leg

The 398 awaiting-trial children were being held indefinitely, said Mzimela. "There are enough places of safety, trade schools and industrial schools where children can be housed But the people who work for the Department of Welfare, particularly in these places of safety, are untrained, incompetent and just totally uncaring," said Mzimela, who is also a theologian.

On May 4 last year President Nelson Mandela signed a proclamation declaring that awaiting-trial juveniles may no longer be kept in jails. At midnight on August 5, at total of 620 juveniles awaiting trial were released into the custody of places of safety or allowed to go back to their communities if there was no appropriate accommodation available for them.

But the public backlash against rampant crime by juvenile criminals after the signing of the proclamation pushed the Goyernment to conpider amendments to pushed the Gation. far 244896
The mous to amend sectitn 24 of the correctional Services Act - which prohibits the holding of juveniles in prisons regardless of the circumstances - unleashed a storm of protest from Mzimela.

However, the move was also widely welcomed by frustrated politicians, child care workers and police. because burglaries, street muggings by gangs of youths, and car break-ins had soared. Police claimed they had a major headache with juveniles escaping from places of safety, only to commit further offences

This was highlighted after two 16 -vear-old Cape Town youths facing multiple counts of murder had to be freed because no accommodation could be found for them at places of safety

The bill proposed by the ANC's Carl Niehaus to allow for the detention in prison of awalting-trial juveniles suspected of serious crimes was fiercely contested by Mzimela, who is a member of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

However, the bill was approved by the portfolio committee on correctional services in March, despite the opposition of Mzimela, who sald at the time the bill should be "shredded and thrown into the fires of hell where it should burn eternally"

Niehaus emphasised the bill was an interim measure until enough places of safety could be built to house juveniles securely Mzmela said much of the blame could be laid at the door of Niehaus.
"If he were to show just a fraction of the concern he pretended to have, he should be visiting these places regularly to make sure that the legislation is being adhered to But he has forgotten and he has turned his back on that. He is now pursuing other interests."

Mzimela said he was sure Mandela would be "very very disappointed" by the turn of events since he issued his proclamation to release the children from prison last year.
"The president puts his money where his mouth is and formed the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund to contribute. He really wants to see the lot of children improve and I am sure these horrendous stories, will just break his heart."





 fabric of South African youth's
social and economic circum-
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 T Madiba arcles people talk
of the "oclden Quadrangle",
the social compact reached
by the government, labour, busi-



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## Child Welfare

## slates minister

 over children held in jail (288)
## \section*{JOHANSCHRÖNEN} <br> Cmanemer 4 T $27 / 8 / 96$

A LEADING welfare organisation for children has lashed out at a minister's suggestion that juvenile offenders be kept in places of safety that it says are totally inappropriate.
This follows Correctional Servicés Minister Sipo Mzımela's discovery that 62 percent of the 398 children awaiting trial in prison were not suspected of serious crime and so should not be in jail:
$\because$ It also came as the government announced new pläns for places of safety for young offenders, although Capé Town was one of the last to benefit.

Dr Mzimela suggested that places of safety for chıldren, run by Child Welfare Society, had the facilities and should accommodate the juvenile prisoners,
Child Welfare director Allan.Jackson said that the minister was contradicting himself.
He'said Dr Mzimela accused the authorities of "dumping" the children and getting them out of the way by putting them in prison, but in the same breath he was "very ironically" pushing for.children to be released from prison when suitable alternatives were not available.

Mr Jackson said Dr Mzimela wàs "wásh ing his hands of this very sad situation".
Meanwhile Western Cape places of safety were facing a bigger storm by having to accommodate more guvenile offenders from up country; where reform schools do not exist.
A study by the University of the Western Cape community law centre has found that juveniles'awaiting trial in' Kimberley were destined for places of saféty in Cápe;Town, where the situation is already in a shambles and contributing to the regular escapes and mass break-outs by serious and dangerous criminal youths.

- The announcement by Welfare and Population Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi that secure accommodation for children awaiting trial for serious offences would.be avallable from November in Gauteng, Northern Province and Mpumalanga, also means no immediate relief for the Western Cape's youth custody problem.

Ms Fraser-Molekéti said facilities being provided under the the welfare department's Secure Care Programme, initiated in October last year, would benefit these three provinces before Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth. tion for children awaiting trial on serious offences will be available in some parts of the country from November, Welfare and Population Development Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said in a statement yesterday.

Fraser-Moleketi was referring to facilities being provided under the welfare department's Secure Care programme - initiated in October 1995 with the aim of keeping awaiting-trial children out of prisons.

The first of these facilities will be available in Gauteng and Northern Province, followed by Mpumalanga.

Sımılar facilities were being established in Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.
-"It is hoped that the fullprogramme . an important component of the National Crime Prevention Strategy, will be completed by May 1997," said Fraser-Moleketi. "By June 1997, there should be no reason to hold young people in prisons to await trial." - Sapa

## New place of safety for youth

## By Pamela Dube

THE place of safety to accommodate awaitng trial juveniles in Gáateng will be opened at Noordgesicht, near Sowcto, over the weekend.

The announcement was made yesterday by the chairperson of the portfolio committee on correctional services, Mr Carl Niehaus, and Mr Cas Salojee of theWelfare and Population Development.

The Soweto facility will be the first of several juvenile centres, to be opened countrywide to relheve prisons of incarcerated juveniles.

The Noordgesicht centre will accommodate 200 juveniles under the age of 18 Other centres will be opened in the next few months in Petersburg, Potchefstroom, Rustenburg, Kimberlcy, Upington, Kroonstad, Bloemfontein, Pinetown and Hendrina.

Niehaus said while the Government intended opening centres in all the provinces, they had problems locating proper faclities in the Western Cape and the Eastern Cape.

The recent escape of 99 youths from Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town to join gangsters in the fight aganst People Aganst Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad) had highlighted another problem for the authorities, Nehaus said.

He said there was need for properly secured facillties for these youths.

Above all, Niehaus , sald, the Govêrnment intended keeping children away from hardened criminals in crowded prisons.

Niehaus' announcement comes a few days after Correctonal Services Minister Sipho Mzimela lashed out at both portfolio committees, accusing them of not speeding up the process of providing places of safety for juveniles.
"I find it strange that Dr Mzimela is making all these accusations when his department is supposed to be responsible for the conditions of these children," said Salojee.

Nuehaus called on Mzimela to refram from making "emotional statements that do not reflect the complexity of the situation"


# Mandela commits SA to war against child abuse 

Cries of sexually exploited children
must no longer fall on deaf ears'

## Sapa

## Stockholm

TThe cries of South Africa's abbused and sexually exploited children must no longer fall on deaf ears or closed mindš, President Mandela said yesterday.
"The time has come for our children to be seen, and to be very clearly heard," he said in a speech read on his behalf by Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi at the world congress against commercial sexual exploitation of children.
"I commit my country and its resources towards ensuring that each day fewer children in our world, in each of our countries,' are treated as insignificant objects ed, mangled ánd mocked.
"On behalf of myself and the" Government of South Africa, I would like to convey our unequivocal support for the intentions and objectives of the congress, and pledge our willingness to take appropriate steps to implement the outcome of your deliberations," the president said.

Child sexual abuse was an abuse of power, he said.

Commercial and other forms of sexual exploitation were some of the most disturbing forms of
abuse.
South Africa's National Plan of Action for Children had been designed particularly to attend to the abuse of children, including sexual, physical and mental abuse; pornography; and child exploitation.

Poverty could not be underestimated as a contributory factor to sexual exploitation of young people who were often forced to the streets to make a living, or sometimes sold or pimped by their parents
"As we approach these problems, we do so with an understanding that poverty is a harsh reality throughout our African continent, our ${ }^{\prime}$ rine
 gion añid our contatry" Man-
delasaid: $\therefore 1$ , "To' + counter his would require legislative action, a practical programme on gender sensitivity, and empowergirl children

South Africa was proud to have signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and was working towards full implementation through a comprehensive National Plan of Action for Children, Mandela said.


## Task force to tackle

 child sex crime in SA . -The Argus Correspondent CHILD sex slavery in South Africa is now firmly under the world spotlight through an international joint task force to be set up in this country
The special investigative group - to be set up later next week - is expected to include Interpol, the South African Police Service, foreign and national politicians, United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and nongovernmental organisations.
The task force will also call on foreign experts, include officials from Brazil and Sri Lanka, to deal with exploding child sex-exploitation problems
At the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Sweden, South African delegation spokesmen Brian Sokutu said it was a "hidden phenomenon" in South Africa.
"We just cannot relax and think that it is not going to happen in South Africa," he said.

The task force is expected to be launched on Monday.
Mr Sokutu said South Africa had noted inputs by other countries for the establishment of a public registery for child sex offenders.
"We will be guided by the Constitution and Bill of Rights on whether this will be feasible," he said.
he case for national registers for convicted paedophiles - because of their propensity to repeat and magnify offences - was strong.
In Britain, authorities have information on about 4000 paedophiles but data is patchy.

National Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said often people in positions of authority, such as teachers, policemen and clergy, abused the privilege of theirposition with children.
The congress is debating introducing a morercomprehensive list of sex offenders.
It is also proposed to make it a crime for convicted paedophiles to work with children.
$\because$ In South Africa, national police spokesman Reg Crewe said he supported moves to set up a task team.

The Crimestop division had more than 800 unsolved cases of missing children on record.
At the congress, African panellist Wambui Njuguma said yesterday that South Africa had to be "ready and armed" to fight sex tourism. This problem has been highlighted by reports this week of child sex rings
The International Federation of Journalists' representative at the congress, Mr Aiden White, stressed how the media played a vital role in educating people.

## Former street children are building a new life with bricks star $30 / 8$, quot en

## By Bonging Mlangeni and

 James-Qumdile KhedamaA beam of hope was already shining in Thomas's life when The Star interviewed hum 10 months ago despite being branded a "street kid" with no future.

Now this 21-year-old Sowetoborn youngster is earning respect among his peers as a survivor against all odds.

Thomas is one of seven young men who have found a source of livelihood through a brick-mak ing project started by the Twilight Youth Centre
When the project started in September last year, the youths could make only about 6000 bricks a month
Now, production has increased to 124000 a month, which is still less than the demand, according to project manager Lucas


Productive ... Thomas holds a new vision since he became part of a brick-making project started by the Twilight Youth Centre.

Mogwerane.
"The support of the commanifty has been overwhelming,"
he said.
Mogwerane said they were planning to buy another yard and
employ seven more youths from the community and the centre to meet the demand
"It is amazing how these young men have changed their atthtude towards life" Mogwerane added that Thomas and his peers would soon be trainers and supervisors of new recruits

For Thomas, the project has transformed his life in a way he never imagined when he hit the streets of Johannesburg at the age of 13 He now earns about R150 a week and feels more independent, he said "I now look forward to the future," he sard.

Mogwerane said he would be recommending the present group to sponsors so that they could start their own brickyards
"I am confident that people like Thomas are ready to go on their own. We appeal to sponsors to help them build a future."

## Many children under 14 years old in jails with adult criminals


applying rules' regarding the
handling of juvenile suspects

By Troye Lund

TThe Department of Correctonal Services has called on its welfare counterpart to "get its act together" and provide places of safety for the 557 un sentenced children currently locked up with adult criminals.

This follows a shock announcement by Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela that the number of juveniles awaiting trial in SA's prisons had almost doubled from last month's count of 300 .

A further announcement on Wednesday by Mzimela's spokesman Bert Slabbert revealed that many juveniles are being held illegally. They are under 14 years old, are charged with petty offences and have been jailed for up to 40 days without appearing before a magistrate.

Although the Correctional Services Act prohibits unsentenced children being placed in jail, it was changed in May this year at the instigation of CorrectionalServices parliamentary committee chairman Carl Niehaus.

Authorities found the existing places of safety to be inadequate to keep juveniles awaiting trial and Niehaus brought a bill before Parliament allowing juveniles to be jailed for a period of 12 months, until appropriate places of safety had been established.

These children, however, must be over 14 years old, be charged with schedule two offences (more serious crimes) and have ap-
$18 / 96$
peared before a magistrate within 14 days of their arrest.

Correctional Services places the blame for "the rules not being applied" mainly with police and welfare department.
"The rules of handling juvenile suspects are not being applied because it is far easier to durnp them in jail than find a place of safety and risk them running away because of inadequate security," said Slabbert

Slabbert said some police are filling in children's ages on dockets as 14 when they are younger. They are also interpreting petty crime as schedule two crimes "to get children in". Slabbert also said that many children have been waiting a month or more without appearing for petty offences.

In a statement, the Department of Welfare shared Mzimela's concerns, saying it would address the problem according to findings of the investigation into the availability of places of safety and reform schools.

Welfare said, however, that there are "no quick fix solutions". Staffing and structural changes are anticipated as areas that may hamper the "vast and complex" process of providing adequate facilities most.

National police spokesman, Josef Ngubeni said it would be a gross irregularity if police were acting as Correctional Services allege. He added the SAPS would not condone any acts by officers which are contrary to the law or gave an indication of corruption.

# Jailed juyeniless: plot thickens EVELATIONS last weekend by <br> The main players were: Mzimela <br> powers given to committees by the con- 

RMinister of Correctional Services Sipo Mzimela about the appalling conditions of juvenile prisoners have inverted normal parliamentary practice. We now have a situation where a government minister has attacked government policy; on Tuesday the relevant parliamentary committee will be scrutinising its own legislation - not the government's.

This is an unusual sttuation: it will be interesting to see how the committee handles it, especially given that the law under the spotlight was actually passed in the committee chairperson's name.

How did this topsy-turvy situation come about?

Early in its polittcal life, and driven by President Mandela, the new government scrapped laws permitting the detention of juveniles in prison. The problem, however, was that there were not enough secure places of safety. When several dangerous juveniles escaped there was a public outcry.

The ANC decided it had no alternative but to do a U-turn, at least for the time being. But the minister would not entertam such a change in policy. The solution for the ANC was to introduce the amendment through Parliament. The parliamentary committee then played a central role Uncertain if legislation could be introduced in the committee's name, its chairperson introduced the proposed change in the law as the first private member's bill to be debated by the new Parliament.
-This represented a departure from procedure whereby bills are imitated through a ministry and approked by the cabinet before being debated in Parlament It highlighted a potentally significant new role for parlamentary committees in proposing and drafting legislation.
who is a member of the IFP, and chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services Carl Niehaus, who is a high-profile ANC member

Mzimela had opposed the legislation which forced Niehaus to follow the private member's route, for which he had the support of most parties in the committee. Thus, as the ministerial spokesperson pointed out, last weekend's exposé was the minister's way of proving that the legislation was not working. In weekend newspaper reports Mzimela attacked government departments for mprisoning hundreds of children, many awaiting trial for minor offences, under the most appalling conditions.

Niehaus responded to the reports by calling for urgent talks between the departments of correctional services, justice, welfare, and safety and security.

On Tuesday the Correctional Services Department will brief the portfolio committee on the implementation of Section 29 of the Correctional Services Amendment Act

According to a correctional services ministry spokesperson, a report has already been submitted to the committee detailing Mzimela's snap visits to several prisons where children as young as 12 share accommodation with hardened adult criminals serving sentences for such crimes as rape and murder.

Rules require departments to submit bi-monthly reports on policy or legislative implementation to portfolio committees.

But repealing the legislation, Niehaus says, should only be a last resort. What the portfolio committee will do at Tuesday's meeting is "look at the implementation of the legislation, and the problems encountered in the process". This is in keeping with wide
stitution and the standing rules of the National Assembly - to act as pariamentary watchdog on all aspects of a particular portfolio. According to Rule 52 , committees must "monitor, investigate, inquire into and make recommendations relating to any aspect of the legislative programme, budget, rationalisation, restructuring, functioning, organi sation, structure, personnel, policy formulation or any other matter it may consider relevant, of the (respective) government department"

Niehaus says the committee, in its overseeing role, will have to see if the department is doing its job properly Similarly, the justice and welfare depart ments will have to explain why magistrates send young children to these prisons without ensuring the proper guidelines are followed. Reasons should be given why welfare workers have failed to manage places of safety for awaiting. trial juveniles properly, thus making legislation for their imprisonment necessary.

According to Niehaus, the committee's overseeing role is limited to identfying problem areas and then applying pressure to the administrative structures to carry out policy, offering recommendations and guidelines.

On his visit to Diepkloof prison, near Johannesburg, with welfare committee chairperson, ANC MP Ebrahim Salojee, to see conditions for themselves, Niehaus said they had found it was one prison where proper guidelines for children had been implemented and that proper implementation of Section 29 was possible.
$\square$ The committee meeting will take place at 9.30 am on Tuesday in committee room 2, ground floor, 120 Plein Street, Cape Town. For further information call (021) 403-2911.

MAIL \& GUARDIAN
August 30 to September 51996
(48) (298)

Further shocks on kids in jail $m+G-3018-59996$ Rehana Rossouw HOCKING information about
children in prisons in the
Western and Northern Cape
emerged this week. Julia Sloth-Nielsen of the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape visited Kimberley Prison and found most of the children there were not being held for serious crimes. In terms of the law, they should not have been held in prison.
There is no reformatory in Kimberley and three children in the prison were waiting to be transferred to a facility in Cape Town, hundreds of kilometres away from their families.
"A 16-year-old girl awaiting transfer to a reformatory was brought to the prison at the request of her mother. The reason for the request was that the girl had allegedly been raped by a policeman while in police custody. The matter is beng investigated by the local Child Protection Unit," SlothNielsen said.
She said not a single child had been vsited by a lawyer while being held in the prison. and some had reported that they had not seen a social worker or probabtion officer before being sent to prison.

At the Kimberley police cells, she found 10 children, two of whom would next appear in court on October 28. There were no recreational or educational facilittes available.

Amendments to the Correctional Services Act in May stipulate that juvenile court cases cannot be postponed for more than 14 days. But Sloth-Nielsen found they often were, with magistrates making arrangements for children to be brought to court every 14 days without their dockets. "It is somewhat cyncal to postpone a case for three months, with informal arrangements to bring the child back to court for a pro


Sipo Mzimela: Pointed a finger at the Department of Welfare
forma appearance."
Another Community Law Centre researcher, Nomfundo Ntloko, visited Pollsmoor prison in the Western Cape this month and found 86 juveniles in detention. They were locked in their cells from 3.30 pm until 8.30am. There was only one TV set for juveniles. which circulated from cell to cell.
Disturbingly, many of the children were aware of prison gangs and some had gang tattoos on their hands. "One of the boys we spoke to had carved a tattoo on his hand and the wound had only just started healing. The boy was 14 years old," said Ntioko.
The children complained of a gang which encouraged sodomy, and some said they had witnessed a boy being raped two weeks before Ntloko's visit.
Minister of Correctional Services Sipo Mzimela has accused the Department of Welfare of "dumping" children in prisons to get them out of the way. He discovered recently that $62 \%$ of the 398 children awaiting trial in prison should not be there because they were not accused of committing serious crimes.

Welfare Minister Geraldine FraserMolekett has responded by announcing that secure accommodation for children awaiting trial will be available from November in Gauteng. Northern Province and Mpumalanga.

The Department of Justice has been accused of not interpreting the Act correctly and allowing magistrates to keep awaiting-trial juveniles in prisons for lengthy periods.

# 11-year-old boy waits injail despite newlaw <br> - The political row surrounding the imprisonment of 

## GLYNNIS UNDERHIL

Chief Reporter
AN 11-year-old boy is awating trial for housebreaking and theft at Malmesbury prison in a flagrant breach of the law as the political row surrounding the imprisonment of unsentenced children continues
The young boy from Atlantis has no contact with his parents and is locked up in a small cell from 4pm every day until 7am the next day, when he is let out for breakfast.
While he can play ballgames in the courtyard with the older unsentenced children, they are all locked up for their own safety when the adult prisoners evercise in the small paved area None of the children is receiving schooling as they await their trial dates, which are postponed regularly
It was cold in the damp cell occupled the older unsentenced chuldren when SATURDAY Argus visited the prison Shildren sleep two to a bed in the Cramped cell there are 15 children cramped cell - the a who have been sent here by magistrate o await another trial date
Newly washed ragged clothing hangs over the bars covering tha windows in the musty cell.
With a lack of accommodation at this overcrowded prison, juveniles await ing trial for minor offences sleep side by side with those awaiting trial for serious crimes, like rape and murder
The 11-year-old boy, who cannot be named to protect his rights as a minor, has his own cell "He is too small to be placed with the other children," explained a warder
The young boy was wearing a light weight yellow cardigan which was torn in the front and his scarred face appeared ravaged by Iffe

He hesitated when asked whether he liked living at Malmesbury prison bu gathered courage to reply" "No, it is not nice here It is so cold

Amendments to the prison legisia tion were approved in March to allow for the detention of awaiting-trial juve niles, aged between 14 and 18, suspected of serious crimes.

Last week, Correctional Services Min ister Sipo Mzimela claimed in SATUR DAY Argus that unsentenced children as young as 12 were being "dumped" ille gally and inderinitely in nigh-securit jails to await trial for minor offences

This week, Dr Mzimela expressed outrage on hearing about the 11-year old boy held in Malmesbury prison, a medium serurity facllity, to await trial for a minor offence
"I am horrified and deeply shocked to hear that an 11-year old boy is being held at Malmesbury prison," he said

The legislation stipulates clearly that no child under 14 years should be sent to prison, he said

II therefore regard the act of whoev er is responsible for sending these chil dren to prison as criminally irrespon sible," said Dr Mzimela

He is preparing an urgent report for
unsentenced children is gathering steam as an unsentenced 11-year old boy languishes behind bars in the Western Cape Swartland.

ARCT1/8/96
President Mandela and the government departments involved with the unsentenced chuldren, including the Departments of Justice, Safety and Security and Welfare and the Portfolio Committee On Correctional Services
Mr Mandela's spokesman, Parks Mankahlana, said the president had decided to refrain from commenting on the issue of unsentenced children in pryson
"I have spoken to him about this and he wants the ministers to sort it out themselves immediately," he said
While Mr Mandela was keeping a close watch on the developments "as everybody knows children are close to his heart", the government had to sort out the problem, satd Mr Mankahlana
Untll Wednesday afternoon, there had been two 11-year old children imprisoned at Malmesbury prison, ordered there by the courts in July
But the prison authorities sent a reminder to the courts about the law requiring chtldren to appear in court after 14 days, and one of the 11 -year old after 14 days, and ine ourt $1-$ cear chidren appearedin court $n$ ednes day Deparment "It slenenbosh $l$ Io have these children here. We just don have adequate facilities for them,", said a spokesman for the prison, who asked not to be named.
"They must be bored as they are not going to school In both the cases involving 11 -year olds, the parents don't wan to look after them. We try and keep them busy with exercise and games but it is not enough," he said

One irate warder said he had regu larly informed his department and the social workers about the 11-year old who should not be held in prison, but to no aval

On May 4 last year. Mr Mandela signed a proclamation declaring await-ing-trial juveniles may no longer be kept in jails A total of 620 unsentenced juveniles were released to places of safety or back into therr communities if no appropriate accommpdaton could be found for them for "t of
But the public backlash against rampant crime by juvenile criminals atter the signing of the proclamation pushed the government to consider amendments. Today there are 398 juveniles awaiting trial in prison and 62 percent of theso children should not be behin bara as they are not being tried bars as they are not being tried fo serious crimes, according to the Depart ment of Correctional Services
Dr Mzimela said the unsentenced children were the responsibility of the Department of Welfare, which runs the places of safety, but also lashed out at the Department of Justice, the South African Police Services and the Portfo lio Committee on Correctional Services
or placing the children in cond
described as "just plain cruel"
Carl Niehaus, chairman of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services, said the committee would be holding a hearing next week to present oral evidence on its report on unsen raced children in prison
The committee would also be meeting officials of the departments of Justice and Welfare to discuss the situation, he said
If there were secure care facilities in every province, then it would be possi ble by the end of the year to begin looking at returning to a situation where all children under 18 can be kept out of prison, said Mr Niehaus
The Human Rights Committee of South Africa has sard it is "shocked and appalled by the recent reports of lllegal and inhumane" detention of awating-trial children

These reports suggests police and judtcial officers have fated to apply the recently-amended legslation which builds in protection for arrested chil dren if basic human rights and lega dren If bs ore tot adhered to the rule of low is meaningless and it will not be law is meangeles and it whir not be pors in South Africa" the organisation emphasised emphasised
The Minster for Welfare and Popu Iation Development, Geraldine Fras er-Moleketı, chairwoman of the Inter ministerial Committee on Young People at kisk (MC), said this week she sharẹ the concorn of Mrinil hildro number of awating trial chirdren it prison
'Of concern to the IMC is the blatan breach of law that children should no be held for longer than 14 days withou beings brought berore a count and tha evidence be led to support the reasons for chitdren to be held in prison.
"The IMC has recently conducted an investigation mandated by Cabinet int the avalability and suitability of place of safety, reform schools and schools of industry as part of the search for aiter native solutidns to accommodating youth awaiting trial. This report will be tabled In September," she sald.

Ms Fraser-Molekeli said some of the initial findings of this investigation md cated that places of safety and schools o industry were not structurally suited to accommodate young people who had committed serious offences and who were at risk of absconding
"While reform schools do have the necessary security, there are only nine nece ary sith schools nationwide with six of Cape schools located in the Western Cape This is therefore not an opt
of the provinces," she sald

Children in Iall: the buck stop: with Mizimele. See page 20.


LLEGAILY IMPRISONED: This 11-year old his identity, has been thrown into prison in br offence


OSHARING CELL: These awaiting-trial chilid Malmesbury Prison.


Pictures HANNES THIART
LLEGALLY IMPRISONED: This 11-year old boy, whose face has been blacked out to protect his fdentity, has been thrown into prison in breach of the law to await his trial for a minor offence


ISHARING CELL: These awaiting-trial children are sleeping two to a bed in this cramped cell at Malmesbury Prison


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The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECU-

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 $\dagger$ Indicates translated version. QUESTIONS

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(iv) 830 are white.
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Environmental Affairs and Toursm:







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Case No. 13/96. pre-tral conference which was held




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which look place over one day
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ihe matter. It was accordingly referred


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 No. 22 of 1994 with a view to the
settlement being made an order of







# Jobs lost, but n factories open 

 Clothing industry survives strike over wagesESTELLERANDALL.

Labour Reporter
NEW clothing factories opening in the Western Cape outnumber those that have closed since last month's clothing industry strike, but nearly 5000 jobs have been lost in the past year.
Fears that the clothing industry's first national wage strike last month would cause largescale factory closures in the Western Cape do not appear to have materialised.
Employers admitted wages were low, but said the increases being demanded could not be met in an industry threatened by cheap imports from Asia. But they later agreed to the 10 percent package increase
the Clothing and Textile Workers Union had demanded, and back-dated it to July 1.
Only four Western Cape factories employing about 52 workers have closed since the strike.

Clothing Industrial Council secretary Dawie Ackerman said the closures resulted from applications for liquidation.
"Small places come and go all the time," said Mr Ackerman. "It's very easy to open a clothing factory."

He said that during the samest



There had been an estimated 10 percent drop in the number employed in the clothing industry in the year ending June. In

June 1995, there were 415 clothing manufacturers with 49000 employees registered with the industrial council, and in June this year there were 393 manufacturers with 44282 employees.
Mr Ackerman said the law required manufacturers to give the council seven days' notice of their intention to apply for provisional liquidation. But this did not stop manufacturers from going ahead with closures.
"We would like to see changes as soon as possible to to the Insolvency Act, and the council would robby employers and trade unions about making joint representations.

## Show 'hàrmed AIDS workers' JENNY VIALL

 Health Reportar $A R$ C 419196 THE musical Sarafina 2 has done immense damage to people working in the AIDS field, says chairman of the National AfDS Convention of South Africa Peter'Busse.The lack of transparency as well as the controversy surrounding the play had demoralised them, hê şaid yesterday.

Mr Busse wafa member of a delegation from the convention which briefed the National Assembly portfolio committee on health.

He said people with HIV (human immuno-deficiency virus), which can lead to AIDS, faced a lot of unfair and irrational discrimination. A ban on testing people for HIV without their consent and a ban on preemployment testing were two areas in which legislation was urgently needed.
"AIDS is not a health issue. AIDS is an issue for every citizen of this country to address."

## Groceries for child sex rife'in W Cape town

 A LARGe number of schoolgirls in a Western Cape town were inyolved in a sex ring whoreatugers bought them grotejies in return for favours, a parliamentary committee on welfate has been told.
Mony'parents, especially mothers, ustatat tinue, said Alan Jackson, director of the Cape Town Child Welfare Society.
Some teachers and even police wernaware of what was happening, but turned a blind. eye because it had been happening for many years.
This illustrated the extent of child abuse in semi-rural areas, Mr Jackson said.
The name of the town was not disclosed in the submission to the committee.
Mr Jackson told the committee that in 1995 the police Child Protection Unit had reported
an increase of more than 20 percent in cases compared to 1994.

A number of factors could be contributing to the reported increase, including greater publicity about ehild abuse, and recently-increased capacity on the part of organisations, the police ard the courts dealing with the problem.
"Twient innt of the problem is not silence surrounding this issue means we might never know the extent of the problem."
. Mr Jackson, said, the situation in the Westerm:Cape town was one in which the difference between right and wrong Thad become blurred and where sexual abuse had become accepted as the norm.
It was also a situation which was unlikely to be solved by the usual legal methods alone
Mr Jackson said an awareness campaign and a debate at community level were essential to combat the problem

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## Police, teachers ignored childsex ring - claim <br> CAPE TOWN - Police and teachers in a Western Cape town turned a blind eye to a child sex ring, Cape Town Child Welfare Society :director Alan Jackson said <br> E In a presentation to the welfare portfolio committee, he sand a large number of girls in a school in rthe semi-rural community which he did not name - had -made statements indicating their involvement in sex rings where "perpetrators" gave groceries in return for sexual favours <br> Many parents, especially mothers, had been aware of the situation but allowed it to continue. Teachers and even the police had turned a blind eye because, <br> they said, "it has been happening 4 for many years". <br> Jackson said the "conspiracy of silence" surrounding child abuse might mean the true extent of the problem was never known. <br> He called for computerised child abuse registers linked provincially and nationally. <br> Many residential care centres and schools had become "places of severe abuse", committed by staff and children on younger children in particular. <br> Simple measures could help avoid these problems. It should be compulsory to hang posters with emergency numbers in such facilities, and any allegations of abuse <br> welfare department and investigated by it, not the institution. <br> Jackson sard one case involving allegations of sexual abuse made by children in residential care against the principal had reached the courts but been adjourned repeatedly for the past two-and-ahalf years. The accused had not been asked to plead yet and he had still been allowed contact with the children involved. <br> Jackson said a lack of funds was responsible for many of the problems faced by child welfare organisations. His society scrapped 12 posts last year because of limited funds. - Sapa.

## Child Welfare reels from budget cuts <br> Kathryn Strachan

BO $49 / 96$
WHILE the plight of children needing protection and support steadily worsens, Child Welfare's deep budget cuts are making it difficult to provide this assistance. Child Welfare Cape Town director Alan Jackson says the situation is made worse by the uncertainty surrounding the government subsidy.

Eight months into the year, welfare organisations are still not clear what their 1996/97 subsidy will be, and this had made it very difficult for them to operate. Planning is also complicated by the fact that only "very murky" information has been given on the criteria for the 1997/98 subsidy, which makes it difficult for organisations to make plans which will put them in line with the mystery criteria.
Child Welfare's state subsidy of R4,5m has stayed the same over the past four years, which means that in real terms it has dropped dramatically

In light of the declining subsidy, Child Welfare has increased its own fund-raising through promo-
tions by $17 \%$, which takes its fund-raising income up to R1m. Compared to what other organisations have been able to achieve through fund-raising, this is a huge amount, but it does not make up for the R3m lossin real terms in government subsidy.
"We're pulling out all the stops from our side but funds are still declining," says Jackson. Since July the Western Cape branch has cut seven of its 48 social work posts, as well as managerial and assistance posts. Two years ago, there was a large staff cut when the organisation underwent major rationalisation With this year's cutback there was no room to manoeuvre and the cuts went very deep. Some smaller societies have had to close their doors completely.

The state subsidy makes up $45 \%$ of Child Welfare's overall budget, the rest coming from private donors and fund-raising. At the same time, the workload is increasing, and with indications of 250000 public servants being retrenched in the next year, welfare organisations are gearing up for a massive increase in unemployment - together with all the social dysfunctions it brings.

While the state department has been caught up with its own transformation, even those state personnel who were giving direct service to communities have now had their services cut back - and as private organisations take on their load, they are finding their work has increased rather than decreased since the advent of the new welfare department.

Child Welfare is also frustrated that, despite the many changes it has made in recent years, it is still treated identically to organisations which have not made the changes required of them by government.
The organisation has made great strides to shift its focus to black communities and to orientate itself towards developmental and preventative work, says Jackson. Six years ago Child Welfare Cape Town did $10 \%$ of its work in African communities, and $30 \%$ in white. This has changes to $45 \%$ in African communities and $10 \%$ in white. The work in coloured communities has fallen from $60 \%$ to $45 \%$.

While the white population in the Western Cape makes up far more than $10 \%$, Child Welfare has recognised that socio-economic factors work in the interests of whites, and there are other organisations they can call on. But poor white people have not simply been dumped, they have been referred to other organisations and self-help groups have been set up.

The organisation is also focusing on communitybased educare, supporting mothers in their homes with skills and resources to provide better care to children, and training mothers in a community to visit other mothers whose children have been diag. nosed by clinics as "at risk", thereby helping to avoid neglect and even death of young children.


Flashbáck ... chlldren marching In Jabulanl, Soweto, during a South Africa Stop Child Abuse protest last November. At least 2000 cases of child abuse were reported in 1995, a 20 percent increase on the number reported in 1994.

## Where do we draw the line on abuse ? <br> By Rafiq Rohan <br> Political Correspondent <br> O PARENTS FULLY understand the rights they have over <br> Should the state have any say in how parents raise their kids?

Dtheir children, and do they understand at what point discipline spills over into child abuse?

Many do not, the Pinetown Child and Family Welfare told the portfolo committee on welfare in Parliament yesterday

Many parents regard children as their personal possessions and believe the state has no right to interfere in the methods they use to raise their children
"There are those who view children as parental possessions, and hence do not see the state as having a role to play in dealing with their children. If they mete out punishment to the child, the state should not interfere," the Pinetown Child and Family Welfare said.
Child abuse was something that was simply tolerated and accepted up till 1960, when the "battered child syndrome" was first identified.
"More recently," according to the Pinetown Child and ${ }^{-}$Family Welfare, "the unacceptability of using children for adult sexual gratification has become an issue.
"There is also a lack of a common definition of 'abuse' - what some call corporal punishment. Others do not recognise child labour as abuse; it is seen as part of the family's strategy to survive."

Horror statistics point to a dramatic increase in the physical and sexual abuse of children. The Government and educators are at sea about how to cope with this growing crisis

The Johannesburg Child and Family Welfare told the committee. "At present there is no clear strategy for the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and no planning process which systematically links preventive and developmental services on the one hand, and investigation and treatment on the other."

Where there are no proper child care facilities, the risk of children being abused is greater, the Johannesburg Child and Family Welfare pointed out. It suggested a number of methods that should be looked at to address the crisis

It referred to the case of a young Johannesburg girl who was sexually abused by her father. After he was arrested, however, the mother dropped charges against the father because he was their breadwinner
"Where a family is totally dependent on a perpetrator of child sexual abuse for accommodation and income and no alternatives are available, it cannot be assumed that a mother will acknowledge the abuse and act to protect her child," the Johannesburg group pointed out

## Essential services

"It is necessary to systematically attend to those factors which impede the ability of parents, families and communities to act protectively towards children
"Essential services and basic support systems must be in place in every community in order for intervention strategies to operate effectıvely."

Neighbourhood support systems should enable communities to develop their potential for the prevention of child abuse, while financial and other resources should be made available to assist communities to develop their own preventative strategies, the Johannesburg group said.

It also suggested "safe-house schemes, support groups, communal living and working arrangements which could provide vable options for women who need to leave abusive partners, and cooperative day-care arrangements for children during their parent's working hours" to help curb
the problem
Those who have the capacity and time could also be drawn in. "Ways can be sought to involve fit elderly or retired people in the provision of emer gency care and support," the Johannesburg Child and Family Welfare recommended

The criminal justice system i also at fault and needs to be addressed, Mr Alan Jackson of the Cape Town Child and Family Welfare told the committee

The wheels of justice move painfully slowly in some cases, often lead ing to cases being dropped. Jackson referred to one case which was officially reported on March 41994.

The investigation started at the beginning of the following week. The accused first appeared in court on March 91994 and bail conditions were set.
'The case was remanded to April 1994, then to June 1994, October 1994, January 1995 and March 1995.
"In December 1994 the accused appeared in court for breaking bail conditions.
"New bail conditions were set, but they still allowed him to make contact with the children

## Again and again

The case was remanded again in March 1995 because the defence wanted to apply to the Supreme Court for more information to be made available to them. The next court appearance will be October."

This case has now dragged on for two years and five months, and has simply added to the trauma of the children involved and their parents.

In such long delays, said Jackson, the children's memories of the:abuse are likely to grow dim and they will eventually retract their statements.

## Available child abuse figures just the 'tip of the iceberg' How Se 479196 (298 workload and this was likely to

By Patrick Bulcer
Parlamentary Correspondent
Cape Town - Available figures on child abuse represented the "tip of the iceberg" and understated the problem, Parliament's portfolio committee on welfare heard yesterday.

National Council for Child and Family Welfare resource officerRos Halkett said there were no reliable statistics on the scourge of child abuse. As child welfare organisations extended their activities into previously unserviced areas, she expected there to be a
"dramatic increase" in the statistics. Figures provided by the increase. South African Police Service Child Protection Unit showed that there were 19805 cases of reported child abuse in the first six months of the year compared with 28484 for the whole of last year

Child welfare societres were attending to 9398 children each month. Of these, 7268 children fell into the "severely neglected" category. Neglect was "the most serious child protection issue" facing South Africa.

Staff were becoming increasingly despondent at the growing

At present there was one social worker to every 20400 children and this was a major limitation. The survival of the voluntary child welfare sector was under threat and the Government needed to rethink its approach to welfare services. Until now, the system had focused on the perpetrators of crime against children rather than on the abused children

Halkett's presentation coincided with figures released in Parliament and which provide a breakdown of the cases she referred to.

CASES OF CHLLD ABUSE - sexual and physical --have reached shocking proportions countrywide. Latest figures show that more than 7000 children have been sexually abused durng the past three years.

Figures released to Sowetan show a steady increase of abuse among all races. For example,_in 1993, 2075 cases of sexual abuse and 5939 cases of chuld neglect were reporied.

During the first half of last year 600 cases of abuse were reported while 800 chuldren were sexually molested during the same period this year.

Yesterday, welfare workers accused the authoritues of a "conspiracy of stence" around the critical problem and were unanmmous that preventative
work was urgently required.
Ms Nomazıze Bopela, a social worker at the Pinetown Child and Family Welfare Society, told the Parilamentary Portfolo Committee on Welfare: "It is alarming to note that some cases of sexual abuse have resulted in children contractung sexually transmitted diseases like syphulis and HIV"

Bopela sald she was concerned about cases of abuse in rural areas because many went unreported.
Ms Bongr Lerole of the Johannesburg Child and Famuly Welfare Society said. "There is mounting public concern over the extent and severity of child abuse and neglect in South Africa and the number of report-
ed cases is increasing rapidly."
The welfare workers said while the crisis was mountung, no effective govemment plan was in place to deal with it
"Existung services are fragmented and under-resourced with little finance," said Lerole.

Mr Alan Jackson of the Cape Town Child and Family Welfare Society sald whule there was an alarmmeng merease in child abuse, the full extent of the problem was not known.

- Welfare Minister Ms Geraldıne Fraser-Moleket1, who this week returned from abroad where she attended a world congress against commercial sexual exploitation of children, will be bnefed on the input by the welfare workers


# Niehaus gets blame <br> for children in prison 

## Mzimela launches attack over bill amendment

GIINNIS UNDERHIL
Chief Reporter
THE Minister of Correctional Services Sipo Mzimela has launched a stinging attack on the chairman of the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services Carl Niehaus
over the illegal
"dumping" of children in prison.

Mr Niehaus insists "the buck stops" with Dr Mzimela over the highly contentious political issue, which has resulted in await-ing-trial children as young as 11 being locked up in prison for minor offences in a flagrant breach of the law.
"If the buck were to stop with me, we would solve the problem of unsentenced children in South Africa within two months," said Dr Mzimela. (Opinion piece in SATURDAY Argus this week).

Dr Mzimela has hit out at Mr Niehaus for proposing a private members' bill, which amended legislation to allow for the detention in prison of awating trial juveniles suspected of serious crimes. Although the bill was fiercely contested by Dr Mzimela, who is a member of the Inkatha Freedom Party, it was approved by the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services in March this year after a public outcry over the rampant juvenile crime sweeping the country.
"Mr Niehaus seems to be oblivious to the fact that we must always strive to temper politics with love and compassion for our fellow human beings, particularly those who are less fortunate than people who are entrusted with their welfare. If we do not do so, we run the risk of being enslaved by polițics. Unfortunately, there is neither love nor compassion in Mr Niehaus' political agenda," said Dr


Good times: a group of pupils make up their own games during the Faure school's recreational period
> "His ambition drives him to ignore the truth and engage in cheap politics."

## Mzimela

At last count, there were around 400 unsentenced juveniles being held in "just plain cruel" conditions in prisons, said Dr Mzimela Sixty-two percent of them should not be in prison because they were not being tried for serious crimes, like murder or rape, he said.

Mr Niehaus, who is making a bid for the Western Cape African National Congress leadership, said that the minister of correctional services had to ensure regulations regarding the treatment and conditions of detention of awaiting-trial persons under the age of 18 were brought into line with relevant internationally recognised human rights standards and norms.

The Department of Correctional Services also had the responsibility to provide the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services with a bi-monthly report on the implementation of the amended Section 29 of the Prisons Act. After many requests, the first report was received a month and a half too late, he clamed.
"This kind of slackness is a direct consequence of the manner in which Dr Mzimela has been dealing with the issue all along. Because he disagrees with the Amendment Act, he has not made an effort to ensure that it is properly implemented," said Mr Niehaus.
Mr Niehaus said that different dates were fixed for the implementation of the first amendment to the Correctional Services Act in different parts of the country. This amendment dealt specifically with unconvicted youths between the ages of 14 and 18.
"This was done because it was clear there were not enough places of safety, or institutions adequately equipped and secured to accommodate these young people. Unfortunately, Dr Mzimela insisted on the legislation being promulgated at once which led to the crisis of some young awaiting trial offenders escaping from places of safety and committing further crimes," he said.

The introduction of the second amendment to the legislation followed the signing of a proclamation on May 4 last year by President Mandela declaring awaiting trial juveniles could no longer be kept in jail. At midnight on August 5, 620 unsentenced juveniles were released into the custody of places of safety or returned to their communities of no appropriate accommoda. tion was available for them.
"A year later, and for purely political reasons, Mr Niehaus introduced a private members' bill in Parliament which, if passed, would once again provide for the incarceration of unsentenced children in prison. This was an unnecessary backward step," said Dr Mzimela.
"Mr Niehaus gave Parliament the false impression that the vast majority of unsentenced children had committed serious crimes such as rape, murder and armed robbery and posed a mortal danger to society. He deliberately misled Parliament into believing that there were either insufficient places of safety or that the available ones were insecure. Mr Niehaus' amendment made provision for some high sounding ideals, albeit impractical," he said.

Mr Mandela, who has always upheld the rights of children, has been noticeably absent by his lack of mvolvement in the ongoing political row. His spokesman,


Arty: Dr Mzimela inspects art work by the girls


## School may take in juveniles <br> GLYTHNIS UNDERHILI <br> Chief Reporter <br> Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela was invited to the Faure School for Girls in Stellenbosch this week as part of its marketing campaign to attract and accommodate "behaviourally handicapped girls". <br> As the political row over children being held in prison continues, the school has expressed a wish to assist in alleviating the problem by taking in some juveniles. The accommodation, school and recreational programmes appear luxurious in compari- <br> 

 son to the harsh reality of prison life for awaiting-trial and sentenced children.But according to those who run the school, which falls under the Department of Education, there has been resistance by social workers and the courts to sending children here because of the unwarranted "stigma" associated with the school.

Principal Debbre Horne said the school had the infrastructure to accommodate a number of girls being detained in prisons at present.
"Our school accommodates behav iourally handicapped girls between the ages of 14 and 21 from across the country and from all racial groups.
"Normally, girls are sent here by the courts. We accommodate these girls in a very modern and safe school and hostel complex," she said.

SATURDAY Argus was invited on a tour around the school this week with Dr Mzimela.

Fun and games the girls share a joke over a game of dominoes at the Faure school in Stellenbosch

With its luxury king-size swimming pool, spacious accommodation and secure care facilities, the school obviously provides more suitable accommodation for children who have become involved in crime.

Awaiting-trial children could also be housed here until the children in prison crisis eases, said Mrs Horne.
"Not only can we guarantee their safety, but we feel they will also be able to benefit from attending school as we have a very dedicated and well-trained staff, including psychologists and nurses, who are experlenced in handling difficult cases," she said.

Mrs Horne insisted the tour include the detention rooms, where "difficult" children are placed for up to five days in con finement.
"We want to be transparent, so you can't come back later to us and say you never
saw all aspects of life here," she said.
At present, there are 84 girls being housed at Faure School for Gris - but the school can take 220 girls.

Social functions with boys from other secure care schools are arranged to help the children integrate into society when they leave these premises, usually after two years. Visits outside the school are a popular event and the children are apparently used to mixing with others.

The girls at the school were involved in various sporting activities as the tour progressed All children appeared busy with recreational activities, unlike those SATURDAY Argus visited at Pollsmoor and Malmesbury Prisons, who only had ball game sports in a courtyard to look forward to for a limited period of the day

An 11-year-old boy incarcerated at Malmesbury Prison in breach of the law as


# ANC lashes out at 'racist' Mzimela 

## Niehaus backed over jailed children <br> <br> CLINE SAWYER <br> <br> CLINE SAWYER <br> his prospects of winnung the lead-

POITCAL CORRESPONDENT

THE African National Congress has hit back at Sipo Mzimela, the Minister of Correctional Services, for his "provocative and racist" yerbal attack on the chairman of the National Assembly committee on correctional services, Carl Niehaus.

In a Weekend Argus report, Dr Mzımela, a member of the Inkatha Freedom Party, criticised Mr Niehaus for introducing private member's legislation to allow for the detention of await-ing-trial juveniles in prison when no other suitable accommodation was available.

Dr Mzimela accused Mr Niehaus of lacking compassion and of using the issue to further
ership of the ANC in the Western Cape.

Hitting back, the ANC said Dr Mzimela's attack showed his falure to distinguish between national and party-political interests.

Mr Niehaus's bill reflected the mandated position of the ANC and was not motivated by personal glory or distinction.

The ANC regarded with contempt the claim that the bill was rejected both by the African National Congress Women's League (ANCWL) and the Human Rights Commission.

In fact, Mr Niehaus had helped draft the ANCWL's statement, which had pointed out that it was Dr Mzimela's primary responsibility to ensure that children who should not be detained in prisons were referred back to the courts.

These were awaiting-trial chldren younger than the age of 14 who were alleged to have'committed serious crimes, as set out in the Correctional Services Amendment Bill.

The ANC said it was a pity that the media had allowed itself to be misled by Dr Mzimela into believing that the Faure School in Stellenbosch could securely accommodate such children.

It had been pointed out on many occasions to the minister that places of safety and schools of industry were not equipped to deal with children who had serıous, often violent, behavioural disorders.

The row over juveniles in prison will be aired in Parliament on Thursday in a special debate which has been requested by the ANC and the IFP.

## By Wäghied Misbach Political Reporter

The African National Congress has accused Minister, of, Correctional Services Dr Sipho Mzimela of "cheap, petty politicking whrle children under the age of 14 are still being kept in South Africañ jails".

This came in response to Mzimela's criticism of Correctional Service Portfolio Committee chairman Mr Carl Niehaus over the issue and Welfare Minister Ms Geraldine Frascr-Moleketi for allegedly not doing her job in providing places of safety for children who have commit-. ted serious crimes.

In a statement released. in Parliament yesterday, the ANC denied that Niehaus's Private Members Bill on the question of children in prison was criticised by the ANC Women's League (ANCWL) and rejected by the Human Rights Commission.
"The ANC wishes to place on
record "that ${ }^{-r}$ Niehaüs's Private Member's Bill was not motivated by personal glory nor distinction but reflects the mandated position of the organisation."

Niehaus had helped to draft the ANCWL's statement; according to the ANC.
"Mzimela's. half-truths and inconsistencies are glaring for anyone to see. Never has Niehaus suggested that it was simply a case of not enough places of safety, but rather a situation where there are not enough secure facilities where enough security measures exist to keep children who are alleged to have committed serious crimes."
. It was a pity that the media had allowed itself to be misled that there was a place in Cape Town that could accommodate those children, the ANC said.
"Mzimela's attack on FraserMoleketi is callous and uncaring and also failed to recognise that her department was doing everything in its power to create safe, secure facilities."

## Jo'burg child protection

 services need more cash (298) Br priscila 5 SNHStarill $9: b$
Johannesburg faces a collapse of its child protection services unless urgent steps are taken to address their financial crisis, largely attributed to state cutbacks.
Lyn Perry, director of Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, appealed at the society's annual general . meeting last week for concerned companies and individuals to assist them to fulfil the vital role which it plays in the community.

Referrals to the police and the social service system of cases of child abuse and neglect have spiralled during the past few years and JCWS has questioned the priority of child protection services in the Greater Johannesburg area.

Perry said children were among the most frequent victims of the culture of violence which is a feature of life inSouth Africa.

However, Government funding of social services, including child protection has been steadily declining in real terms and in addition, in 1995, subsidies were cut by R1-million.
"Gaps in services abound. There are shortages of every type of provision including foster and adoptive families for abused, abandoned and neglected children, accommodation in children's homes, and preventive services, such as pre-school educare, for which subsidies were also recently reduced," Perry said.

The Government had inherited a welfare system which was primarily designed to meet the needs of four million whites and an attempt is being made to spread this provision across a population of more than 40 million, she said.

Where attempts are being made to meet the needs of rural communities, this is being done at the expense of abused and abandoned children in the urban areas, due to the inadequacy of the national welfare service budget.

Four months into the current financial year, the JCWS is showing a deficit of R680 000 .
"We have had to cut back on our activities and this is having an impact on our vulnerable children.
"About $77 \%$ of all families being helped by the JCWS are from historically disadvantaged communities. About $89 \%$ of the children in our residential care, educare and community projects are from these communities, which negates the perception expressed by some that we are a 'white' organisation," Perry said.

She said without the financial support of the Johannesburg community, JCWS would not be able to provide help; and each child 'deprived' of the care it should be able to give would become just another tragic statistic.'

Carl Niehaus, chairman of the portfolio committee on correctional services, called for Minister Sipo Mzimela's resignation during a wele During the SABC's programme Focus, Niehaus suggested that the minister should resign because of his failure to look after children fëtained in prisons.
"The minister says on princiWhe that he refuses to implement the law allowing children accused of serious crimes to be detained in prison. He believes thathe can ig' liament ... Either he should implement the law or leave. It's time to put up or shut up," Niehaus said.

Mzimela could not be contacted for comment last night. - Staff Reporter (253) 298) starlilal96

Staff Reporter
Many children awaiting trial land in jail unnecessarily because magistrates have different interpretations of the law, says Deputy Minister of Justice Manto Tshabalala-Msimang.

The interpretation of the Correctional Service Act by magistrates and public defenders created problems when dealing with juvenile offenders, she said yesterday.
At present 150 children were being held at Pollsmoor prison.

Sometimes the offences committed were not serious enough to warrant detention. Guidelines would be drawn up, she said.

Invariably the interpretation of the act was left to the discretion of the presiding officer, said Deon Rudman, deputy director general of the department of justice.
Dr Tshabalala-Msimang called on government bodies, including the education department and social ser-
justice system dealing with juveniles.

After a five-hour workshop for groups involved in the detention of juveniles, she said a task team needed to be established.

The team would look at ways of determining the correct ages of the juvenile offenders and be responsible for creating guidelines for which kinds of offences warranted the detention of children in jail, she said.
"We need to separate children who are supposed to go to Bonnytoun (place of safety), from those who must be detained in prison," she added.

A comprehensive report would be compiled soon on suggestions and recommendations from the workshop, said Dr Tshabalala-Msimang.

Another major concern was that public defenders, although showing a willingness to handle juvenile cases, were not facilitating the speedy trial of the children, she said.

This was a result of defenders giving priority to cases for which they were paid, she said.

Babis move inos SA baydromons


Company creche: Some South African organisations are providing chisdcare as an added benefit to employees
McDonald had a farm" in a space

exercises. They can often be run
profitably and are of "strategic
Whey can be used to head-hunt
key skills of men and women." And most importantly the creche
can serve as an incentive to keep well-trained, professional women staffers who often have to opt out of
the job market to raise their chilThe kudos for creches usually
come from mothers, but Adams has If it's a father who works at the company with a creche, "he has the

 "because we understand that corpo-
rate companies are not in the child-
care business".
The Labour Department could
soon turn its attention to childcare
at work. There is no legislation on
the subject, though senior officials
are set to assess international stan-
dards on the issue when they visit
the International Labour Organisa-
tion soon.
"It's a new issue in South Africa,"
says a Labour Department represen-
tative. The department inherited
this area of work from the Welfare
Department. "We are planning a sur-
vey on [workers'] access to care-
givers and the role of care-givers,"
she says.
Adams says creches should not
only be seen as social responsibility

INDA ADAVAS
INAS of Corporate INDA ADAMS of Corporate
Childcare leads the pack in lob-
bying for the provision of childShe's knocked at the doors of this

 The Liberty Life creche is one of
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But Liberty Life's creche is no
Buates" bland, bare boardroom It's a state-
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mothers have already reserved ther Kıasinu әц! ut paoejd are sotqeg
 finally to the play-group. If there is a downside to this
creche it's the absence of a dirt and




## Competency <br> 'vital in affirmative jobs' <br> CAPE TOWN - A first draft discussion

document on affirmative action within Parliament's support services proposes that special measures be taken to appoint people from previously marginalised groups, and that the concept of merit be "reframed" as a criteria for promotion.

The document is still to be debated by Parliament's transformation committee and has yet to be made public.

While black people would be the primary beneficiaries of affirmative action because of past discrimination, the document says token appointments should be avoided. Black people should be hired on merit and potential, "as competency will be fundamental".

Women and the disabled would also be targeted for affirmative action.

The document says it will be necessary to "reframe the concept of merit and attach a different set of criterna to it, such as understanding of policy, ability to work in a diverse team and others which are more in line with the mission of parliamentary services ${ }^{\text {s" }}$

Parliamentary support services had already set targets for affirmative action and the critena for recruntment, selection and promotion had been reformed and improved.
"However, they are still based on a rather narrowly defined, culturally determined and exclusive view of qualifications, expernence and achievement, rather than a broader and more inclusive view of relevant competencies."

The document warns that a number of factors may hinder implementation of
the policy. The prioritisation of affirmative action may be viewed also as a sacrifice of efficiency and effectiveness.

People who do not see themselves as beneficiaries of affirmative action could feel threatened by it, and this could affect their morale.
"Affirmative action may be seen as a form of reverse discrimination in which people are penalised for being of a different race or gender."

The document stresses that parliamentary support services need to develop "a positive but unapologetic institutional mindset towards affirmative action as a mechanism for redressing past imbalances". It must develop also management and working practices that would respect and see value in the diversity of its work force.-Sapa.

## Children jailed due to 'misinterpretation' <br> held the mistaken belief they were not

## LindaEnsor

CAPE TOWN-A misinterpretation of Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act by magistrates had contributed to the high number of children being detained in prisons, Deon Rudman, the justice department deputy director general, said yesterday.

He was speaking after the first of a series of nationwide workshops wnth magistrates and other role players which aimed to improve the system of juvenile detention.

Rudman said many magistrates
obliged to see children every 14 days once they had been convicted but only before they were sentenced. Also, they sometimes had children detained in prison when the offences were not serious enough to warrant this.

For instance, many of the 150 children held in Pollsmoor prison were not supposed to be there. The workshop decided to appoint a team to investigate the situation at the prison.

Proper implementation of Section 29 of the Act, which related to the detention of children, had been delayed by
the lack of acsommodation in places of safety, both in the Western Cape and elsewhere, Deputy Housing Minister: Mantho Tshabalala-Msimang said.

She said Justice Minister Dullah' Omar would appoint a project committee under the ambit of the SA Law Commission to develop a juvenile justice system and to evaluate the Act.

There was a need for children's cases to be given priority by the courts and for the work of several departments, including justice, welfare, education, correctional services and police, to be coordinated to deal with the problem.
 didature, I am now commencing friends to consider withdrawing my candidature for chairperson of the

At present the chairperson of
Parliament's Joint Committee on Parljament's Joint Committee on
Defence, Mr Tony Yengeni, is the Defence, Mr cony rengen,
 MEC Mr Chris Nissen
Omar is believed to be in the running, but he has yet to say if he
ill contest the position.
MP Mr Carl Niehaus has already
pulled out of the contest. Speculation that ANC leader
President Nelson Mandela had asked Nissen to reconsider his decision to stand down have not been s! uass!n suzas $\ddagger!$ inq 'pəui! juos determined to quit

# Operation Hunger scam: no arrest 

 (298) star $16 / 9 / 96$Revelations of the Free State swindle first came to light in 1995, and the entire

## staff of the province's office was immediately fired

## By Melanie-Anin Peris

No arrests have been made following the mult-million rand Operation Hunger scam involving the formar executive director and the staff of the organisation's Free State offices.

A year has passed since revelatons of the scam first came to light. Food for the poor worth R5million was allegedly diverted and sold in a scam which had been in operation for two years since 1993.

Fundraising director Lisa Kirkpatrick said last week the organisation believed the man the police were about to arrest was part of a larger fraud scam
"The man never worked for Operation Hunger, but we believe he was involved with the staff at the Free State offices," Kirkpatrick said.

Investigating officer Inspector Pieter Coetser from the Comercal Crime Unit said allegations had been made of a larger fraud scam He said, however, that police had no evidence of this yet.
"We are still investigating the case and an arrest will be made shortly," Coetser sard.

The identity of the person has been withheld.

Revelations of the Free State scam first came to light in 1995 and the entire staff of the Free State office was immediately fired The office has not been reopened.

Meanwhile, Operation Hunger needs R12-million to achieve at least some of its objectives during the 1996/97 financial year. In spite of dwindling financal resources the organisation has

> Confidence of donors is returning
still managed to come to the aid of the needy.

During the 1995 financial year the charity provided 4180344 meals to vulnerable households, implemented a number of water, irrigation and sanitation systems, and trained 272 people, although it experienced a R5-million drop in donor income following revelatons of fraud.

Chairman Phiroshaw Gamay believes confidence has been restored in the organisation and that it would be able to meet its obligations this year
"The staff has undertaken work to show its commitment to the rights of children.
"The confidence of donors is returning and we are optimistic that with regional and national fundraisers in place, Operation

Hunger will meet its targets," Gamay said.

Over the next three years, Opaeration Hunger intends expanding its operations to all none provinces, reduce child growthfaltering (like problems in the growth rate caused by malnutriion) by $25 \%$ and implement targated food support programmes.

Camay said the organisation had already addressed a number of goals set out by the Reconstrucion and Development Programme's commissioned report on Children, Poverty and Disparty Reduction including reducing the infant mortality rate and reducing severe malnutrition among children under five.
■ In an earlier report in The Star, the name of the former executive director of the Free State office of Operation Hunger was incorrectby given as Sipho Mashinini. His first name is Moho.

## TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 17, 1996

# CUTS A RIGHTS ISSUE, SAYS ANC Schools must retain the cane - ACDP 

> ( (298)
> WHILE THE ANC argues that corporal punishment in schools will be deemed unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court, the African Christian Democratic Party wants it retained for serious misconduct. Education Wrter CAROL CAMPBELL reports.

GIVING a child a hiding at school was an infringement of their human rights and, in abolishing corporal pumshment, South Africa had shown itself to be an international leader in protecting children, ANC MP Ms Naledı Pandor said yesterday.

Speaking at a meetıng of the National Assembly's education committee, to "informally" discuss amendments to the South African Schools Bill, Pandor said a Britısh boy was in the process of taking his parents to court for violating his human rights by smacking him and cases like this should not be forgotten when passing new legislation.
She was responding to a request from Mr Lous Green of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP) that corporal punishment be allowed in schools "in the case of misconduct of a serious nature".

Green said: "Many countries like the USA (in some states) and Zimbabwe do not regard corporal punishment
in schools as 'cruel and inhuman' punishment
"The prohibition of corporal punishment in the bill seems to be based on the incorrect assumptions that it is unconstitutional and the Constitutional Court will rule it to be so.
"The Constitutional Court has not made a ruling on the matter and the prohibition of corporal punishment therefore appears to be premature."

Mr Randall van der Heever, the spokesman for the ANC, said the circumstances that led to a student being suspended or expelled from a school had to be clarified in the bill so that the same rules could be applied consistently at all schools.

The new bill needed to lay down an expulsion process and a period of suspension had to be agreed on, so that "this form of punishment would not be abused", he said

The ANC also recommended that no school governing body be allowed to rum "any" admission tests on prospective pupils, because this could lead

CT 1719196
to an "abuse of power" by governing bodies.

The party's suggestion that the section on a language policy for schools be dropped completely from the bill is expected to raise much debate, especially from the National Party and Freedom Front, when the groups meets this morning to formalise changes to the bill.
There is a strong feeling, especially among Afrikaans speakers, that a community should be allowed to decide the medium of instruction at its school and that this right be formalised in legislation governing schools.

Van der Heever said the clause should be wiped out because it was "covered by the Constitution Bull".

After the meeting National Party spokesman Mr Renier Schoeman said his party would put their amendments to the bill on the negotiating table this morning.
"We refuse to be rushed through this legislation in the same way the National School's Policy Bill was pushed through Parliament.
"This is too important and too much consensus has been reached at great effort throughout the country for us to allow one or two submissions to destroy that good work," he said.


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## Social workers

 alarmed over plans to reduce benefits (298) CT 1919/96SOCIAL workers Yeacted with dismay yesterday to the news that the government is considering cutting social security grants for the maintenance of women and children.

The Lund Commission Report proposes that the R430 a month state maintenance grant for moth ers be phased out over five years.

It also says benefits for children ought to be reduced from R135 a month to R70 each and should only be claimed till the children are nune, instead of 18 as at present

At least it leaves state social welfare grants for foster parents untouched, said Dr W Terblanche, the Western Cape provincial administration's director of social security Several social workers were also pleased with that aspect.

The report says it suggested the cutbacks as it feared the state would not have the money to support all the women and children at the present level if everyone who was eligible for a grant applied.

Black Sash social worker Ms Bastienne Klein, who expressed her own opinions and did not speak on behalf of her organisation, said the report appeared to be saying: "Because black women will now be able to get this benefit in significant numbers, we can't afford it."

It was alarming to cut a family's income from R700 a month to R140, she said.
"I have not read the Lund report, but it seems those who wrote it are not being creative about how they reshuffle (resources). They are suggesting cutbacks on an assumption that may never be realised. Not everybody who is eligible will claim, even if resources in the black community do improve.
"It was through bad administration that black women often did not get maintenance grants, while white, coloured and Indian women did. In Guguletu's Section Two, for example, there was one social worker for 200000 people, so not many reports were written, and by default black women did not get grants.
"This is about political will If the state does not want to give handouts, it must look at giving
people RDP jobs. These proposed changes will hurt black women too, especially those who have few skills other than looking after chil dren, and therefore can't get a job."

A social worker from a church welfare agency in a northern suburb, who declined to be named said a problem with the proposed policy was that single mothers would have such a low income they would no longer qualify even to get a lease on a sub-cconomic house

It would be good to deduct maintenance money from the wages or salaries of defaulting fathers. Yet it was a bad idea to reduce the state's maintenance grants in the expectation that money from the fathers would make up for it. Many fathers did not have jobs, could not be found or were in prison, she said.

Her fellow social workers felt the most upsetting thing about the plan was the reduction in the age at which children could qualify for assistance, to just nine years.
"We think they won't go to school after nine, because the mothers will be unable to pay the fees or associated costs."
A good thing about the new proposals was that it appeared the state would be willing to grant R70 for each child, irrespective of how many there were. She understood that at present, in the case of those who were married, the state only provides for a maximum of two.

She also felt it was impossible to maintain a child on R70 a month.

- The Masakhane campaign would receive a serious setback if the Lund Commission's recommendations were accepted, Western Cape Local Government MEC Mr Peter Marais said yesterday.

The recommendation regarding grants for mothers was irresponsible since it would cut off the financial lifeline of 100000 single mothers at a time when unemployment was about $30 \%$ countrywide.

The inability of poot, unskilled and unemployed people'to pay for services was a major factor in the non-payment of service arrears, which the Masakhane campaign aimed to counter, he sald. - Staff Writer, Sapa

966161 Jequaldes Kepsinul

## Single mothers

 and children face grant cutSPrar 1919196

Cape Town

Single mothers and their children who rely on state maintenance grants face a shock reduction in their payments if far-reaching changes to South Africa's welfare system are accepted.

But many who did not receive benefits in the past will be in line to receive the reduced scale of benefits.

Among the proposals are the phasing out over a five-year period of a total monthly maximum grant of R700, made up of a R430 parent allowance and R135 for each of two children from birth until age 18.

In its place is proposed a flat rate of R70 per child up to the age of 9 years.

The report on child and family welfare compiled by a team headed by Francie Lund of the Centre for Social and Development Studies at the University of Natal was handed to Welfare and Population Development Minister, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi yesterday.

Fraser-Moleketi said she would take the report to the Cabinet for its comments.
The central thrust of the report is the need to downscale benefits while at the same time making them more widely available to the roader South African population.

Lund's report warned that there would be "negative consequences".
"Women 'presently receiving the state maintenance grant, especially those in their 40 s and 50 s who will have difficulty in finding alternative sources of income, will be desperately affected.
"More young people will have to work for the upkeep of their families and this will affect their schooling and influence their ability to be independently productive," the report said.

Grandmothers would face greater pressure and the "already stressed old-age pension will have to do more work in household support"

Lund said at a media briefing that the black population had in the past been "effectively excluded" from access to the grants.

According to projections devised by the committee, R2-billion would be needed every year to target $39 \%$ of children who would qualify for the grant by passing a means test. At present, R1,2-biltion of the department's overall budget of R14-million goes towards maintenance grants.

The new approach will be to target the child rather than the child's mother or foster parent. This would facilitate the redistributive aspect of the new proposals and would mean that "many thousands more will receive a benefit for the first time ${ }^{\prime \prime}$.


CONCERNED: Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi

## Register of

 sex offenders
WELFARE and Population Development Minister Ms Géraldine Fraser-Moleketi said yesterday the government might introduce a register of convicted sex offenders and paedophiles.

The proposal arose in the light of an Inter-ministerial Committee on Young People at Risk report that found evidence of sexual abuse at South Africa's reform schools, places of safety and schools of industry.

Presenting the report at a media briefıng in Cape Town, Fraser-Moleketi said the conditions under which about 6000 children were being kept were cause for concern.

The committee investigated government facilities after Parliament passed a law in 1994 that ended the detention in adult jails of children awaiting trial.

That law has since been changed to permit children to be held in cells until adequate places of safety are provided.

The report found that children in the institutions "claim to be victims of emotional, physical and sexual abuse".

At one of the schools of industry charges are pending against the principal for allegedly sexually abusing girls in his care.

[^0] and physically abused and IIve in appalingly unsanitary conditions in the country's state-run places of safety.

This was the shocking picture that emerged from a Government mestigation into government-funded reform schools, schools of indus tries and places of safety.

The investigation, which was approved by the Cabinet in April this year, was released by Welfare and Population Devclopment Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi in Parliament yesterday.

The massive report reveals that children are physically, emotionally and sexually abused in these institutions.

Children interviewed at six of the facthties clamed to be regularly beaten by staff. Affidavits were taken from children who had been hit with stucks 20 to 27 tumes, with the beatings having taken place on the same day the investigative team visited the school.

## Cracked rib

A child at another school was beaten so badly that he suffered a cracked rib but no action was taken against staff member for the assault.

At one of the schools of industry, the proncipal is facing charges arising from allegations of sexual abusc. The proncipal has remaned in his job
since the charges were laid
There is also a certain amount of abuse carried out by children on other children. Sodomy occurs in almost all facilities, although it was found that not all sodomy was forced.

The study shows that children are not protected by staff from this kind of abuse During the night they are often locked up in dormstories and the shortage of staff makes it impossible to monitor the situation.

There is also no privacyume the santary facilites. Most bathrooms have no doors and there are no curtains on the showers.

## Unions seek to outlaw use of child labour in <br> making soccer balls <br> (298) ARG 25/9/96

ESTELLE RANDALL
Labour Reporter

## An international trade union

 campaign against the use of child labour in the production of soccer balls has drawn support from local and international soccer bodies.Earlier this year the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation (ITGLWF), and the International Confederation, called on the Federation Internationale de Football Association (Fife) and the Union of European Football Associations (Uefa) to take "urgent measures" to get children out of the workshops and into school

The Brussels-based ITGLWF which represents 207 trade unions in 103 countries, including the South African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union, said more than 80 percent of the world's soccer balls - about 35 million a year - were made in Sialkot, Pakistan, mainly by children.

Some were as young as six, earned the equivalent of about 27 cents an hour, and worked in poorly lit and ventilated workshops. Many would have been bought for as little as about R70 and were sold and resold like pieces of machinery.

ITGLWF general secretary Neil Kearney said Fifo, Uefa and national football associations should adopt a code of conduct for their licensees, making it a contractual obligation that merchandisers, manufacturers or sub-contractors of sports goods associated with soccer should observe basic worker rights, including not using child labour.

Now Fifo has agreed to have such a code in place by October. Reebok, a major soccer ball producer, has also cancelled its contracts in Pakistan and engaged a new contractor there. The new operation will ensure that work carried out excludes practices which lead to children being exploited.

Donald Norman, secretary-general of the SA Football Association (Safa),
said his association would comply with the code from Fifo.
He said Safa would also hold discussions with Kappa, which supplies them with equipment, including the soccer balls used by Bafana Bafana.

While the international trade union campaign has turned the spotlight on child labour in the East, child labour is also widespread in South Africa.

The 1994 October Household Survey said it affected about 200000 chicdree between the ages of 10 and 14 . Sectors most affected were agriculture (21 percent), retail and catering (17 percent), manufacturing (12 percent) and social and personal services (seven percent).

Reasons for child labour lie in the economic dependence of many,famion the income earned by children and the weak enforcement of the laws, policymakers have argued.

Existing law allowed employers to get exemptions to use child labour but in practice exemptions had largely been ignored and current procedures made it difficult for inspectors to mon ito compliance with exemptions.

Enforcing the law against child labour was also difficult because child workers and their families were often unwilling to prosecute or testify.

The Department of Labour's proposed new Employment Standards aim to deal with some of these problems.

They recommend that children younger than 15 may not work at all and those younger than 18 may not do work which is inappropriate for their age or which is hazardous or harmful to their health.

There is also a proposal that ways be found to oblige employers to pay the same wage to adults and children who do the same work.

Exemptions to child labour should only be granted to individual employ ers who want to employ children aged 12 to 14 to do work which is not harmfurl to their health or education, it has been proposed.

# - <br> Places of satety really places of danger <br> this facility sit on a bench all day 

More than 6000 children in need of care are suffering trauma at the hands of the state, reports Gaye Davis

TOUSANDS of children are livng in terrmble conditions in places of safety in South Afnca - often without sufficient clothing and bedding at mght. without proper educational faclities and in buldings that are unhealthy and unsafe - according to a recently released government report
Of the more than 6000 chuldren in reform schools. schools of industry and places of safety. more than $60^{\circ \prime 0}$ are there not because they have committed a crime or are awating trial but because they have been identufied by social workers as having bemg exposed to physical or sexual abuse, or neqget t.
But when they are put in the hands of the state, they expenence what Iesley du Toit, manager of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Young People at Risk which wrote the report, calls "secondary abuse"
"Secondary abuse" can take many forms. It can be formal and systematir - the "control and punishment" approach of most institutions. where there are too few staff who are badly paid and under-tramed Under this approach children are locked in dormtories at nught and have their letters read and often withheld. and ther holidays at home are seen as a priviege. not a rıght. Many live in run-down buldings, where they sleep under soiled sheets and too-few blankets alongside reekng toulets.
The abuse can also be informal, though just as systematic. Chuldren interviewed told of emotional. physical and sexual abuse. by staff as well as other children. The report details widespread violations of children's nghts as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Chuld, the UNS Rules for Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty and the Constitution.
Youngsters who attempted suicide, abused substances. mutiated themselves, were aggressive or behaved in other ways typical of troubled young people did not receive therapy, but were seen as "bad" and were usually harshly punished. While the quality of care dif-


Passages of pain: Thousands of children stay in prison-like places of safety, sometimes for years РНото дUTHмотAU
Children held in isolation

$\boldsymbol{G}^{-1}$HE isolation cell is usually a no reading material, although some small, windowless room, per- facilities provide a Bible.
haps with a tiny observation window or peephole in the door. It generally has no carpeting or furniture, and either a cement block or a thin mattress or mat on the cement floor provides the sleeping space. There is usually an open toilet and sometimes a wash basin ... There is
fers wdely. staff "at all levels" were found to lack experience and expertise Centres that previouslv catered for black chuldren were found to have the worst faclities, but wide discrepancies exist generally. Girls at Le Fleur School of Industry at Faure, outside Cape Town, live in run-down buildings the prncipal says were declared unfit for human habitation in the 1980s.
Wind and rain blow in through broken windows: there is no heating There are open toilets in the dormitories; the girls are routinely tested for HIV without them consent. Theur education is based on an outdated curnculum; there are no recreation programmes. There are not enough uni-
"The child or youth placed in iso lation is at some facilities permitted to wear only pyjamas, and at some places only short-sleeved shirts, shorts and no footwear. These clothing rules are said to be efforts to prevent attempts at suicide. At one school the blankets and mattresses
forms to go around and those that there are are old and stained.
At Val du Charon mdustral school in Wellington in the Cape on the other hand, each girl gets two sets of unıforms for weekdays, a unform for gong out on weekends, floral dresses to wear in the afternoons and track suits for winter. The school offers "excellent, market-related" courses in educare. haur-dressing and caterng. The report says the difference in treatment of pirls at the two schools is "inexplicable": both previously catered exclusively for girls classified coloured and fell under the House of Representatives.
How bad things can be for children at facilities previously designated for
are taken out of the cells during the day, and the children are left barefoot and wearing shorts and shortsleeved shirts. This particular cell is a barred cell open to the cold air
"Children were observed shivering with cold; in this particular facility they are sometimes held as long as 28 days." - Extract from the report of a government investigation into South Africa's reform schools schools of industry and places of safety

## blacks is illustrated by the report's

 description of Tsheretselong Detention Centre in Bloemfontein, a place of safety that only takes chuldren awaitung trial. It says: "sanitary conditions are unacceptable. The ablution block has broken windows, broken wash basins and broken taps.'Human excrement was found on the floors and in the showers...a res It of too few tolets avalable at any trme ... A lack of paper seems to lead to ... children having to use their clothing to clean themselves"
Children al Tsheretselong are cared for by security officers No youth workers are employed. "The eight grls in
under the watchful eye of a security officer, who also accompanues them to the tollet "
Although places of safety are intended as shorl-stay centres where chuldren are assessed and green temporary care the investigation team found chuldren spending years in them wating to be placed in chuldren a homes foster cate or schools of mdustry "The committee came arross children who have beern waduig for placement for up to three years. or awatung trial for up to two years Chuldren hate been known
to walt for up to 12 years
Some of the redsuns for this were social workers in agencies and mstututions not writung the necessary it ports or co-operating with one another referral agency social workers "not domg anything" once the child was in a place of safety: the Deparment ol Education faling to place the chuld: insuflicient probation officers and lack ol follow-up and children's homes being full or unwilling to take children with emotonal and behavioural problems
A chuld at Tsheretselong awaiting trial on charges of theft was moved between the court in Harnsmith and the Bloemfonten detention centre 19 umes because the social worker faled to complete a report for the court.
The country has nine reform schools. 18 schools of industry and 32 places of safety "There is no shortage of bed space for children if one revews these state institutions as a whole," says the report. No need. therefore, to detain children - whether sentenced or awating tral - in prison.
But as the report shows, the issue is more complicated than addung up the number of beds avalable and the umber of chuldren needmg them
Welfare Minister Geraldıne FraserMoleketi has taken on the lask of reforming this Dickensian and inefficient system. She has the backing of her Cabmet colleagues, who expressed shock when presented with the committee's findings last week. Cabinet has endorsed her recommendations for short-term. emergency action and longer-term measures, and individual ministers have pledged ther commitment to making sure departments take the required action. But FraserMoleketi's keenest champions are likely to be the children.


## Adolescents in the dust FM 271996 Continued sparring between Correc-

 tional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela (Inkatha) and the chairman of the relevant parliamentary committee, Carl Niehaus (ANC), threatens to obscure a rational solution to the problem of children in jallThey have clashed in a notably vigorous television debate; and now their respective parties have come to their defence through sharply worded media releases At the same time, fresh evidence is emerging of the sad and abusive conditions under which many juvenile offenders are incarcerated
In May last year, Mzimela amended the Correctional Services Act to prohibit the detention in prisons, police cells or lockups of unconvicted people under 18 This was to give effect to his personal belief which had considerable support within the Government of National Unity - that adult facilities were no place for younger people vulnerable to abuse and the influence of hardened criminals.
This being SA, the result was predictable many under-18s who had committed crimes were released or sent on to inadequate places of safety from which they escaped. After a public outcry, Niehaus this year brought in a Prlvate Member's Bill, further amending the Act, that gave the courts discretion to detain youths charged with certain categories of serious crime, the orders to be subject to constant monitoring - and the law itself to be reviewed by parliament after a year.
Reports that 14 -year-olds were being locked up with adult criminals - often in degrading circumstances - triggered the current round of acrimony between Mzimela and Niehaus.
The Minister has accused Niehaus of going against the wishes of the ANC Women's League and the Human Rights Commission in pushing through his Bill; Niehaus and the ANC caucus have in





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# Red tape keeps kids in jail But crisis to end by July, says department <br> overnight " There are 42 functioning Places <br> ings of the Inter Ministerial Committee on 

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## CXMHIS UNDERHML

Chief Repofter
The provision of alternative secure care facilities for children accused of crimes is being hampered by the complicated procedures involved in drawing up building plans and identifying and buying buildings, according to the Department of Welfare.
The department sald the "lengthy tender procedures and processes" were delaying the establishment of new accommodation
The department also belleves the current crisis, which has resulted in awaitmg trial children as young as 11 being held in prison is the result of the misinterpretation of cur rent legislation
"The Department of Welfate is responst ble for awaiting trial children only and this includes care and treatment propiammes," the department said in a statement
"The situation regarding children in cus tody is, however a matter of un gent concer for the Government, but cannot be resolved
of Safety in the country, according to the Department of Welfare. Secure care facilitiles are being established and the first secure care facility in Gauteng will be opened within two months
"Each province will eventually have at least one secure care facility by July 1997, accommodatng 50 juveniles between the ages of 14 and 18 years," the department said
Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Correctional Services Minister Sipo Mzimela had com. mitted themselves and the Government to a "united effort" to solve the problem of await ing-trual children in prison, the department sald
There was now a major commitment from the Cabinet to ensure the child and youth care system was transformed after the find-

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Young People at Rtsk revealed in Parilament the shocking conditions in South Africa's reform schools, schools of industry and places of safety Over the past year short and medium term strategies had been developed to address the problem and to transform the child and youth care system, the department said in response to questions from Saturday Argus
"The current legislation has a self-limiting clause which expires in August 1998. However, the aim is to have no children in any prison by June 1997," it said

Current legislation allows for children between 14 and 18 who are awaiting trial for serious offences to be held in prison Saturday Argus has visited awaiting trial children in Pollsmoor Prison and Malmesbury Prison, where two children ged 11 were recently held while awaiting their trial dates Virginia Petersen, head of
the Western Cape provincial administration department of social services, said she believed secure care faclities should be in place when Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act was once again promulgated in Parliament.
"The management and workings of secure care facuities involves an essential shift in the approach and methods used in the past to a new paradigm which rests on mportant principles that can only mpo he way childre ,
Siyakhatala Place of Safety in Stellenbosch was not closed for purposes of refurbishment, she sald "Minister Rasool, Minis ter of health and Social Services in the Western Cape, together with the department, closed Siyakhatala due to unsatısfactory circumstances, for example the building was an old prison and did not comply with the new paradıgm," she said
The department now had the capacity to accommodate 249 awating trial children in the greater Cape 'Town and Genrge area


Hear thils: Correchonal Services Minister Sipo Mzimela, centre, addresses warders and awaiting-tial prisoners at Pollsmoor

## Red tape

 blocks help for child suspectsThe provision of alternative facilities for children suspected of crimes is being hampered by ${ }_{4}^{4}$ lengthy tender procedures" involved in identifying and buying buildings, according to the Department of Welfare.

The department believes thát the current crisis, which' has resulted in children as young as It being held in prison, is the result of the misinterpretation of current legislation.
"The Department of Welfare is responsible for awaiting-trial children only. The situation regarding children'in custody is a matter of urgent concern for the Government but cannot be resolved overnight." $=$ There are 42 functioning places of safety in the country, according to the deparitment: Secure-care facilities are being established and the first securecare facility in Gauteng will be öpened within two months.

## United effort

: "Each province will eventually have at least one secure; care facility by July 1997, accommodating 50 juveniles between! 14 and 18 years of age," the department said.

Minister of Welfare and Population Development Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and Minister of Correctional Services :'Sipo Mzimela had committed themselves to a "united effort ${ }^{\text {tr }}$ ' to solve the problem of awaitingtrial children in prison, said the Department of Welfare,

There is how a major commitment from the Cabinet to ensure that the child and youth care system is transformed after the findings of the Interministerial Committee on Young Peoplé at Risk revealed in Parliament the shocking conditions in SA's reform schools, schools of industry and places of safety.

Over the past year, short'and médium-term strategies had been developed to address the problem and to transform the child and youth care system, the Department of Welfare said' in response to questions,








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## Children join city red light districts

Mány young boys and girls work as
prostitutes, strippers or escorts in
Johannesburg, investigation finds

## By Anso Thom

Crime Reporter

Child prostitution is still rife in central Johannesburg, with young teenagers being exploited and used as prostitutes, escorts and strippers, an investigation by The Star has found.

Scores of them walk the streets of downtown Johannesburg and Braamfontein at night, frequenting seedy nightclubs in the hope of earning a living.

This year, 632 perpetrators have been arrested under the Sexual Offences Act.

Police admi they have a massive battle on their hands, but have found unlikely al lies in adult prostitutes who supply them with infor mation about child prostitutes.
"Adult prostitutes also believe child prostitution 1s not right and unacceptable," sand Johannesburg child protection unit reservist Sergeant Cólin Morris., "SSeveral prostitutes. are our informers, informing us when underage children start working the streets or work at escort agencies.":

Glaring examples of child prostitution are evident in many parts of town. In downtown Johannesbuirg, near Mooi and Nugget streets, at least 20 young girls gather around open fires on street corners every night. Dressed like any teenager with white tackies and socks, floral dresses and jeans, the girls wait for customers.

Observed by a team from the Star one night, a tall man called the "Protector" negotiated a price with a potential client.

One of the young girls then
got into an expensive sedan and was driven to a dark alley nearby. The girl bent over the man and administered oral sex while the man touched her young body. Fifteen minutes later she was returned to her friends.

In Braamfontein, young boys lurk in the shadows as middleaged men and couples drive past slowly in the hope of finding a suitable boy.

Morris said the young male prostitutes are mostly runaways serving an area renowned for the gay and lesbian nightlife.
One of them, clearly a teenager but claiming to be 21, said he was introduced to male prostitution by a friend four years ago.
In spite of earning about R5 000 a month Simon (nothis real name) is adamant "I don't enjoy doing this". All his money is spent on socialising and supporting his $\mathrm{co}^{-}$ caine habit,
${ }^{4}$ Morris said the boys could only be charged with loitering ats this stage and ordered to pay a R30 spot fine.

Two 'escort agencies interviewed by The Star denied employing underage girls - but were quick to point a finger at other agencies.
"In one case, a mother working as a stripper had given a letter claiming her daughter was older than 18. She was only too happy her daughter was bringing in money" Morris said

While Morris acknowledged that many children were working as prostitutes, organised sex rings were not yet a problem. He added he was áware of ondy one organised child prostifution ring being run in Johannesburg.


Women on grants will soon feel pinch - (228) Aran3019196 For the money to spread further, child support must be reduced

## By Priscilla Singh

The recommendations in the Lund committee report released last week may not have meant much to sisters Cathy Stevens and Hette Seeger, but the reality will hit home when their Government grants are chopped by nearly half.

The commuttee of the Minister of Welfare and the provincial members of the executive council were concerned about the future affordability of the state maintenance grant, one of four categories of state support, and established the Lund Committee on Child and Family Support to investigate the problem.

Fransie Lund, who is part of the centre for social and research studies at the University of Natal in Durban, headed up the committee and found there were diverse inequalities in the present system of payment for child and family support.

She said the only way to cater for all women was to cut down on the grants presently given so that women, especially blacks, could benefit.

But, Lund said, the recommendations should not be looked at from the viewpoint that people are losing out, but that a lot more peoplew would gain once the reporthád been approved.

Stevièns and Seeger are both
single mothers who live in a lowcost rental flat in Jan Hofmeyr on the outskurts of Johannesburg

Seeger (33) has two sons, Johan (9) and Andre (14), and gets R615 every month with which she has to pay for rent, electricity, school fees and food from what's left.

Stevens (31) receives R565 a month and has only one chuld, Tessa (6), to take care of. But for her, the nightmare is just starting as Tessa starts school next year and the daunting expense of school fecs and uniforms keeps her awake at night.
Both women are unemployed and have tried to find employment in all areas, but with no luck

They did not even know about the recommendations of the Lund report and shrug their shoulders about what the future holds.
"My sons are so used to the way we live, that they don't even know what luxuries are. We also have to survive," Seeger sard

Lund said the blow of the grant cuts would be softened as it would be a gradual change.
"All South Africans were eligible for the grant in the past, but for a variety of reasons African women were largely excluded. Most of the former homelands and independent states did not administer it.
"In 1995, about R1,2-billion was spent on state maintenance


Welfare woes ... Cathy Stevens, with her 6 -year-old daughter Tessa and a neighbour's child, contemplates the future.
grants and it would cost between R5-billion and R 20 -billion annually, depending on assumptions made, if all women eligible for the grant under present conditions were to get it," Lund said.

A woman is eligible for this means-tested grant if she has applied for financial support from
her partner or the father of her children through a magistrate's court and has been unable to get it, or if she was widowed or deserted.

Other conditions include that the women must have a maximum of two children under 18 or 21 years if still a student.
We are also aware that children＇s
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mended for other welfare services this
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White Paper for Social Welfare





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 Section 13 （3）of the National Youth Com－
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 In terms of section 84（5）of the Constitu－
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## рәооұет V



## Services at the centre extend far beyond those of a conventional school

By Claire Keeton
Feature Writer

Thapelo Kiba is a talented child who is able to build complicated robots and towers with Lego blocks without following the instructions - but he ever talks to anyone
His teachers at the Harvey Cohen Centre in Eldorado Park understands this. taking special care of hum and his this, taking spects
fellow students
The centre, established by the Society for the Care of the Mentally and Physically Handicapped, accepts students that other schools or training centres are unwilling or unable to accommodate.

The Harvey Cohen Centre offers education and development skills specifically designed for handicapped pre-schoolers, profoundly handicapped members of the surrounding communities and handicapped adults who graduate with nowhere to go.

Most students come from Soweto, Eldorado Park, Newlands and Bosmont, while 25 from further afield, like Tembisa, stay in a hostel on the premises. The day students from Soweto spend an average of seven hours every day on the bus (the equivalent of a one-way trip to Durban) until recently when the centre was offered a second bus.
The tiring journey does not discourage children and adults from comung to the centre, which has a long waiting list toping its existing enrollment of about 200 If the centre had more money it would be able to accept more people but it is short of funds for basic equipment, routne maintenance and even teachers' salaries

Although this deeply concerns Mrs Dorothy Cornelius - the dedicated director and driving force behind the centre - she feels that conditions for handicapped people are far better now than when she started her work in 1969.

A speech therapist and teacher Cornelius and two colleagues did a house-to-house survey at that time and found some 200 children needed a special facility
"In the '60s people were shoved into a corner and forgotten," she sald "No provision was made for handicapped children and they were not progressing."

Since they started the centre, they have admitted at least 18 children that
have advanced into manstream schools, traıning centres and specalised schools where they are doing well, satd Cornelus
The services offered by the centre, however, extend far beyond those of a conventional educational institution They include nursing, speech and occupational therany and a cerebral palsied centre
alsed centre
Sport, drama and music are regular ctivities and the centre has earned disinctions on the sports field by having wo world-class athletes among its sid dents. Veronica Meyer broke the record for the half-marathon at the Special Olympics Summer Games in the US last year and Daphne Hendersen excelled in Egypt by setting the 1 500metre Africa record for handicapped people.

But it's not all fun and games for the chuldren and adults at the centre, as developing life and vocational skills are the priorities.

## Special workshops

There are two men's and women's workshops. The first aims to equip students with skills that will assist them to be independent and generate an income. In these workshops students arc bent over their carpentry tools and sewing machines, making educational tools, cushions and patchwork covers.
They work at different levels according to the functions they can manage, whether it is sanding, stuffing cushoons or machine-stitching Cornelius said the students make saleable goods to order and their parents get involved in finding contract work for them.
"We make educational toys such as counting blocks and furnture such as benches from scrap wood," says workshop supervisor Mr Jerome Alexander,

One of his 40 -year-old students has been in care from age five, starting at the Coronatonville Traming Centre (established by the society in 1973) and moving to the Harvey Cohen Centre when he was a teenager

The second workshop concentrates on developing independent living skilis to improve therr quality of life and mfluence the community's atttude towards handicapped people

The centre offers a protective environment for students to buuld self-help skills and be encouraged to learn An early intervention class focuses on the four basic areas of development, par-


Thapelo Kiba is a gifted child with a creative talent for building but he seldom talks to anyone. The Harvey Cohen Centre assists him with his development even though he does not communicate.

PICS CLAIRE KEETON
icularly communication, and the children are outgoing and relaxed
"Bongani Shamse (7) of Klıptown squatter ared interprets from Zulu and Sotho into English and Afrikaans for us," says Ms Josie van Zeeberg. Another boy has learnt international ign language to communicate whule gn lo tor to walk without crutches.

The intermediate group accepts children of about six years old, many with a mental age of a one-year-old. The teachers work in the childrens home languages using communication boards and puzzles to teach them perceptual development

## Lack of funds

They do drawing, music, drama, and story-telling, and these programmes are supervised by part-tıme speech and occupational therapists Although the centre desperately needs the services of a physiotherapist they have no money to employ one and would ppreciate contributions

A physiotherapist could partcularly assist with the profoundly handicapped adolescent and cerebral palsied classes, in which the teachers concenrate on movement to control muscle disorders, sensory stımulation and provide basic care

A class for pre-intermedrate profoundly handicapped children is dominated by hyperactive children with
almost no verbal capability. They do activittes for dally living like washing and work with colours and shapes.

The youngest group, with six babie and toddlers, recelves music therapy and lots of love and care from their teachers
"Children are happy and free with therr teachers, unlike some places where they cower before them," Cornelius says.

The centre opened its doors in 1980 and received hmited government funding in 1984 from the Departments of Health and Socral Welfare.

There are 11 teachers for 90 children and six adult supervisors for the remaining 110 students, which is a small staff for specialised care.
"Two teachers resıgned recently because they wanted better pay and our salaries are low We could not afford to replace them because our funds are very low."

The centre does fundraising in the community and gets assistance from the corporate sector but needs additoonal funds to mantain its services to reach out to the community
Cornelius says "Not a day goes by when we don't get telephone calls asking - do you have place for my child."

- If you are able to assist the centre, phone Dorothy Cornelius or Leone Stafford at (011) 342-1254 or 945-1409 Box 88078, Newclare, 2112, Johannesburg


Enough is enough ... some of the children who participated in a march to the Protea North Magistrates' Court in Soweto.

## Soweto parents protest at handling of child rape cases

## By Auphey Srawaxwa

Concerned parents and children from Dube and Mofolo North in Soweto marched to the Protea North Magistrates' Court yesterday to protest against the courts' handling of child rape cases and threatened to take the law into their own hands.

They submitted a memorandum outlining their grievances to a court official.

The biggest fear mothers expressed was that their children would be raped at school and nothing would be done about it.
"Two or three children get
raped every month in Mofolo and rapists are set free;" said Pat Nhlapo.

An angry Nhlapo cited the rape of a 7-year-old Mofolo girl, who she said was the fourth victim of the same man. However, the man had "only been sent to jail once", she claimed.

She, also claimed that one of the victims was a disabled girl.

Nhlapo and other parents told journalists they would take the law into their own hands "if the court keeps on setting perpetrators free".
They demanded that male prosecutors not be allowed to
prosecute child rape cases, that rapists not be allowed defence attorneys and that they also be denied bail.
Parents said female prosecutors would be more sympathetic to victims.

One angry protester said her 12-year-old yranddaughter had been fulled into a train at Dube station in January and raped by a 25-year-old man, whom the court found not gulty of rape.

She said that during the trial the magistrate told her grandchild that she looked older than her age. The woman asked: "Was it right that my granddaughter be
raped because she looked older than her age?"

Sello Mothabakwe reports that residents of Zevenfontein and Diepsloot squatter camps have also vowed to stem the tde of child molestation and murders in the area. This comes after the death of a 4 -month-old baby in the area last month at the hands of lan alleged child molester.

National Child and Violence Trust spokesman Glenys van Halter said residents of the informal settlements had on Friday taken action agaunst a rastafarian man who was alleged to have molested a child.

# Parents urge courts to get tough with child rapists <br> cutors not be allowed to prosecute 

Johannesburg - Concerned Soweto parents and children from have protested against the and have vowed to take the law into their own hands if courts do not get tough.

They submitted a memorandum at the Protea North Magistrate's Court yesterday outlining their grievances.

Parents said their biggest fear was that their children would be raped at school and nothing would be done about it. "Two or three children get raped every month in Mofolo and rapists are set free;" said Pat Nhlapo.
Ms Nhlapo said one recent rape victim, a 7-year-old Mofolo girl, was the fourth victim of the same man. But the man had "only been sent to jail once". Parents demanded that male prose-
child rape cases, that rape suspects not be allowed defence counsel and that they be denied bail.

One woman said her 12-year-old granddaughter had been raped on a train in January by a 25 -year-old man, who the court found not guilty of rape.

The magistrate had told her grandchild she looked older than her age. The woman asked: "Was it right that my granddaughter be raped because she looked older than her age?"

Residents of Zevenfontein and Diepsloot squatter camps have also vowed to stem the tide of child molestation and murders in the area after the death of a 4-month-old baby who was allegedly molested and killed by a male babysitter.

On Friday, residents also burnt down the shack of a Rastafarian man who had allegedly abused a child.









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Emucanon Reportier
Pupils at Bulumko Secondary School near Khayelitsha, who chased out their teachers three weeks ago in a row over corporal punishment, are set to start writing their end-of-year exams - but haven't completed their syllabuses.

The stand-off came when teachers refused to agree to the pupils' demand that corporal punishment at the school be abolished. Pupils argued that teachers used caning not as a method of discipline but to inflictpain.

Pupils attended school, without their teachers, for about two weeks' but most have now deserted their classrooms.

At the time of the furore, teachers ran for their lives when raging pupils hurled bricks at them and smashed their cars. The
violence came when teachers and pupils could not reach agreement on the issue of corporal punshment. The meeting included parents.

Last week a handful of pupils sat dejectedly outside their classrooms saying they would continue their studies without the help of teachers. Std 9 and matric pupils are attending Saturday morning classes at Joe Slovo Secondary School.

The Western Cape Department of Education said negotiations between parents, teachers and pupils to persuade the teachers to go back to work were continuing.

Last year the Constitutional Court ruled that corporal punishment was a breach of the Interim Constitution. This ruling and a white paper on education and training calling for the abolition of corporal punishment in schools prompted three provinces, Gauteng, the Western Cape and Northern Province, to outlaw canmg.

## When schooling is torture ...

## EDUCATON REPORTER

Corporal punishment brutalises society and teaches violence to children, says Nomfundo Walaza, a clinical psychologist who was herself harshly caned as a child.

Ms Walaza said that, during her school days in Langa, a cane was soaked in water before the pupils were hit.

She likened caning to torture: "When someone hits you with a stick on the soles of your feet so that you can't walk, or canes you on your hands so that you can't write, that's a form of torture."

Ms Walaza lives in Observatory and has worked as a senior counsellor at Cape Town's Trauma Centre for Victims of Violence and Torture for the past two years.

She said corporal punishment taught children to respond to violence with violence. "Violence begets violence and brutalises society."

In Cape Town's black townships there has been resistance to the abolition of caning at schools since it was outlawed last year by the Constitutional Court.

Parents and teachers argue that they were caned at school and grew up into disciplined adults.

Ms Walaza said parents did not know the details of the methods used by the teachers to punish children.
"They are not aware of the humiliation and loss of self-esteem the children have to
go through. Sometimes, even if they know, they decide to turn a blind eye because the teachers will tell a parent to remove the child from school.
"To black parents, a teacher is always right and knows everything. It is only when a child gets back home with scars that a parent understands the seriousness of the situation."

Ms Walaza said corporal punishment had become the norm in black communithes and would take time to eradicate.
"People should be educated about the effects of corporal punishment and violence in society. It is important to teach parents and teachers that communication is the first resort.
"You assert your power as a parent and teacher by communicating with the child and I don't believe a culture of learning should be complicated by violence.

She blamed apartheid for chaos in black communities. The apartheid system had told people to relinquish power and hand it over to others. The school was a microcosm of the dynamics of apartheid society oppression and subjugation.

She said parents were resisting the abolition of corporal punishment because they were worried about what would take its place.
"They feel a child behaves well and improves at school when caned. It is up to the state to put in place proper mechanisms to fill in for corporal punishment."

# SAB donates R20 000 to children's home <br> (298) Araw 18110196 

Cerebral palsied infants need full-time care, giving their parents the opportunity to seek employment

## Beatrice Motsisi

City Desk

After the shock of giving burth to a baby with cerebral palsy, Masechaba Modimoeng used her expenence to start a home for cerebral palsied children in her back yard in Bekkersdal on the West Rand

Sx-year-old Korekile Modimoeng was born three months atter his mother sustained a thigh tracture in a car accident

The Korekile Home, named after he bov, opened its doors in November 1994 and now caters tor 30 chuldren, some of whom are confined to wheelchairs They are anded by 24 stafters

Modımoeng saıd while as a soclal worker she had helped parents

## It caters for 30 children, some of them confined to wheelchairs

ot cerebral palsied chuldren, she had been totally unprepared tor her own son's disabulity'
"It was shocking, but I realised I had to accept it Atter that, I never had a problem He is my prode and joy."

Yesterday South African Breweries (SAB) beer division donated R20 039 to the home which will be spent on speciahsed toys and, chairs and gymnastic balls to aid stimulation
'SAB's Márk Bowman commended the -involvement of dedicated members of the community and said the corporation felt "privileged" to takê'part in the community's'efforts. Modimoeng said caring for a handicapped child was a full-time job, and the home enabled many parents to seek employment again.

'Pride and joy' ... Korekile Modimoeng, seated, and friends at this haven for cerebal palsied children in Bekkersdal.







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## MPs turn focus on children

Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine FraserMoleketi tabled the Child Care Amendment Bill in Parliament in a week that was dominated by public hearings on abortion, the South African Schools Bill and an outcry over the salaries paid to directors of loss-makıng transport parastatal Transnet.

The Child Care Amendment Bill has been the subject of long deliberations withen the community of social workers in the child care field. Their work is almost always frustrated by the meanspiritedness of most legislation dealing with less fortunate children, so any improvement is to be welcomed. The bill also has implications for the adoption of children and for the care of children in state institutions or shelters of the sort put aside for streetchildren.

New provisions are proposed to accredit social workers who specialise in adoption, to remove the power of foster parents to veto the adoption by other parents of a child in their care, to give parents a 60 -day "cooling-off period" in which they may reverse their decision on the adoption of their child, and to strike out the provision that a child who has spent two years in state care may be adopted regardless of what the natural parents say.

Another new provision compels teachers to report suspected abuse of a child to the police.

The bill also makes it compulsory for state care institutions to be inspected, where previously they were exempt, and it provides for the inspection of shelters for


## By Patrick

Bulger

## streetchildren.

Unwanted children were in some sense the focus of the public hearings on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill. These have been well publcised, including the woman claiming to have been made pregnant by a Catholic priest and then relating how the church sponsored her abortion. Health committee chairman Abe Nkomo allowed her to give testimony (the term evidence would be going too far because that should rightly imply cross-examination and the right of rebuttal) and then ruled that the media had to fall in with her wishes to withhold her name and all other details.

Regardless of her intentions, the woman's condition of anonymity can only but cast her testi-
mony as malicious and it is a moot point whether Parliament should have allowed her to produce her unsubstantated allegation without the accused being given the right of rebuttal.

While the abortion bill is only now reaching the committee stage, during which amendments may be accepted or rejected, the South African Schools Bill was finalised by the education committee.

Once again the National Party demonstrated its inability to fully comprehend the implications of the constitution, which says the nation's resources are there for the people as whole. In other words, if there is only so much money for classrooms of 60 rather 30 children, one cannot exclude 30 chil dren by arguing that it is going to detract from the school or the quality of education.

The committee stage of the schools bill provided a fascinating example of the power that parliamentary committees can exercise. Under the chairmanship of the ANC's Blade Nzmande, the committee introduced changes to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu's original bill. In so doing, the committee refused to act as a rubber stamp, which is to be applauded.

The bill introduces compulsory schooling and scraps the Model C system by placing all schools on an equitable funding and legislative footing It is long overdue.

Another interesting aspect of the week was the focus on the almost R1-million salaries paid to Transnet directors. Given that Transnet is a public corporation owned by the state, the packages do seem on the high side. In the
past they seemed to be even higher than they are at present, and Deputy Finance Minster Gill Marcus' promise of greater parliamentary scrutiny of Transnet's spending was welcomed by all.

In other business last week a number of bills were passed. They include the Special Pensions Bill, which will provide a pension for those members of liberation movements who were not able to set aside a pension for themselves in the decades of anti-apartheid struggle, and the Safety Matters Rationalisation Bill, which standardises security legislation throughout the country, mcluding the former homelands.

On Thursday the Senate played host to the premier of KwaZulu Natal as it considered the report of the Senate's visit to that province. In the committees, Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister Jay Naidoo explained his intentions in the telecommunications bill, which establishes a regulatory framework ahead of the partial privatisation of Telkom, the constitutional affairs committee considered new local government legsiation, and the justice committee continued to plough through six anticrme bills.

Finally, Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel gave a confidential report to members of the standing committee on finance. It is unusual for a committee to allow closed briefings, so one can only assume that whatever the minister said was controversial.

In the weeks ahead, the pace of legislation can be expected to pick up as MPs approach the end of the parliamentary year.

## The place where laughter drowns fear of HIV

## By Melanie-And Feris

When you enter the Ethemben Home in Doornfontein, Johannes burg, what strikes you is the serenity of the place.

Such compassion is essential when you consider that the babie in the home, some of whom are HIV positive, have not enjoyed any kindness in their lives

Some have been rescued from errible abuse and neglect.

When The Star visited the home, staff had horror stories to tell of babies plucked from plastic bags or rescued from dustbins, bushes, toilets and hotel rooms.

They spoke of how the babies have flourished and grown at Ethembeni, whuch means "place of hope", and is one of two Salvaton Army homes in Gauteng for abandoned babies

Since the opening of the home year ago, 10 have died of Aids related illnesses. A brightly deco rated quilt hangs in the foyer a Ethembeni, each square bearing the name of one of the dead
"Every time one of the babies dres, the staff are ripped apart. We cry and we grieve - it's like losing one of our own children," sat Henry Morgan, a volunteer at the home for the past five months.

Many of the babies brought to Ethembeni will never see ther parents again and the home tries to place them in foster homes

But this is a struggle, accord ing to matron Barbara Malins, who said that because some of the babies were HIV positive, it made finding foster homes difficult.

But Malins sard that of the 5 children at the home, less than $50 \%$ had tested positive

But, despite this and financial constraints, the atmosphere at the home seems to be a happy one with the laughter of children echoing through the halls

Staff said the home had been accepted by the community, and that they received encouragement and support from their families for therr efforts

They have no qualms about working with babies who are HIV positive.


Place of hope ... one of the infants at the Ethembeni home for abandoned babies in Doornfontein takes a slow crawl to a caring future.

## Reformed prostitutes move in with children

## By Mezanile-Apin Feris

The Ethembeni home for aban-1 doned bables is to open its doors to prostitutes who no longer want to ply ther trade

A wing in the children's home in Doornfontern has already been converted into living quarters for 14 reformed prosttutes who will move in next month
Captain Len Millar, public re latons secretary for the Salvation Army, under whose auspices the home falls, sard former prosttutes who have undergone rehabilitaton programmes would be placed at the home for between nine and 12 months

He sard most of the 14, believed to be in their teens, had undergone treatment at The House a centre to rehabilitate prostitutes in Berea - and the Government's

## It would be very therapeutic'

drug rehabilitation programme Millar said the women would receive vocational traming, counselling and life skills to prepare them for re-entry into the community. The project would run for two years before it is reviewed
"Very often they (the women) are abused and feel they have no self-worth, and it would be very therapeutic to be involved with the children We thonk the children would respond to them as individuals and will also benefit from the attention they recerve," Millar said

The Salvation Army is also considering establishing a nught creche for the chuldren of prostitutes at the home

But this would happen only if the plans to help in the rehabilitation programme for prostitutes are successful.
get their
own truth


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STAF RECORTER $2.9 / 10^{\circ} 196$
Children will have their say at their own version of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to be held at parliament this weekend in celebration of International Children's Day.

The event was organised by Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Rapcan) which felt it was high time children had the opportunity to speak out against the evils of apartheid.

The testimony, will focus on children who have been exploited.

To protect the identities of the real child victims, eight child actors have been trained over the last three weeks to give an accurate portrayal of apartheid injustices, based on actual case studies. The hearings will be in Xhosa, English and Afrikaans.

Panelists include Justice Minister Dullah Omar, Welfare Minister Geraldine FraserMoletketsi, Western Cape Chief Justice Gerald Friedman, provincial Attorney-General Frank Kahn and representatives of the United Nations and the police Child Protection Unit.

 of Correctional Services $\dagger \dagger$

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## Kids go short as police bands play <br> POUTICAL WRITER <br> in Parliament and children give <br> police or the crime-prevention

POLICE bands were funded to the tune of R26 million in 1995/6compared with R15,2m allocated to child-protection units.
The relatively low spending on preventing child-abuse has struck a sour note with social workers ind children's rights organisations:'
PTheir call for increased spending on child-protection units will toe underlined tomorrow when the "children's truth commission" sits

evidence about abuse

The extent of spending on police bands and child-protection units was disclosed yesterday by Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi when he replied to a question tabled in the Senate by Mr James Selfe (DP).

Mufamadi said he was concerned because some of the budgetary allocations in the South African Police Service were not in line with the policing priorities set out in the annual police plan of the national commissioner of
strategy.
"I have given a directive that the matter be addressed as far as future budget allocations are concerned," he said.

The Resources Aimed at Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, the organisers of the "children's truth commission", said recently:
"It is not good enough to say that there is no money for protective services for children social welfare services in communities of need."

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## Suffer the children in

 a hungry, violent $S A$ (298) ST 317 196NEWil statistics reveal South Africans to be unhealthy and disturbed with children bearing the brunt of most ill-health.

Many of the statistics, presented in the South African' Health Review 1996, show the effects of violence, malnutrition and displacement, while others show that vices suçh as drinking and smoking, continue to compromise our hiealth.
'The annial review, the second compiled toy the Durban-based Health 'Systems "Trust, , reveals; 'that tobacco-related - diséases rank second, only to' the AIDS epidemic in their bad effects on our health.
African children come out of the 'review particu-2 larly badly Between 30 and 73 infantsiout of every 1000 younger that, year die seven timies the number whó diè in other population. groups.
The. African maternal mortality rate is no better. Up to 250 African women in every, 100000 die in labour.

Up to one in three children', is stunted by malnutrition and one in 10 is, ' underweight."

According to a 1994 survey, one in three children suffers Vitamin ${ }^{2}$ deficiencies - indicative "of "a serious public health probcem", plo heath One in five children is anaemic, one in 20 suffers iron-deficiency anaemia, and many more have too little ciriron., The problem is worst in urban areas and théchildren most seriously
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affected are aged between six and 23 months.
About 660000 preschool children are identifiably malnourished and 1,52 million are stunted by longterm malnourishment.

But malnutrition is just a part of our children's problem. One study, in Maritzburg, found that 19 percent of'children do not live with their mothers. Of these, 48 percent are displaced :"usually because of the mother's entry into a new relationship"; 32 , percent are orphaned and 11 percent are abandoned.
Their parents are hardly better off. Nearly a quarter of the adults studied in the Household Survey of Health Inequalities, nearly one quarter of the adult sample have experienced traumatic, eyents, most commonly as subjects of, or witnesses to, physical attacks.
${ }^{4}$ Many Soputh Africans also suffer mental illness, the review says. A study in Khayelitsha found 19 percent of children and adolesments suffer" "diagnosable psychiatric disorders".
The revié dalso shows the results of alarming violence Almost 30 peccent of deaths in the mope metropole in 1994 were the résult of injuries. A total of 44 in every 100000 people were killed a year, six times the figure in the US.

A study undertaken by the Medical Research Council and the University of Natal-showed that in the decade to 1992 there was an eightfold increase in the number of bullet wounds.
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## Cost of youth central to an age-old problem

 Outcry over, National Youth Commission packages highlights costs of plethora of commissions and task
## Own Corrmspownentr

Cape Town

South Africa is counting the cost of broadening democracy - at least R330-million on a plethora of commissions and task groups - with the costs of the newly established Youth and Gender Commission yet to be included.

This can be disclosed after the 26 -year-old Youth Commission chairman, Mahlengi Bhengu, was shown this week to be earning a package of almost R30000 a month.

The four full-time members of the National Youth Commission will receive an annual package of R276 937.

Bhengu said yesterday her salary package was set by the Government
"Commissioners' salaries are determined in accordance with state regulations," she said.
"The decision to give us the salaries we get was taken by the Ministry of Finance, the Office of the Deputy President, and the public servce people."

She did not own any property and rents a flat in Yeoville, which she described as a "so-called working class area"

Asked what car she drove, she said she did not have one and while she is able to drive, she gets
a lift to the Union Buildings each morning with a friend.

Bhengu was born in eSikhawini, Empangeni in 1970. She is a graduate of the University of Durban Westville, where she studied


Chosen ... Mahlengi Bhengu
public administration, and of Unisa, where she read industrial psychology

Her organisational credentials are from the top drawer

She was a member of Young Christian Students at university, and of the South African Students' Press Union. Three years ago, she was the national secre-tary-general of the South African

Students' Congress, the first woman ever to hold the post. She also served on the national executive of the National Education Coordinating Committee.

In 1994 she was a senior information officer in the operations unit of the Independent Electoral Commission
Last year, she worked for the tertiary education support programme, which put in place a framework for administering student loans on a national scale. After that, she served as head of the ANC's education desk.

Research by the Institute of Race Relations has raised questions about the efficiency and costeffectiveness of several of the bodies, which include the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (a RT5-million budget for 1996/97), the Independent Broadcasting Authority (R41,5-million), the Pan South African Language Board (R11,27-million), and the Human Rights Commission (R6,44-million).

The Public Service Commission tops the list with a budget of R111,9-million.
The department of Arts, Culture and Technology has not disclosed what the Language Board's R11,27-mullion is to be spent on, or the remuneration levels of its 13 members. However, sources said nobody had yet been paid a cent.

## Child abuse on the rise

 in S Africa By Themba SepotokeleFINDINGS of a study of crime against children show that the Police Child, Protection Unit will have to deal with ${ }^{\text {T}}$ about 1470000 cases of child abuse by the year 2000 .'

A study conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council indicates, that the CPU dealt with 28484 cases of child abuse last year.

The HSRC has warned that'. if crimes against children continue to :
 will find itself dealing with a huge, numbbe of cases throughout the country. Sexually abused d?
All the cases, of child victimisation reported to the CPU 'are used to develop a database on the nature and extent of child abuse.

With the establishment of the CPU a decade ago, 140000 cases pertaining to child abuse had been reported last year."

The findings show that the majority of children are victims of sexual abuse and the perpetrators are known to the victims. The data was gathered over sa period of a year from July 1 1994, to: June 30 , 1995.
$7 \ln 196$

## Child Welfare criticised over state fynding claims <br> By Prisclla Smag

The Johannesburg Child Welfare (JCW) has come under strong criticism from the Gauteng Department of Welfare after it claimed it had to shut down essential services due to inadequate state funding.

The JCW has announced that it wa forced to close down at least three of its facilities, citing inadequate funding from the government as one of the main reasons for the closures.

The Department said it had held meetings with the JCW in the past to address existing problems and establish a partnership, but the JCW did not apptoach Welfare and chose another route.
It also said that the JCW was not the only organisation to benefit from financial aid from the state coffers, as there are 91 other organisations in the province being subsidised by the Gauteng Department of Welfare.

JCW durector Lyn Perry said heavy cuts in government subsidies contributed to the dire financial circumstances the organisation was now placed in.

As a result, Perry said services such as the Lucy Kennedy's children's home, the

Child Care Centre for victims of sexual abuse, and the social work training department were forced to close.

Gauteng welfare spokesman Samantha Collins said the Department had also offered to subsidise JCW's Liberty Life centre for sexually abused children, but they turned it down and decided to use the funds on existing services.
In March 1994, the quality and scope of the social work services rendered by JCW was investigated by the four former Departments of Welfare and possible subsidy cuts were discussed with them.
The JCW was informed in April last year that the subsidy for social work services would be cut by $26 \%$ (R934 779) over six months from October last year. "The JCW's services are centralised in downtown Johannesburg and there are no drop-in centres for under-privileged communities in Soweto or Eldorado Park, and the Lucy Kennedy home in Regent's Park houses 12 white children.
"The JCW is still subscribing to a First World model in a Third World setup and this proves to be an expensive and posisibly ineffective"service" which reachés a small number of people," Collins said.

## All abgard gravy train!

## By Rafiq Rohan

Political Correspondent
NEWLY appointed chairwoman of the National Youth Commission 26-yearold Ms Mahleng1 Bhengu is the beneficiary of what must be the ultimate in the Government's immense generosity

Bhengu receives a whopping annual package of R352 366. This is mainly for attending to policy and research for the commission Her four fulltime commssioners also do not come off too badly. Ms Nomfundo Mbuli, Mr Remard van der Wath, Mr Otto Kunene and Mr Mpho Lekgoro each walk off with an annual package of R276 937.

The Truth and Reconcliation

Commission also features prominently in the list of top-drawer earners. In addition to the salaries earned by the commissioners, which equal those of judge presidents and supreme court judges, Parliament was told this week of additional perks in the form of cars

TRC chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu has a Toyota Camry worth R142 966, his depuly Dr Alex Boraine a Mercedes-Benz worth R190 153, Advocate Chris de Jager a Mercedes-Benz worth R161 407, the Reverend B Finca a Mercedes-Benz which worth R175 000, Mrs S Khampepe a Pajero wortir R227 720, Mr R Lyster a Volvo worth R187 000
and $\mathrm{Mr} W$ Matarr a Nercedes-Benz worth R251 844.

The Reverend $K$ Mgojo has a Mercedes-Benz worth R153 486, Ms H Mkhize a Volvo worth R187572; Dr W Orr an Audi worth R130 000, Advocate D Potgieter a Mercedes-Benz worth R196 478, Dr M Ramashala a BMW worth R168 980, Dr M Randera a Pajero worth R242 666, Ms Y Sooka a Volvo worth R192 075 and Ms G Wildschut an Audi worth R164 907.

Salaries at the SABC are also comfortable Chief executive Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu earns R460 020 a year, editor-inchief of TV news Ms Jill Chisholm R350 004 a year, as does chief of radıo Mr Govin Reddy.























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expensive proposition." The maintenance costs fo Othandweni are well over R1-million each year. The welfare service currently faces a R1,2-million deficit.

An annual government subsidy of $\mathrm{R} 3,6$-million covers little more than a quarter of the service's yearly budget of R12-million. While public sector funding - such as Liberty Life's financial support for the sexual abuse unit - has been crucial, the public sector too has to prioritise.

Says Hylton Appelbaum a director of the Liberty Iife, Foundation: "We spend Ra0 million a year on more than 1,000 welfare projects. If we spend R1-million a year on one project it becomes onerous, particularly if the public and the Government do not think the project is important enough to provide financial support." For five years Liberty Life spent more than R1-million annually on the sexual abuse unit. This year the company was forced to halve it's contribution.
"The national government needs to put its money where its mouth is," Perry says. While the Government has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and committed itself to making children's needs a top priority, it needs to follow this: commitment with financial support, she says. She also points out that, unlike in most other countries, statutory services are not covered in fùll by the Gov-; ernment, although legally they are its responsibility.


Pre-school pupils, who are members of the Takalane Dance Club In Johannesburg, show off their talents in African dance during a workshop.

PIC: CLEMENT LEKANYANE

## Funding dries up for child welfare centres

## 298 <br> department. <br> $11 / 4$ /96

## By Charity Bhengu

THREE Gauteng children's welfare centres that have given vital service to the communities for years will close down next month because there is no money to run them

The director of the Johannesburg Child Welfare, Mrs Lyn Perry, said heavy cuts in government subsidies contributed to the serious financial problems.
"The Johannesburg Child Welfare's board was forced to close the centres after they accrued a dëficit of R1,2 million," Perry said.

The centres affected are the Child Care Centre for child victims of sexual abuse, the Lucy Kennedy Children's Home in Regents Park and the social workers' training
"Services will be closed despite our appeals for help, protests and memorandums handed to officials and petitions to President Nelson Mandela," Perry sard.

The centres will stop their services to abandoned, abused and neglected children in the greater Johannesburg area - the mner city, Sandton, Randburg, Alexandra, Soweto, Eldorado Park, Westbury and Northwestern areas.

The Child Care Centre, which opened in 1990, gives counselling and therapy to about 8000 sexually abused children and their familes.
"In 1955 over 8000 children and their families, predominantly from disadvantaged areas, received help.
"However, well into the third
quarter of this financial year, the organisation is facing a deficit of R1,2 million despite stringent budgetary control."

She said the closure of these cenres came at a time when cases of child abuse and neglect were rife.

The SAPS Child Protection Unit reported a 29,4 percent increase of crimes against children - rape, incest. kıdnapping and assault between 1993 and 1996
"If police are probing 100 child abuse cases a day, what is to become of these children without such child care services?" Perry asked. '

Liberty Life has supported the centres for the past six years and even exceeded its limit But the funding has been insufficient to sustain the centres for a long time.






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Special needs of

Kevin'O'Grady
ABOUT $50 \%$ of children of school-going age fell into the broad category of learners with special needs, and support services for them had historically been non-existent, uncoordinated or fragmented, education directorgeneral Chabanı Manganyi said yesterday.

It was for this reason that government had recently appointed two bodies to address the "severely neglected" area of need in education.

The national commission on special needs in education and training and the task team for education support services both chaired by University of the Western

Cape associate professor Sandy Lazarus met for the first time this week and would report their findings to Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu within a year, he said.

He said some of the learners with special education needs suffered from disabilities while others experienced difficulty when engaging in the learning process.
"Specialised education aims to address these needs through special interventions and the provision of support services such as social work, health, vocational and general guidance and psychological support."

In SA these services had only been available to a few and disadvantaged learners had benefited minimally or not at all.









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# 'Raw deal' for abused kids - SA courts swamped 'They don't like cases involving children' 

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STAAF Reporite
South Africa is the child sexual-abuse capital of the world but the crime is still not being given priority status, a child-abuse seminar has been told.

Speaking at a national Childime seminar in Cape Town, Elzabe Durr Fitschen, the court social worker at Court G in Wynberg Magistrate's Court, sdid only four to six percent of children reported cases of abuse.

Meanwhile courts were barely able to cope with the case-loads of those few who did report the crimes Children were getting a "raw deal", she sard

The Childline seminar brought together participants from Gauteng, the Eastern Cape, Kwazulu Natal and Western Cape

Court G is the first of two Cape Town courts, and the only ones in the country, that exclusively handle sexual offence cases Most cases involve child victims

Mrs Durr Fitschen said although these courts were more chuld-friendly, they were buckling under the pressure of heavy caseloads. Wynberg's $G$ court was eight months behind

Highly qualified and with a reputation that precedes her, Mrs Durr Fitschen is known as the court's victim support services co-ordinator She sald the court was established in March 1993 on the initıative of Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn. It is still only one of two such courts.

The attorneys-general in the other eight provinces had decided there was no need to establish special rape courts in their areas. Mrs Durr Fitschen said there had been a promise - still unfulfilled - to set up a simılar court in Mitchell's Plain.

She said the backlog was due to the special intermediary system, which allowed children to appear in a separate room during trials Court proceedings were relayed through an intermediary, but they were difficult to come by. Mrs Durr Fitschen, who acts as an intermediary, said there were still major handicaps

The presumption of innocence of the perpetrator and the burden of proof on the victim was a stumbling block for most children, who were scared and sometimes contradicted their testimony. "A child who says she was raped while she was standing would be told that it is impossible. But she may have forgotten to mention that she was forced to stand on a box."

Both parties had the right to crossexamine and certain standards were set. The procedure was not supposed to be insulting or humiliating but often was. Lawyers were allowed to be aggressive. The role of the judge or magistrate was passive as he has to be neutral. "If the cross-

examination is humiliating for the child, he often does not intervene. It is difficult to get one magistrate to sit in the court for longer than a week. They don't like handling cases involving children."
Children were not entitled to their own lawyers and they were represented by the State. Perpetrators often employed advocates who had to deal with only one particular case. State prosecutors were often overworked and inexperienced in dealing with children. "A distinct advantage with our special court is that we have two prosecutors, which means that while one is in court the other can consult with witnesses before the case is heard."

In other regional courts where child sexual-abuse cases were heard, prosecutors had time to consult the children only minutes before the appearance. Prosecutors were even known to get child sexual cases withdrawn because they found them too traumatic. "The balance is just not there and children most often end up getting a raw deal," she said.

Another major stumbling block was the cautionary rule in South African courts.

This required the court to be cautious of the testimony of prostitutes' accomplices, private detectives and children.

Prosecutors and magistrates were not trained to deal sensitively with children. They were not aware that children often did not remember chronological events "Children cannot remember peripheral things like whether a door was closed or not, especially if they have been traumatised by a rape, for example. Prosecutors and magistrates often get openly irritated with children who fidget in their seats, and lose concentration, forgetting that a four-year-old would find it difficult to sit still and concentrate for an hour of heavy crossexamination."
While some children were manipulated into lying about abuse, this was a very small percentage and it was easy to see when it occurred.
Mrs Durr Fitschen is leaving the court after three years. She said she had spent her time trying to make changes, sending one proposal after another to her superiors at the Provincial Administration of the Western Cape, but to no avail.

Call for help
Childline is a non-
govemmental
organisation with a 24-hour crisis telephone counselling service. Telephone: 461-1114. Toll free number: 080-0055555. Address: 56 Roeland Street, Cape Town 8001.

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## Tough action against child abuse <br> JOHAN SCHRONEN

Crime Coriespondent ARG 2711196 A major Western Cape initiative is to be launched next week to combat sexual abuse of children.

In addition, National Police Commissioner George Fivaz has established a multi-disciplinary team to address the problem of the astronomically high num ber of rapes.

The team will include experts from the private sector who will help develop police strategies to combat rape.

Commissioner Fivaz told a conference
of police experts yesterday that South Africa had the most reported rape cases in the world and the second highest number of child abuse cases. Only Rwanda had more.

Cape Town Child Protection Unit chief Jan Swart said reported cases of child abuse were probably only 20 percent of the actual cases because of a culture of "acceptance and reluctance to complain".
"We in the Western Cape are taking the bull by the horns on Monday with the establishment of two main centres to combat abuse and sex attacks on children," said Superintendent Swart.

## Child labour in SA to be probed next year

## Louise Cook <br> BD $28 / 11 / 96$

THE labour department would join the International Labour Organisation (ILO) next year in investigating child labour in SA, especially on farms, labour department director Liza Seftel said yesterday.
'This follows a recent visit to SA by two Genevabased officials of the ILO who did a preliminary study - yet to be released - on the issue. Seftel said there were suspicions that the problem was particularly rife on SA farms.

Meanwhile, non-governmental organisation Farmworkers' Research and Resource Project welcomed the planned study, saying a recent survey by it on 196 farms in various provinces showed that boys under 16 worked on a permanent basis on 21 farms. Girls of the same age worked on 18 farms.

It was likely that child labour made up as much as 4\% of all permanent farm workers on the farms surveyed, it said.
"In $70 \%$ of the 20 cases where boys' wages were specified, they received less than R250 a month. In $69 \%$ of the 16 -cases where the wages for girls were specified, they received less than R250 a month. The average wage for boys was R192,95 a month - for girls this was R170,81 a month." The survey also found that nearly $70 \%$ of the girls and boys worked 10 hours or more a day.

Project spokesman Rebecca Roderick said child labour was particularly difficult to assess through a survey; it required a more in-depth understanding of the circumstances facing both the farm dwellers and the farmers. "Community-based research would provide more details regarding the intricacies and problems and could assist in finding solutions."

The SA Agricultural Union warned farmers in the latest edition of its publication, The Farmer, not to employ children under the age of 15. "Another, serious accusation is that farmers threaten workers with dismissal unless'their children also do work on the farm. This type of behaviour is a blatant violation of prescribed labour practice and must be avoided," the report said.


## JIDY DAMON

Stafr Reporter
Child prostitution is thriving in Cape Town, where children practise "survival sex" in exchange for food and shelter and others become "taxi queens" for status among their friends.

Many more of the youngsters are working against their will for gang sters who abduct them from their homes or off the streets and use them in slick, sophisticated prostitution operations.

Police and social workers say they are fighting a losing battle, not only because of inadequate resources to fight the crime but also because of legal loopholes that allow offenders off the hook.

Gerhardt Riedemann, Child Protec tion Unit officer in Cape Town, said child prostitution was the most difficult type of sexual exploitation to investigate.

The Vice Squad, the only police unit that dealt with prostitution generally, was forced to close down recently and cases were now dealt with by local policestations.

The Child Protection Unit dealt specifically with child prostitution.

Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect spokeswoman, Bernadette van Vuuren, said even the law did not adequately protect these children.

Current law provided that as long as clients proved the chuld was a prostitute and had claimed to be older than
16, they had an adequate defence, i
Policemen said cases of child prostitution rarely even got as far as the courtroom, as they were the most difficult and complicated of cases of sexual exploitation to prove. Inspector Riedemann said common hurdles in such cases were children refusing to admit they were prostitutes, let alone revealing the identities of their "pimps".

The police's only real option would be to follow the children and their clients, but that would be breaking all the moral and ethical codes of the Child Protection Unit.

On the streets the children produced false identity documents to hide their ages.

He said police had no records filed under the "child prostitution" heading. Cases were opened as ordinary police dockets along with murders; rapes and other crimes.

A strange twist in the issue is that the police have found unlikely part: ners in the older prostitutes, who they say happily turn in their younger "competition".

Goodwood police lijaison officer Lynette Giani said the older women reported the youngsters only to secure and gam territory.
"The prostitutes resent the younger competition, who are in demand, and were willing to point them out immediately," she said.

Inspector Riedemann said he personally followed up a complaint about an escort agency which provided children for potential customers.
"I called up the agency and asked for a child not older than 15 and they satd it was no problem," he said.

Research compiled by Rapcan revealed that the most common kind of child prostitution is "survival sex", in which children are prostituted by their families or are abandoned and turn to sex as a means of survival. Street children are also easy prey, according to the research, and often get food, clothes and a place to sleep in exchange for sex. The research shows that rather than being the exception, this kind of prostitution is common in poor communities.

Shane Petzer from the Sex Worker Education and Advocacy Task Force (Sweat) said survival sex should be Hooked at in terms of child jabour rather than a sexual offence. Reports from this year's child labour conference said illiterate children came from rural areas to the city because of empty promises of work.

They ended up being sexually abused or prostituted. It was reported that more than a million children worldwide were forced into the sex industry each year.

According to the Rapcan research gang-controlled prostitution has become common on the Cape Flats, where girls are apparently abducted from their homes and off the streets and prostituted in such areas as Sea Point and the Cape Town city centre.



## JUDY DAMOH

STAFF REPORTER
Child prostitution is thriving in Cape Town, where children practise "survival sex" in exchange for food and shelter and others become "taxi queens" for status among their friends.

Many more of the youngsters are working against their will for gang sters who abduct them from their homes or off the streets and use them in slick, sophisticated prostitution operations.

Police and social workers say they are fighting a losing battle, not only because of inadequate resources to fight the crime but also because of legal loopholes that allow offenders off the hook.

Gerhardt Riedemann, Child Protection Unit officer in Cape Town, said child prostitution was the most difficult type of sexual exploitation to investigate.

The Vice Squad, the only police unit that dealt with prostitution generally, was forced to close down recently and cases were now dealt with by local police stations

The Child Protection Unit dealt specifically with child prostitution.

Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect spokeswoman, Bernadette van Vuuren, said even the law did not adequately protect these children.

Current law provided that as long as clients proved the child was a prostitute and had claimed to be older than 16, they had an adequate defence, "

Policemen said cases of child prostitution rarely even got as far as the courtroom, as they were the most difficult and complicated of cases of sexual exploitation to prove. Inspector Riedemann said common hurdles in such cases were children refusing to admit they were prostitutes, let alone revealing the identities of their "pimps".

The police's only real option would be to follow the children and their clients, but that would be breaking all the moral and ethical codes of the Child Protection Unit.

On the streets the children produced false identity documents to hide their ages.

He said police had no records filed under the "child prostitution" heading. Cases were opened as ordinary police dockets along with murders,4 rapes and other crimes.

A strange twist in the issue is that the police have found unlikely part ${ }^{\wedge}$ ners in the older prostitutes, who they' say happily turn in their younger "competition".

Goodwood police liaison officer Lynette Giani said the older women reported the youngsters only to secure and gain territory.
" The prostitutes resent the younger competition, who are in demand, and were willing to point r them out immediately," she said.

Inspector Riedemann said he per ${ }^{+}$ sonally followed up a complaint about an escort agency which provided chil dren for potential customers.
"I called up the agency and asked for a child not older than 15 and they said it was no problem," he said.

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 years, and many believe this is only
the tip of the iceberg.
 abuse in South Africa has increased b mau su!pooपS
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 will spend an additional R1 million to combat child abuse.
The province's Minister of Health, Ebrahim Rasool, announced that the Western Cape was spending R122,8-million this fiscal year on child care services He was speaking at the launch of a protocol for multi-disciplmary mmanagement of child abuse and neglect at the University of the Western Cape on Friday.

In allocating R1-million to fund - a 24-hour child care centre in its 1997/98 budget, his department Would be the first to contribute to this cause, he said at the protocol, initiated by the Institute for Child and Family Development and the Western Cape Child'Abuse and Neglect Forum.

The launch was attended by Minister of Justice Dullah Omar and experts from the judiciary, police and child abuse organisa tions.
Rasool said the provincial government spent R73,5-million on supporting care services run by the private sector, and R49,2-mil lion on places of safety, social 'Work services and administrative support by the state.

According to an Idasa statement, it could cost from R1,6-million to R2,3-million to set up the programme in the first year and from R600 000 to R2,5-million an nually for subsequent years, depending on the cases handled

While it cost about R15 000 for the child in an abuse case it could cost the state as much as R34 000 to defend the accused.
The Wynberg children's court has achieved a conviction rate of 70-90 percent as opposed to only $50-60$ percent in regional courts. However, the court has three times as many cases as it can handle, which can delay cases up to five months, Idasa says

The Human Sciences Research Council's centre for Social Welfare Policy found in a national study that child rape had increased by 200 percent over the past four years.
Police figures show that if crimes against children continue to increase at the present rate of 29 percent a year, the Child Protection Unit will have to deal with over a million cases by 2000 .

Statistics from January to October show sodomy was up by 29 percent and assault by 35 percent and there were over 1000 more abuse cases (29491).

## Home often where the evil is <br> By GEOFF DEKENAH <br> the presence of other youngsters.

MOST abused children were sex"ually violated in their own homes or nearby by people under 21 who were known to them, a survey of 1480 crimes reported to Western Cape child protection unit showed.

Nearly 70 percent were victims of sexual crimes like rape $(33,5)$ indecent assault $(20,8)$, attempted rape ( 5,1 ), sodomy ( 5,2 ) and incest $(0,6)$, the Human Sciences Research Council report released on Friday said.
Researcher Evanthe Schurink said this was "the tip of the ice. berg" because many abuse cases were not reported to the police.
In the Western Cape nearly half of the offences were committed in

In 25,1 percent of cases, the act took place in the presence of other children such as brothers, sisters friends or playmates
"It could thus be surmised that the psychological damage to child victims was not limited to the victim alone but also affected children who were present and witnessed the deed," Schurink sard.
Most of the abused children were girls ( 75,4 percent) and the majority of offenders males ( 88,9 percent). Of the victims, 44,3 per. cent were black, 35,1 coloured 19,26 percent white and 1,2 percent Indian.
Less than a quarter were under the influence of alcohol or drugs when they committed the offences.
who say domestic violence has a negative effects on children.

They say numerous children are at risk of suffering post-traumatic stress disorders and the majority of them never receive help.

The families of these children often fail to understand the severe impact of the trauma.

They say that in order to break this vicious circle of violence, it is imperative that the plight of children be seen in a very serious light.

About 60 percent of marital relationships involve abuse and one in four women are abused every day by their partners.

## Paradoxical situation

"The figures make it strikingly clear that numerous children who grow up in South African homes are exposed to high levels of violence in their homes." says Donaldson.
"This is a paradoxical situation as the home is traditionally viewed as a safe haven and a sanctuary from the harshness of the outside world. And yet, it is the one place where many children are most at risk from violence, where no safety or protection is provided."

A study on intimate femicide suggests that between 1993 and 1994, one woman was killed every day by her partner in Gauteng.
"This is an alarming figure, especially if one considers this in relation to the child survivors of these grotesque deeds," Donaldson says.

She says children immediately lose trust in parents as role-models and as a result experience problems in making relationships.

Donaldson says: "In violent families, children also learn that violence is an acceptable way of resolving problems." The trauma appears to be a crucial aetiological factor in the development of a number of serious disorders in adult life.

About 80 percent of domestic violence happens in families where parents had been exposed to violence when they were children. A large percentage of abusers come from abusive famılies
"The majority of spouse killings involve the male kulling the female partner," says Robertson. The murders are seldom premeditated but often occur in famulies where there are high levels of domestic violence
"Most femicides occur when the female partner is leaving or threatening to end the relationship."

She says it is difficult to ascertain what kind of contact the child should have with the perpetrator (the father).

The parents in this situation should be guided by what is in the best interest of the child.
"Unfortunately, in South Africa the child's welfare seldom seems to be the guiding principle. Children are not consulted about their needs and are often ignored. It appears to be common practice to return the perpetrator to the family.
"One such example is of a 12 -year-old boy who has been seen in the clinic after he witnessed his mother's murder.
"The family paid for the boyfriend's release on bail and he has constant and unsupervised access to the child. The child has feelings of confusion and depression and shows suicidal tendencies."

The Wits Trauma Clinic has seen 10 cases of disturbed children who have witnessed the killing of one parent by the other in the last six months.

The number of these referrals is expected to increase as more people become aware of the service.


Children, like this boy, suffer all kinds of abuse from parents and relatives. Some die and others are physically disabled by the battering.

## Child abuse cases up <br> 298) hsurvetan 111 (a) 96

THE HUVIAN Sciences Research Council reveals that 140000 cases of child abuse were reported to the Police Child Protection Unt countrywide in 1995 - a 103,4 percent increase since 1990.
and abandonment by 73 percent and attempted murder by 82,2 percent.

HSRC predicts that the police will have to deal with 1470000 cases of child abuse by 2000.

The police have revealed that

 Sciences Research Council shows Крuәnbay os surddeq l! joК puv



 that the Zitha family of Soweto

## By Charity Bhengu <br> $$
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$$ <br> By Charity Bhengu







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 Bongani was battered to death,
allegedly by his grandmother for excessively for minor offences.
Bongani was battered to death,



THEF Johannesburg metropolitan council will invest R65m to build houses under its rapid land development programme, topping up Gauteng housing board subsidies by up to R12 250 a housing unit.
The councll, which last week approved the new financial scheme, would create a houssing company to adminnster and maintairi its housing stock, the council's strate-gic:- programmes co-ordinator John spiropoulos sad yesterday.
The company would administer loans from the council and provincister housing board, and could obtan low-cost finance council hs with bankd The cou give poore size of 301 earning mi sions arep Initiall. benefit fro They fd be resettle bardy Eas structure,

## Unicef report gives

 child labour figures Bonile NgqiyazaAT LEAST one-quarter - BD $12 / 12 / 96$
the developing world's chuldren aged billion - of and 14 were child labourers, according to a Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) report released in Jokannesburg yesterday.

The 1997 State of the World's Children report, compiled by Unicef executive director Carol Bellamy, created by the UN General Assembly in lige thency At the launch Weneral Assembly in 1946
t'Ant Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketion DeveloptHE'immediate end to the most intolerable called for chiffl labour, such as prostutution intolerable forms of
Tn the report, Unicef insists that any comprehensive attack on child labour must aim to release chil dren immediately from the most damaging situations. It also calls for children released from work to be rehabices and facilities, especially thision of adequate children who cannot be released education. Those be protected, it says.

The report stresses the links between education longer and better on child labour and says "the lihood that a child will end up being forced into damaging work"

It calls for a change in national and international priprities to ensure that every child has access to "relevant, good quality primary education" and cites a saniple survey in 14 of the world's least developed deprivation.
According to the report, half the pupils in these countries have no textbooks and classes are often teatly 90 and as ane a teacher in Equatorial Guinea
rigid and uninspiring" with a curriculum so "often vant and remote from children's lives that $30 \%$ of children who enrol in primary school do not complete port notes.
budgets to on governments to allocate $20 \%$ of their budgets to education and basic social services, and on development assistance.

The report says it will
$1 \%$ of what the world spends on weapons -leass than to put every child in school by 2000 . It also points out that there are child workers in all countries, rich and poor. In the UK, for instance, between $15 \%$ and $26 \%$ of 11-year-olds are thought to be working.

It is believed that 187 countries, not including the US, the Cook Islands, Oman, Somalia, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates, have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

turn up new information.
It took 11 months for the OSEO to hand
over its bulky report to the Cape Attor-
ney-General's office.
Meanwhile Dr Boesak relocated to
Americaband returned to work in the min-



























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## 'Shocking increase in' abuse of children' <br> (298)

## ct $24 / 12 / 96$

JOHANNESBURG: There was an alarming increase in sexual violence against women and children this year and to help combat the problem, government services will be mobilised over the festive season, Safety and Security Minister Mr Sydney Mufamadi and Welfare Minister Ms Geraldine FraserMoleketi said yesterday.

Between January and August this year, 31.085 cases of tape or attempted rape had been reported, an increase of $19 \%$ over the same period in 1994, Mufámàdı said.

Of the reported' cases, about a third of the victims were 17 and younger, he said. One in every six women were reg ularly abused by a male partner.

From January to. November, police chiliad protection units attended to 12510 cases of child rape alone, and 3901 cases of indecent assault.

Altogether, the units handled 32889 reports of crimes against chitdren from January to November.

Mufamadi said this was an increase of $24 \%$ over the same period last year.
He said to combat the problem, the departments of Welfare, Safety and Security, Justice and Correctional Services had put in place support systems over the festive season which would allow victims easier access to police, welfare services and the courts.
professional tor (George) Fivaz and I have called on police station commissioners to ensure that all victims of these acts of violence receive the professional and effective treatment they are entitled to," he said. Where victims did not receive professional treatment from the police, they should immediately contact the local community police forum or staton commissioner, he added.
Mufamadi said the police was busy training police officers to deal sensitively with victims and the child protection unit was on 24-hour standby.

He said communities should work with the police to eradicate the volance and sexual abuse.
"We must also break the silence on domestic violence and rape. If you know there is abuse of women and children going on in your household or at a neighbour's house, don't keep quiet. Silence means we allow this horroble violence to continue," he said.

Fraser-Moleketi said most of these women and children were victims of alcohol and drug abuse.

She said drug abuse, including the abuse of alcohol, was increasing, adding that the abuse was interwoven with domestic violence, especially over the festive season.-Sapa

## Preparing SA youth for the job ${ }^{\text {man }}$ market ${ }^{(21)}$ <br> problem of successfully getting the

## By Victor Mecoamere

AN education based on skills to prepare youths for the job market is an answer to South Africa's huge unemployment problems, according to Gauteng Youth College director Mr Pret Manota

Manota said his institution, which is open to all the young people who have failed matric since 1988, could also help to tackle the appalling showing in mathematics and science which an international survey reflected. The survey showed that South Africa fared dismally on the two subjects

## Quick intervention

Although Manota asked for a quick intervention of 'educators in Gauteng on the need for an accent on technical and science education, he added that "concrefe mechanisms" had to bc "put into place to address the problem."
"The authorities need to prepare youth for employment, but with many thousands of unemployable youth entering the job market, it does not bode well for the country," said Manota.
"We need to find a solution to the
youth through the education system and into the job market where they can contribute to the growth of the economy."

Manota said many more institutions like his Gauteng Youth College should be established in all of South Africa's nine provinces, because the courses and study material at the GYC are directed at imparting "skills-based education which prepares learners for employment".

A bonus was that successful learners at the GYC were awarded a unique, composite certificate, which is recog nised by both tertiary institutions and employers, said Manota.-
,The GYC, a project of the Gauteng Department of Education which was funded by the Reconstruction and Development Programme and which started with 1600 learners at four centres (Johannesburg, Pretoria, Meyerton and Alberton), uses a comprehensive long distance education system which -is backed by face-to-face tutorials.

For more 'information' contact Piet Manota at (011) 4945820 or Johann .Barnard at (011) 8946168.
to implicate innocent people The chairman indicated that Clark
was an internal matter
Mokuena declined to comment.

National Youth Commission Act.
He expressed optimism that a CEO - to head the support structures of the commission - would be appointed at the beginning of next year to handle the administrative side of the commission, while the commissioners concentrated on the political aspects. The administrative wing, Masebe sald, would have the CEO at its head, two directorates and a subdirectorate.
"The one director will be responsible for policy and research work while the second director concentrated on the internal and external communications and administrative work."

He denied assertions by Leon that the commission consisted of ANC youth with token representation from the Inkatha Freedom Party and the National Party and said the DP had issued an injunction prohibiting its youth from participating in the deliberations of the commission.

Mbeki's spokesman Thami Ntenteni said Mbeki's office was satisfied with the commission's progress.
"It would be premature to make any value judgments on the work of the commission within this short period of : its existence."

## Youth commission shrugs off critics <br> the high salaries and said the commis- <br> which would culminate in a policy docil

sion was set up to "pay off party political debts". Figures released in Parliament by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki show that Bengu will receive an annual basic salary of R212 400

The rest of the package includes a housing subsidy of R9 372, a bonus of R14 858, a car allowance of R69 840 , pension contributions of R34 508 , medical contributions of R6 000 and other contributions totalling R5 388.

The four full-time members of the 19 -member commission will receive an annual package of R276 937 each
In her response, African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) sec-retary-general Febe Potgieter sand the "venom" reserved for the charman could be an "expression of some racist and sexist irritation" on the part of those for whom apartheid was a paradise lost. The commission said it was consulting stakeholders - a process
ument next year.
The commission was established through Parliament and appointed this year by President Nelson Mandela on the advice of the parliamentary ad hoc committee on youth as required by the National Youth Commission Act which brought it into being.

Bengu sad the commission's objectives included promoting a uniform approach by all state organs - including provincial governments - to youth matters. It would also recommend an integrated youth policy to government.

Youth commissioner Thabo Masebe said the commission was established about six months ago and had its inaugural meeting only on July 1 and 2. "Since then we have set about establishing infrastructure, offices and administrative mechanisms." The com-

Continued on Page 2

Leon, contended that Bengu and her fellow commissioners did not have any fellow commissioners artience and expertise to deserve meris ment" through the construction on a co-


## Bonile Ngqiyaza

THE National Youth Commission has shrugged off criticism of the perks, privileges and packages of its commissioners - particularly chairman Hlengiwe Bengu's R300 000 annual salary - and signalled its intention to "forge ahead" with its mandate.

Bengu - who is 26 - has been criticised by Democratic Party (DP) leader Tony Leon for receiving such a high salary, slightly less than a deputy minister's package of R345 000

The commission's mandate is still unclear at this stage - nearly six months after it was set up. Spokesmen last week broadly described its objectives as "youth development and upliftment" ${ }^{\prime \prime}$ through the construction of a co-

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## NEws EAST RAND\PRETORIA

## Forum to fight child abuse <br> bility to defend children's rights as

## By Coudjoe Amankwaa

AN anti child abuse forum has been formed in a bid to curb the escalating rate of rape among teenage girls in thé Mothotlung township, near Brits, in' North West

Deputy chairwoman of the forum Mrs,
Anna Mmope told Sowetan that between
December 15 and January 12 about 20 girls had been raped.

She alleged that two church ministers had raped 10 girls. A teacher and other members of the community had also been involved in rape

Mmope said child abuse was rife-in Mothotlung. Even girls between' 5 and 12 years were caught up in this terrible and traumatising ordeal.
"We as a community have a responsi-
enshrined in the constitution," said Mmope.

She said meetings will be organised with'families of victıms and health workers "to try. and encourage children to speak out since in most cases they kept quiet.
"Doctors at Mothotlung clinic will help by counselling the victums," she added.

Mmope said that her forum would organise workshops twice a week to educate parents how to deal with child abuse, sexual abuse; liquor, drugs, etc.

- She also said that plans were in the pipeline to involve the Mothotlung local health department to make their facilities available for the rehabilitation of rape victims.


## JERMARE CRALG

STAF Reportien
Nearly 80 boys who were living at the Khayamnandi Baptist Home in Langa face life on the streets after returning from the summer holidays and finding the home deserted.
The boys were milling around aimlessly yesterday, not knowing where their next meal would come from or what the future held.
The hómé was established 11 years ago for destitute and runaway boys between six and 18.

- The boys, mostly from the Eastern Cape, found their school uniforms locked up and almost all the furniture gone.

There was no food left in the storeroom.
Among the boys was 19 -year-old Xolani Letole from Killarney, whose parents died last year.

Khayamnandi was his only home.
Lunga Mbethi, a Standard 9 pupil from Port Elizabeth who lived at the home for six years, said his first day back was dismal as he was worried about where the money would come from for his school fees.

He said the boys had played games and had been introduced to music at Khayamnandi, and did not know what they would do now.

Staff members were equally mystified by the sudden closure.

They said the board of trustees had hinted last year that the home might close because of deficits, but there had been no formal notification of the closure.


Some of the boys were unable to go to school yesterday as they were too upset about the closure of the home and did not have the money for registration fees.

Community leaders are outraged by the closure and fear the boys may turn to crime in desperation.

Members of the staff, aided by the community, have been supporting the boys since December, and begging for food for them.

They said the home had been financed by the Baptist Church, and also partly by by the Baptist Church, and als
the provincial admınistration.
$\sin ^{\frac{5}{3},}$ A Langa Baptist minister who is amember of the board of trustees said he was "also in the dark" about the reasons for the closure.
"T'm very sorry.
$\Rightarrow 1$
SThis place was built by God Himself,

"I can'ttellyou what is going on here. I can't tell you about the future of this place, it is probably closing down," said the pastor, who did not want to be identified. $\because 1$

Attempts to contact other members of the board of trustees for comment were unsuccessful.

# Conditions for juvenile prisoners in the spotlight Vuyo Mvoko BD $15 / 197$ 

THe keeping of (23) waing of children who are awaiting trial inside SA prisons and police cells is soon to be done away with, maybe before the end of this year.
This follows a high-powered meeting held in Pretoria on Monday, chaired by Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi and attended by Justice ${ }^{\text {e }}$. Minister Dullar Omar and deputy Manto Tshabalala, Public Works Minis ter-JeffRadebe, Education Deputy Minister Smangalıso Mkhatshwa, Deputy Minister in the office of the Deputy President Essop Pahad, as well as several other senior government officials of the departments of police and of correctional services.
Among the nongovernmental organisations which were represented at this meeting were Lawyers for Human Rights and the National Institute for Criminal Rehabilitation Organisation.
The Correctional Services Amendment Act no 17 of 1994 Amended section 29 of the Correc tional Services Act, stipulates that children under 14 awaiting trial should not be held for longer than 24 hours, and those over 14 but under 18 who are charged with serious offences can be held for only 48 hours.

In terms of the act, in the majority of cases the young people would be released into the care of their parents or guardians to
await trial, and where this was not possible they would be held in places of safety

However, a host of problems arose when the legislation was promulgated with immediate effect on May 81995.

Firstly there was no govern ment interdepartmental co-operation. There were also very, few places of safety, and the few that existed could not handle the sudden influx of young offenders.
"The crisis deepened sharply staff were unable and in some cas es unwilling to care for these children, and concerns were raised for the safety of other children already in places of safety for care and protection reasons,", welfare department spokesman ' Brian Sokutu said yesterday.
Then in 1995, at the initiative of Fraser-Moleketi and with the full sanction of President Nelson Mandela, the cabinet resolved to form an interministerial committee on young people atrisk.
Announcing their resolutions yesterday, the ministers said that after "substantial empirical research" they were confident that before the end of this year there should have been a completion of the physical restructuring or building of at least one secure care facility in each province, as well as hiring and training of the appropriate staff

Directors-general in their respective departments would take full responsibility for the implementation process, they said.

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| ing forward with complaints, they $\quad$ In 21,4\% of cases the per- |  |
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| Detecturs caseloads mur |  |
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| is severely hampered by a drastic |  |
| shortage of personne |  |
| 'Johannesburg has only 17 |  |
| Child Protection Unit detectives to |  |
| hāndle all sexual crimes aga |  |
| children under 17. |  |
| Social workers said they found |  |
| absolutely unacceptable that |  |
| child rape remained on the |  |
| increase despite awareness cam |  |
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She called on the government to strengthen its hand by amending legislation to deny rape suspects bail.

Childline director Ms Vilia Lyell attributed the increase in child rape to a declining socio-economic climate, saying it was often a way of "taking revenge on society" for being unemployed: ${ }^{\prime}$

Gender policy consultant Joanne Fedler said the laws were too lenient on perpetrators, which enticed criminals to become more rampant with their offences.
*- Captain Alfred Vertue, head of the Soweto Child Protection Unit, confirmed child rape in the area was on the rise.









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In $21,4 \%$ of cases the perpetra－
tor was an acquaintance，in $10,3 \%$ $(4,3 \%)$ ，sodomy（ $3 \%$ ），other sexual
offences $(2,9 \%)$ and incest（ $0,7 \%$ ）．

 Of all children who fell victim
to criminals， $36,3 \%$ were raped，
 collected between July 11994 and
June 301995 ，includes all sexual
 ［eıəләs pəuoguaui nquәчіN Gender policy consultant
Joanne Fedler said the law was


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## Not even a

 crumb left after fraud probe halts school food programme TWO YEARS after supplying bread to the government as part of the President's Primary School Nutrition Programme, Volksrust baker Elliot Tshabalala has lost his business, his two vehicles, his farm and his house.Now living in a run-down house with his wife and children, Elliot this week approached; Public Protector Selby Baqwa's office to help him in his claim of R300 000 - which he says he lost when the feeding scheme had to be stopped while investigations into fraud took place.
"I've gone through all the channel's at the Department of Health since February 1995, but keep being told to speak to one person, who tells me to speak to another," said Tshabalala.
"I want to start my business again because everything was auctioned to pay off my debt to the bank, but I need money to do that," he explained.
When the nutrition programme was halted for investigations into fraud involving R9 million, all payments to various contractors were also stopped, which meant that Tshabalala's Vukuzakhe bakery lost its largest contract.
He was supplying 2000 loaves of bread every day to 30 schools in the area.
Tshabalala sent letters to Mpumalanga Premier Mathews Phosa and even to President Nelson Mandela's office, which referred him to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
"Nothing ever happens," Tshabalala says: "I also applied to the Mpumalanga Development Corporatioy for a loan in fagust 1995 but Tstit haymit that they will consider my application,': he said.

However, on Tuesday Tshabalala has an appointment with Baqwa's office ànd hopes thatt after two years of financial distress, his plight will finally, be heard and he will be given the opportunity to relaunch "my business and my life". - African Eye News-Service.

\section*{ood scheme faces closure

\section*{A. .ndela's R500-million

## A. .ndela's R500-million :chool food scheme is inder review, reports -izion Edmunds

 dela's primary school feeding scheme, founded with great fanfare in the first days of his government, is under review and may face closure. The Health Department has commissioned the Cape Town-based non-governmental organisation (NGO), the Chuld Health Unit, to assess the effectiveness of the troubled programme. The unit, which declined to comment on its assignment this week, is due to present its findings next month.In the meantime, the Health Department says that it wants to absorp the feeding scheme into an integrated nutritional programme, which will be part of a new strategy to fight malnutrition in South Afnca. This statement comes amid wndespread speculation and fear among NGOs that the scheme will be closed $\pm s$ the government seeks more effecve channels for social spending Government strategists are sad to feel that the project's budget of more than R500-million a year could be tnore effectively spent channelling oney directly to poor parents to - ed therr children themselves

In the 1995/96 financial yedr 3.6-mullon children were reached by the scheme Currently only 4,7 -inilInon chuldren are getting their peanut utter sandwiches
Mandela announced the scheme $n$ his inaugural speech in Parhenent just after the 1994 elections, as nee of his personal lead projects -a -giship of the Reconstruction and
levelopment Programme. It rerected the special affection and conern he has for chuldren, particularly -ose disadvantaged by poverty, and -s slipposed to be an added incen'e for them to go to school. But the scheme's history has been dequered, with allegations that conactors. government officials and uject from the start defrauded the yject from the start.


In the Eastern Cape, for example. greedy government officials defrauded the scheme last year of R5-mullion by creating "ghost" schools and "ghost" food suppliers. There have been frequent reports that the contractors were skimping on the peanut butter and drinks, and that bread was stale when it arrived at schools, of it arrived at all. Efforts to relaunch the feeding scheme in the Eastern Cape have had only limited success, notwithstanding an injection of R30-million from the government.
The government claimed this week
that it was reachmg 4927 schools in the province and delivering sandwiches to more than 1.5-milhon school children The provnce's budget is R1 12 -mullion.

The scheme has enjoyed successes in other provinces. The Western Cape, whuch channels $98 \%$ of its allocation through the Peninsula School Feeding Scheme, is feeding 300000 chuldren every school-day. The feeding scheme's chairperson, Bremner Jackson, sard this week that if the scheme were closed, "It would very seriously effect the health of the children ... We have
been able to see the difference that it makes to the children's learnmg - tr the absenteeism. the exam pass rate, to the illness rate. To give a child a cou, ple of slices of bread and a cup of souf is one the best investments that a person could make."
The KwaZulu-Natal government is also claimung to have had success and wants to bring peanut butter sandwiches to 3000 primary schools this year This is more than triple last year's delivery to 800 schools. Northern Province clams to delver to 2500 schools daily.

 left to take up his post as Chief J












 JUSTICE Ismail Mahomed's swan-



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## DELAY IN FATHERS' RIGHTS

## Adoption act changes may take two years <br> doing so by Naudé, who allowed a

PLANNED CHANGES to the adoption act, which discriminated against, among others, fathers in customary unions and those in Muslim marriages, have been welcomed.

THE government's welfare department is not expected to amend the controversial adoption act - which bars unmanfried fathers from adopting their illegitimate children - before two years have elapsed.

Welfare spokesman Mr Brian Sokutu said yesterday the depart ment would formalise the amendmint within the two-year period given to it by the Constitutional Court, but added it would be difficult to speed up the process.
"We will most certainly have it done within two years, but in the meantime the law stands as it is.
"The welfare department's legal section has been tasked with formulating this amendment," said Sokutu.

Welfare and Population Development Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi welcomed the Constitutional Court decision during a media briefing at the opening of Parliament last week.
"For too long this section also discriminated against fathers in black customary unions, and fathers in Muslim marriages," said Fraser-Moleketi.

Outgoing Constitutional Court Deputy President Mr Justice Ismail


APPLAUDS DECISION: Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi

Mohamed and his colleagues ruled that it was constitutionally unsound to disregard the views of an unmarried father on the adoptron of his illegitimate children, based solely on his marital status.

Unmarried father Mr Lawrie Fraser's personal circumstances led to the landmark ruling in the Constitutional Court earlier this month. Fraser sought to prevent his former lover,'Ms Adri Naudé, from handing over their illegiti mate son, Timothy, for adoption

Fraser wanted to adopt the boy himself, but was prevented from

South African missionary family in Malawi to adopt him.

Timothy was taken to Malawi in February last year, after the Pretori North Children's Court ruled Fraser was not entitled to intervene in the adoption proceedings because of section 18(4) of the 1983 Child Care Act.

Fraser managed to have the adoption overturned in the Transvaal Supreme Court, pending the outcome of his application to have the validity of section 18(4) exammined by the Constitutional Court.

- Two members of the Child Protection Unit (CPU) are to leave for Malawi to assist in the investigation of the abduction of baby Timothy Funnell, police said yesterday.

A police spokeswoman said a proposed trip by CPU staff to Malawi was suspended on Tuesday, after the recovery of the 14 -month old toddler on the banks of a river near Blantyre.

But Malawian police have indicated they still require South Africa's assistance in the investigaton, she sad. 197

The request came from the SA High Commissioner on behalf of the Malawian chief of police, who said the help would be invaluable as Malawians had no experience of the type or magnitude of the crime. - Political Staff, Sapa

# Two warnings - then it's off to jail they go 

 Juvenile justice comes first- expert
## undsay barkes

CRIME DEsK
South Africa must fight juvenile crime before it can effectively tackle the crime rate generally - and the way to do it may be two warnings and then a jail sentence for young offenders.

That is the system used in Austria to deal with petty offenders, according to Austrian juvenile court judge Renate Winter, who is also a United Nations consultant in Vienna.

Judge Winter, speaking at a meeting of the Strategic Management Society in Bellville yesterday, said any country hoping to fight crime had first to fight juvenile crime.
"Place the emphasis on juvenile justice and crime as a whole will decrease rapid-
ly," she said.
People should not besent to jail for small offences but should be warned not to repeat their crimes. By far the majority of criminals sent to prison had started off committing petty crimes. In Austria more than 50 percent of people usually heeded the second warning.
"Prison should be a last resort, especially for juveniles," Judge Winter said.

In Austria, if a person was caught for a minor offence the police asked whether or not they were guilty and if they confessed, they were given the opportunity to repair the damage done.

If they agreed, they did not appear in court but returned the stolen goods or paid the equivalent.

The most difficult aspect of the punishment, especially for youngsters, said Judge

Winter, was having to apologise in person to the victim, who then had a chance to make them aware of the effect their crime had had on their victim's life.

It was found that Austrian people especially appreciated the chance to meet the perpetrator, to have their say and not to have to waste time in court.
"This is a far easier and cheaper remedy," Judge Winter said.

But for the Austrian system to work here, the Government had to Invest in its police service and pay decent wages to help stave off corruption.
"There is no free meal. To get justice you have to invest in your police service. Pay police well and it will work," she said.

Good wages would have the spinoff effect of boosting morale and the police's status in the community.

## ILO resolves to eradicate child labour

Reneé Grawitzky 298 gaged in work that was exBD 28.2 Fploitative and hazardous t
A RAISING of international awareness with the intention of stimulating action to eradicate child labour was the focus of a two-day International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference held in Amsterdam this week.

The conference was attended by high-ranking government and trade union of ficials and employer organisation representatives from more than 30 countries. It resolved to eliminate the most harmful forms of child labour - slavery, debt bondage, child prostitution and work in hazardous industries - as a matter of urgency.

According to the ILO, one third of the world's 250 -million child labourers were en-
their health and wellbeing.

ILO director-general Michel Hansenne said that in developing countries, about $90 \%$ of rural working children were engaged in agriculture or related activities, "a sector where pesticides and fertilisers are commonly used and which occupational health and safety experts consider to be one of the most dangerous and difficult to protect".

The SAAgricultural Plantation and Allied Workers' Union addressed the use of child labour in the agricultural sector at its recent congress. A research project would be set up to ascertain the extent of child labour.

The ILO estimated that of
the 250 -million childrenf working between the ages of five and 14 , nearly 120 -min lion were full-time workers "The vast majority of child labourers are found in rural areas and in small, often family-run businesses. Cons trary to public perceptions,' the modern export sector plays only a minor role."

Asia had the largest number of child labourers - $61 \%$ of the world's total. This was followed by Africa where $40 \%$ of children worked. The ILQ report highlighted the increase of sexual exploitation of children, with estimates that 1-million children were victims of the sex trade in Asia and Eastern Europe.

The ILO said that most children were paid little more than "pocket money".


Exercises: physiotherapists take five-year-old Mapheio Madama, left, and Sindiswe Salaze, 2, through their paces wille their mothers Betty Madama, back left, and Nontobeko Salaze

# Parents wait year for 

# Some get R10 000 grants while others st 

## ABELE BAIETA

Staff Reporter
Poverty-stricken parents who applied for a R430 a month grant to help them care for their physically and or mentally disabled children up to a year ago are still waiting for the money, in spite of being told it would take only six weeks.

And while the care dependency grants are slowly beginning to trickle through, there are complaints that these are haphazardly applied, with some parents getting backdated pay totalling almost R10 000 , while others struggling to survive are still watting

Western Cape Drector of Social Services Dr Waldie Terblanche was aware of the delay and said staff at the 13 offices in the province had been told to process these grants urgently.
"Where there is a desperate need, the relevant staff has been instructed to issue cheques to eligible applicants until the grants have been processed," he sald

The children who qualify for the grant have to fit the criteria of needing "constant care", which means the guardian, often a single mother or a grandmother, has to look after the child 24 hours a day.

These children have to be helped to sit, eat and bath, and to be taken to the toilet The demands prohibit the parent from
working, and if they do find jobs the children are often left on their own at home especially older children - or sometimes with neighbours who are paid.

Day-care facilities are "dismal" and according to the Cape Mental Health Society, the waiting list for children with special needs for day care centres is about 1000 children
The society's project co-ordinator of 'special care and training services Ekin Kentch said: "It's ghastly. There is notone day care centre that is not full The problems of children who do not receive intervention at an early age are magnified as their physical, social and emotional care is neglected."

Floods of applications were made when care dependency grants came into existence on March 1 last year, when the Social Assistance Act was passed. Cerebral Palsy Association social worker Shirley Elvey said that before this, grants for mentally disabled children from the age of three were provided by the Justice Department.

Now with the transfer to the Social Services department, the permissible age is from one-year 18 and includes severely physically disabled children.

Hospital sqid: "We"capnot turn these fami.





 COmbtorovityty, with disabled children sometimes in their teens

 sores and are neglected bectuse the moth ers do not have the meand to care for them,"

A district health biticer ormedical officer had to assess the child to determine whether he or she was in reed of constant care and whether the applicatumas suit. able to care for the child,

But the Red Cross Chidlren's Hospitar doctor said there was little'clarity among

A doctor from red Cross Chidren' cant dó is to assess the chuld anditell them to submit the apotication in the Eastern , \$pme mothers move COM 21 m,"
"Many parents with children who are physically disabled applied only to find that the definition "constant care" did not apply to them. We have seen many angry and frustrated parents," she said

According to doctors who assess the children for the grant, many Eastern Cape familles have applied for the money in the Western Cape in view of scant services in their home province. that tor that care depende are part of the 400 tions for all grant sions we recei Monthin the Wes , dependency gra have not been pro 13 offices so far".

Another reaso applicants did not on hand

Applicants s. assessed by a dist tor who would sul vant office, but 1 required to fill ol

## health workers as

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had also taken its "ithas to be rel hat care depende -


Madama, back left, and Nontobeko Salaze look on


Granny care: Maria Seymour, left, watches as her physically disabled granddaughter, Rochelle Jantiies, excercises her back


Chatter: Cerebral Palsy Association social worker Shirley Elvey and Sergio 0'Connor, 4, share a joke

# ir for child care 

## $\therefore$ others (298) $_{1 \times 15}$ struggle <br> tildren who are <br> health workers as to who qualified because

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who assess the 1y Eastern Cape re money in the cant services in
oss Children's turn these famiue very least we assess the child n to submit the in the Eastern Wratior变. nothers move tce to province sled children in their teens heir backs look. and assistance. t often have bed saluse the mothans to care for

## or medical offi-

 d to determine leed of constant Uicant was suitA".Ireh's Hospital xclarity among
the definition of "constant care" was too broad.
"The grant gets inconsistently applied because not all doctors are able to assess disabulity," he said.

Mrs Elvey said that parents had to be told about who could apply for the grant to avoid unnecessary travel expenses, paperwork and frustration

Dr Terblanche said the delay in processing applications was owing partly to centralising all data onto a mainframe system. Staff taking severance packages had also taken its toll
thithas to be remembered that care dependency grants are part of the 4000 applications for all grants and pensions we receive every month in the Western Cape. $7^{7}$ "There are 31 s.care dependency grants that have not been processed yet from 11 of the 13 offices so far".

Another reason for the delay was that applicants did not have all the information on hand

Applicants should have the child assessed by a district surgeon or state doctor who would submit the form to the relevant office, but the applicant was also required to fill out a form at one of the 13
offices in the province.
"This is a means test to make sure that people that get the grant need it".

He said that when grants were processed the applicant was required to give an ID number that was entered into the central system, thereby avoiding grants being given to one applicant in two provinces
"That of course depends on the same ID number being given. The system is not fool proof," he added.

Dr Terblanche said that
'There are 318 care dependency grants that have

街pt been in processed yet if a grant was received from an Eastern Cape applicant who had a Western Cape address, there was little that could be done about it.

Iteracknowledged that it wasmot the best method to

, win get in a lump sum is R9999 and we are planning to split the amquint to make it easier for peoplefor security reasons."

- Western Cape Social Service offices are at: Athlone; Atlantis; Beaufort West; Bellville; George; Goodwood; Queen Vicotria Street (Cape Town); Mitchells Plain; Oudsthoorn; Paarl; Vredehoek; Wynberg; and there is a service point at Riversdale.


## Delays cause untold suffering

## STAF REPORIER

Four-hundred-and-thirty rands a month would not go a long way for some, but it would make a great difference to the life of Betty Madama of Macassar.
Saturday Argus spoke to Betty, a single mother of four, at the cerebral palsy clinic at Red Cross Children's Hospital.

Like any mother, she beamed with pride as her son Maphelo inched his way across a mat in the direction of a bright toy. It is unlikely that her five-year-old son, who is mentally and physically disabled, will ever be able to walk.

Betty applied for a care dependency grant of R430 a month for Maphelo in June last year and is still waiting for the money.
"It is not easy. I have three girls and he is the youngest and my only son. I want to be able to take better care of him," she said

Betty, a domestic worker, has to travel long distances to work to support her famsly.
"I have to pay a neighbour R200 a month to look after my son and that is a large cut from my salary," she said.

Physiotherapists at the clinic said some people, especially mothers and grandmothers looking after disabled chuldren, had to bear untold suffering.

A mother at Marconi Beam squatter camp has been waiting for a year for her grant to be processed.
"She needs the money to buy food for the child," one staff member said

## World finally wakes up to the horrors of child labour (298) Starn 13197 <br> By NORBERT HAHN <br> carpets, hawking wares or harvesting fields.

Amsterdam - Bachi, an 11-year-old Indian girl, spends her childhood toiling in a glass factory. Christine, a Kenyan girl of the same age, works as a housemaid.

Victor, a Portuguese boy of 12 , lost his young life through an electric shock when operating a concrete mixer to help his father, the owner of a small construction company. For about 250 million children around the world, the precious days of childhood have come to mean drudgery, fatigue, exploitation and even slavery.

A two-day ministerial conference, which took place in Amsterdam this week, discussed ways of fighting the plague of child labour.

The conference brought together aid agencies, United Nations representatives and delegates from 30 countries, including 20 ministers.

About 120 million children, aged between 5 and 14 years, work full-time, according to the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Some 130 million more children work parttime.

At least $61 \%$ of the child workers live in Asia, $32 \%$ in
$\cdots$ Afrieas and 7\% in Latin America, according to ILO statistics.

Child labour is not, however, only a Third World problem.

Children are also economically exploited in industrial countries such as the United States, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Britain. In India, around 5 million children are estimated to be working in difficult conditions in order to help their poor parents pay their debts.

In Sudan, tens of thousands of under-age children have been abducted and taken from the animist and Christian south to the Muslim north to work as slaves, according to the aid agency Christian Solidarity International.
Such claims have been lent credibility by eyewitness accounts quoted in press reports

All over the world, child workers usually get paid miserably, be it for rolling cigarettes, knotting


EXPLOITED: At least $32 \%$ of child workers live in Africa, according to llo statistics

The same scenes of children working can be seen over and over again, from Brazil to the Philippines, from Sri Lanka to Morocco.

More than a million under-age girls also work as prostitutes in the illegal multibillion-rand sex trade, according to estimates by aid agencies.

Frequently, child prostitutes live in conditions comparable to slavery.

There is, however, a glimmer of hope as initiatives against child labour multiply. In the past 10 years, United Nations organisations such as the ILO and the children's fund Unicef have stepped up pressure on governments, bringing out more and more extensive studies on the economic exploitation of children. The murder of Iqbal Masih, a 12 -year-old Pakistani boy killed for refusing to work, has also helped to awaken public opinion.
Masih's murder prompted the founding of Free the Children, a group started by an American youth and intent on drawing media attention to the problem of child labour.

In the first ministerial conference of the World Trade Organisation from December 9-13 in Singapore, the question of workers' rights developed into an explosive subject, giving rise to heated disputes. A large part of the world's footballs, it turned out, are made by children in a Pakistani town. The discovery shocked Westerners and led to attacks against the makers of sports articles and football federations who had to answer some embarrassing questions.
In Germany, around 300000 carpets imported from India have now been marked with labels indicating that they have not been made by children, and other similar actions are expected to follow
"The business world has woken up," ILO spokesman Michel Barton said.

Child labour is, however, a complex problem which cannot be solved by tackling only a single facet of it, such as that pertaining to the trade between rich and poor countries, Unic i has warned. - Sapa-DPA

MIDWAY through describing to the court how she victims old fell' asleep. Cuddling into, the comforting arm of a social worker, the exhausted little girl closed her éyes and shut out the horror: she was being forced to relive in the name of justice.
The case at Protea children's court in Soweto on Thursday, postponed again for the seventh time since'September, was not unusital.
Every month the two children's courts which have the status of a regionial court - covering Soweto, Eldorado Parktand Lenasia, handle 200 child rape and abuse cases. And with up to 25 new cáses each week the court , , roll is already booked solid for the next three months.
Protea is in crisis. Therè is a desperate need for at least two more courts to ease the victims'pàin by concluding the bulk of cases in weeks instead of months. In

# who must have their story told 

> A rising tide of child abuse cases is threatening to overwhelm the special courts introduced barely two years ago to deal with them. PETER DE IONNO reports more than 80 percent of
cases the perpetrator is known.
But the real problem is not the usual one of disorganisation and neglect in the legalsystem, but the apparent"dramatic increâse in rapes of children.

Dulcie Mokgethi, who has worked as a soclalworker in Soweto for more than 20 years, accepts that much of the rise in rape reports comes from increasing willingness by victims to report attacks. But, she also believes that an insane rumour that swept the township two years ago is a major factor. "A witchdoctor said that having sex with children was a cure for AIDS and people believed it.
"There was once a time when we said we wôld rather hold the sharp blade of a knife than allow it to hurt our children, but in so many cases now parents sacrifice children to their own selfishness," she says.

Central to the creation of the now two-year-old children's courts set up by the Department of Justice around the country, was a concern with putting the child's "interest first in dealing with abuse cases. Mokgethi's role is to sit with the child witness in a separate room connected to the court by sound and video and to translate questions from the prosecutors and defence attorneys into "child language". She then relays the victim's answers back to the courtin.
Mokgethi is convinced the children, aged"between three and 16 , comprehend the court process. "They are always scared but they want their stories to be heard and to be believed," she says. z.
Asked if she knows of any cases where children invented stories, she shakes her head firmly. "Sometimes they are confused because they love the man who has hurt them, but I do not believe these children are liars.
"And they do mot initiate the sex." To make her point, she picks up a pair of anatomically correct dolls and places the male doll face down on the female: "They always put them like this."

Although physical separation from
the courtroom spares the traumatised child the ordeal of having to face the rapist - often their father or a close relative - when they give evidence, the very act of recounting their experience forces them to relive it.

And unless the accused rapist has been held in custody, the victims are made to wait outside the court with the alleged abuser until the case is called.
Mokgethi says: "Many of the little ones are already crying, or stiff with fear before the case starts because they have seen the man who hurt them."
She says the most urgent needs at the court are a secure playroom where child witnesses could wait before giving evidence, and a counseling programme for the victims and their families.
"The mothers need help. Not only have they discovered their beloved child has been raped but they have lost their partner and the family breadwinner," says Mokgethi

But as she also points out, some women would rather deny what has happened and force the child to withdraw the case. "These women make me so angry," she says. "They do not under stand the harm they cause the child."
A prosecutor at Protea, Adriaan Lamprecht, backs Mokgethi: "We have just had a woman sentenced to four years in jail because she used a hot iron to burn her eight-year-old because she said her uncle had raped her. The mother blamed her."
Lamprecht says the prosecutors and magistrates have struggled with the rigid demands of the law that requires victims to describe the crime in detail.
"Often the family and the community know exactly what has happened and they don't understand why we have to go through this process," he says.
"But all allegations must be tested or we infringe the rights of the accused. Everyone is innocent until proven guilty and most often the child is the only witness we have and we need them to get a conviction. Questions often seem insensitive but we are learning all the time."


## New education legislation ynder fire

CAPE TOWN — Draft legislation pro posed by the Western Cape education department would allow officials to order medical operations for children with special education needs, without the agreement of the parents, the Na tional Coalition of Home Schoolers said yesterday

The organisation said the province's draft School Education Bill constituted a major threat to the fundamental rights of children.

It also said that the department was appropriating far greater powers than a welfare officer or district surgeon currently enjoyed when dealing with children.

The bill would allow students with special needs to be subjected to medical
or psychological examination, or be removed to a school or institution for special education, without the consent or even against the will - of the child or parents. The bill provided for these actions to be taken without a court order or warrant.

Special education included psychological or medical treatment, therapy or operations.

The bill's provisions on the powers of a school attendance officer were also alarming, the organisation said.

This official would be able to enter any premises, public or private - using violence if necessary - in pursuit of a truant, and this on nothing more than a suspicion and without a court order or warrant-Sapa.
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Continued from Page 1 （20）วงसRUOHUIPN （1）









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 on new applications for the old system． would be phased out over five years Cabinet decided that this system genefit 3－mil をみコール ．








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# Single parent families dealt grants blow 

THE cabinet yesterday gave the go-ahead for a new child-support system that will slash existing grants of about $350000 \mathrm{sin}^{-}$ gle parents by hundreds of rands and radically lower the age of children qualifying for benefits.

The Black Sash slammed the decision, which was taken without public hearings, and the parliamentary portfolio committee on welfare said it would hold hearings regardless of the cabinet decision.

The.Western Cape, with an estimated 100000 recipients, will be hardest hit, particularly in the coloured community

The step could have far-reaching consequences, as the National Party, no longer part of the Government of National Unity, is bound to make political capital out of the controversy in the run-up to the 1999 elections.
Black Sash national director Ms Hillary Morris said last night she was "deeply disturbed" by the new measures. "While we support the move to create' equity in the delivery of child-support benefits, we are alarmed and concerned that these very farreaching proposals will be implemented without any process of public consultation."

The decision, taken before any planned public hearing'sy the parlamentary welfare committee, will mean that single mothers will have to survive each month with R500 less from the Welfare Department.

The introduction of the new child-support benefits. from August this year arises from the ministerially appointed LLund Committee investgation, which recommended phasing out the existing total monthly, maximum grant of R700, made up of a R430 parent allowance and R135 for each of two children from 4xirth until 18 years of age.
Whe chemmittee recommended a flat rate of R70 a child up to the age of nine years. Howeyer, yesterday the cabinet uncreased the flaf raterey an extra R 5 butredrieat the qualifying age to childién under six years.

Welfare»Minister Ms Geraldine Frase Moleketi said yesteiday that to qualify for the new benefit, the prumary care-giver, who may not necessarily be the mother, will in future have to pass a simple means test identifying poverty-stricken households.

The new scheme is primarily aimed at extending the childsupport benefit to millions of poor children who were excluded from the welfare system under apartheid.

Fraser-Moleketi said extending the benefit at the current rate to all women who qualified under the new system, would have cost the taxpayer between' R 5 billion and R 20 bn annually.
Another problem with the existing benefit was that it did not reach needy children in poorer provinces such as the Northern Province and Eastern Cape. At present the Western Cape had the largest number of beneficiaries, she said.

She said she was "fully aware" of the far-reaching implications of the cabinet decision, especially for people with few opportunities to find alternative sources of income "However, I wish to assure all those affected by today's decision that this is not the end of the process. It is the start.
"I pledge to do everything in my power to minimise the negative effects of the changes we are introducing," she said.

The Black Sash has been part of a group of trade unions, academics and organisations calling for public hearings on this issue. Last week, after meeting a delegation on the issué; TraserMoleketi did not rule out the idea of public hearings on the issue, but expressed reservations that it could raise public expect-


JULIAN JACOBS
Staff Repopiter
Gangs have been blamed for the increase in attacks and muggings by street children on tourists in the Cape Town.

For months role players - such as the police, tourism officials and members of the business sector - have complained that children living on the streets of the Mother City are bad for business and have had a negative influence on tourism

But child care workers are calling for "care" policies and understanding of the issue. They say adult gangs are tesponsible for the prevalence of drime in the city centre, particularly for attacks on tourists
One such worker, lived on the streets for 13 years while addicted to all sorts of drugs.

Now a Cape Town City Mission child care worker at Ethel's Place in Mitchell's Plain, John Pass emphasised that gangs were using children to rob tourists and to commit other crimes on behalf of the gangs.

He said more and more children were streaming into the city -not real1sing the hard life that awaited them.
Because of lenient laws regarding vagrants and beggars and a lack of facilities in disadvantaged communities. children moved to the city hoping for a better life.
"An absence of love, a lack of communication, extreme physical abuse, unemployment and poverty in their communities are some of the main reasons why children are forced into a life on the streets."
"Gangs roam the streets and recruit children with lucrative offersthey tend to prey on children that are new on the streets "
"The older youths steal and break into cars and the little ones take the rap for the crime."

He said the threat of prison was of little significance.

Police argue that the children know they will be out on the streets again in a matter of hours after being apprehended, as in terms of the Constitution, they cannot be kept in jall.
> 'Street life has its own set of rules and older youths threaten the children'
2. In turn, manyonild care workers thave called ormproved policing, as they believe police have a negative attitude towards the children.
They point out that street children have little or no choice in life.
"Street life has its own set of rules and older youths, who do not live on the street, threaten the children. They recruit the small ones and offer a good life if the smaller ones work for them," MrPass explained.

Young gurls, who turn to life on the streets, are quickly snapped up by pimps and used as child prostitutes. "They are cleaned and made ready for potential customers," says Mr Pass.
"Handicapped and smaller children are often used to beg for older youths, who keep them under strict surveillance until they have handed over enough cash to the gangs."

He said a child living on the streets was often a vulnerable child. Although in most cases they did have homes to.go back to, they would refuse.
One of the children Saturday Argus spoke to said he had been living on the streets for three years, and liked it.

He showed a tattoo he had of a gang emblem and said he was forced to have it done, or face being injured.
"Last December an older man came to live with us and he forced us have the tattoos on our legs and to join the gang. We were scared of him and did as he told us."

For these children a few havens, such as Ethel's Place in Eastridge, do offer them refuge.

Opened last August to assist chil..dren living.on the streets in the Cape Flats, Ethel's Place operates as a dropin centre, but the children still sleep on the streets, said Mr Pass.

He said once a child got used to making money on the streets, it was difficult to shalke the habit.

The centre - supervised by the Cape Town City Mission - offers street children life skills, such as literacy classes, art classes, environmental classes, a drug prevention programme, writing and poetry classes and a programme designed to foster relations with the children's parents.

## Sniokers to cough up more for their habit

## Nicola Jenvey

DURBAN - The traditional "sin taxes" for smokers and drinkers were again targeted in the 1997/98 budget, with the duty on tobacco rising $52 \%$ to lift the tax component to $50 \%$ of the average retail price.
Smokers will pay another 27c for 10 cigarettes, while the pipe tobacco price will rise by R2,49/kg. Drinkers will also have to dig deeper, with the beer price set to rise $8,15 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{l}$ ( $3 \mathrm{c} / 340 \mathrm{ml}$ ), sorghum beer $2 \mathrm{c} /$, sorghum flour $5,5 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{kg}$, unfortified wine $8 \mathrm{c} / 750 \mathrm{ml}$, mineral water and soft drinks $1,2 \mathrm{c} / \mathrm{l}$ and cane spirits $66 \mathrm{c} / 750 \mathrm{ml}$ bottle.

Similar increases apply to whisky, brandy and gin.

The Tobacco Instrtute of Southern Africa rejected the "incredible" increase in excise duties on cigarettes as "unfair" as it dis-
criminated against a third of the country's adults. "The effects of yet another incredible tax increase on tobacco farming, on employment on farms, and on employment of workers in the processing industry, have been pointed out to government.
"Perhaps government should come and face the workers, who know that such excessive taxes will deprive them of ther livelihood in favour of tax-free smuggled cigarettes from elsewhere.n
However, Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO Geoff Tyler applauded Finance Minister Trevor Manuel's courage in imposing the bold increases.

South African cigarettes and alcohol were still among the cheapest in the world. "There is considerable room for further increases next year," he said

Ad valorem duties - presently between
$6 \%$ and $37,5 \%$, and recommended for abolition by both the Margo and Katz commissions - were also reviewed in the light of the extensive smuggling and sale of illegal goods throughout SA.

Manuel sard although revenue considerations prevented their abolition, the high rates had provided an incentive for tax evasion and the consequent loss of tax revenue.

Consequently, the higher brackets of $37,5 \%$ and $32,5 \%$ were lowered to $15 \%$. Motor cycle rates, applicable to cycles with a cylinder capacity of less than $800 \mathrm{~cm}^{3}$, were dropped from $32,5 \%$ and $17,5 \%$ to $15 \%$ and $7,5 \%$ respectively.

Delortte and Touche tax partner Dáyalan Naicker said consumers would welcome the lower rates as goods, including perfumes, camera equipment, watches and turntables, would became more affordable.


## Child support move on hold after outcry

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN - The parliamentary welfare committee has put the brakes on the further implementation of a controversial cabinet decision to introduce a flat rate child support benefit after African National Congress (ANC) BPs voiced serious concerns.

Welfare director-general Leila Pa tel was forced to backtrack at a welfare portfolio meeting on Friday and undertook to come back to the committee before proceeding with the implemention of the scheme as planned.

The committee also endorsed a decision taken during private consultations by MRs last week to hold public hearings following a growing public outcry over the issue.

Patel indicated to the portfolio committêe that government intended to intraduce the scheme through regulation
without first consulting Parliament. However, reminded by committee chairman and ANC MP Cas Saloojee that there was an agreement that the welfare department would not act unilaterally, Patel said Saloojee had "misunderstood me completely" and undertook to come back to the committee instead of reporting directly to cabinet. "We will certainly keep the committee abreast of developments," Patel said.

ANC MRs were at the forefront of intense questioning of Patel, expressing serious misgivings about the scheme as spelt out by the directorgeneral. Some MRs left the meeting still not convinced that the welfare department had researched it properly.

One ANC MP said afterwards: "This whole thing just seems to me to be pie in the sky at this stage."

The welfare plan is to rectify a racial imbalance in the child and family
maintenance set-up by introducing a drastically reduced grant due to financial constraints. Coloured and Asian families qualify for up to R700 a month in parent and child maintenance grants at present, but cabinet decided to adopt a welfare recommendation to abolish the parent grant and replace it with a flat rate of R75 a child up to the age of six.

Children aged up to 18 can qualify under the current scheme

Committee members were also not convinced that other important aspets of the scheme, such as a decision to introduce a means test - described by an ANC MP as internationally discredited, had been researched properby. ANC MP Mary Turok said: "I do not think the R75 will be negotiable, but there are definitely other aspects

Continued on Page 2

## Support <br> 

Continued from Page $1 / 3 / 3 / 97$ which are." Finance Minister Trevor Manuel said last week R75m had been Manuel said the child support scheme.

One of the researchers, Clive Pintusewitz, estimated that the scheme would cost R2,7bn a year, based on the R75 flat rate figure, when fully overnational in seven years' time. According to Patel, it would cost between R5bn and R2Obn annually "If all women who were eligible for the grant under the present conditions should apply".

In 1995 about R1,2bn was spent on state maintenance grants to about

394924 beneficiaries.
The new scheme aimed to provide support for about $30 \%$ of eligible poor children, Patel said.

Patel said a technical committee had been set up to look into details of a phased implementation of the scheme, and would report to cabinet in six months' time. Some MRs said the August 1 implementation date and the committee's report overlapped.

The Black Sash - one of the harsh-
The Black Sash - one or proposed by Welfare Minister Geraldine FraserMoleketi - said the public hearings would be a waste of time unless they could influence the cabinet's decision.

# 'Here's to your good health, smokers' er $13 / 3197$ <br> yield about R 620 million in new revenue. 

THE Council Against Smoking has welcomed the increase in tobacco excise taxes, which it said would "make a significant contnbution to improving the health of South Africans by discouraging smoking". And it would raise government revenues.

The increase of 27 c per 10 cigarettes will result in about 400000 fewer smokers and, over time, in about 130000 fewer premature deaths from cancer, heart attacks and lung disease, the council said. It will also

Tobacco RSA, meanwhile, complained that the "draconian increase" could lose thousands of the country's 28600 farm workers their jobs. It also mentioned smuggling of cigarettes from abroad.

The Tobacco Institute of Southern Africa also slammed the "incredible 52\% increase" as unfair and "yet another punitive increase which discriminates against a third of the country's adults". (298) third of the countrys ad


ARGUS CORRESPONDEMT
Durban - Millions of rands of school feeding scheme funds remain unspent two weeks before the end of the 1996/97 financial year while thousands of children are going without the meals promised them by President Nelson Mandela.

The school feeding scheme - a presidential programme designed to provide needy children with a nutritious morning snackhas been plagued by administrative prob lems since its inception

At a recent public accounts committee meeting, members heard that R103-million from the 1995/1996 budget had yet to be spent and funds running into further millions from the present financial year were still lying idle.
KwaZulu-Natal auditor-general Chris Foster said yesterday there was no way this amount of money could be spent effec tively in two weeks.

He said that in the past, a lot of the money had been misspent and that this could happen again if there was not adequate financial control.

The health department has been called to another meeting today to account for the outstanding amounts.

Responding to the criticism about the department's inability to deliver, health department spokesman Dave McGlew said the scheme had struggled to get off the ground because of a lack of bookkeeping skills in schools.

He denied earlier media reports that millions of rands had been embezzled claiming that "unaccounted funds" amounted to only about R700 000, which auditors were still trying to trace.

Mr McGlew said the scheme was slowly gaining momentum, with up to $1 \cdot 400$ schools now benefiting. He said it was a long-term project which in time, and with sufficient training, would assist communities to feed themselves.
The health department's chief director of health care, John Stewart, said he could not comment until he had all the figures.
Public accounts committee chairman Tino Volker said the system had failed because the health and education departments had not been sufficiently prepared to cope with the task.

## New grants for poor children hailed

By Jainine Simon

- The new child benefit grants system was a golden opportunity to force ministries to collaborate on developmental programmes, Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser Moleketi said yesterday.
2.: Shè̉ wàs commenting on resistance' to the new system from advocacy groups, including Cosatu and the Black Sash, who objected to cuts in support.

The Cabinet earlier this month approved a $20 \%$ cut in state main tenance grants over the next five years and the phasing in of the new flat-rate R75-a-month beniefit, ämed at reaching 3 million of the poorestunder-6s in the country.

The new system 'means the R430 grants and the R135-a-child grant will be phased out. Instead, a means test will be applied to identify $30 \%$ of the poorest children, and a flat R75 a child will be given to their care-givers.

More than 240 babies were irn abandoned in Gauteng hospitals in 1996, Health, MEC Amos Masondo has gei revealed. + 1 sri , Masondo was replying ${ }_{\text {mbr }}$ to a question put to him by, the Democratic Party's ${ }_{n}$; -ack Bloom last week.

According to figures re leased by the health department, Baragwanath Hospital dealt with $65_{6,6}$ cases of abandoned babies, followed closely by Johan- ; nesburg Hospital with 55 and Natalspruit with 24.

Masondo said the time spent on caring for the babies before alternative accommodation was found varied from four days to a month.

The ministry said mothers abandoned their newborn babies for a host of reasons.

These included relationship problems, fear of stigma attached to fostering or adoption, lack of necessary education and life skills or the fact that either the mother or baby was diagnosed as being HIV-positive.

Bloom called the fig ures a shock, saying it cost approximately R450 a day to keep a child in hospital.

He said the abandoned babies were an unfortunate symptom of a sick society.

However, Masondo said, to solving the problem required an effort not only from the health department, but government and civil society.

He said suggestions put forward to reduce the number of unwanted babies included life skills training, sex education at schools, user-friendly family planning clinics and the training of nursing staff to identify potential absconders.

AT LEAST RS billion lost to government corruption, illegal land deals and theft was being investigated by the first special investigation and tribunal unit of its kind in South Africa, appointed by President Nelson Mandela last week.

The investigating arm of the unit, headed by Mr Justice Willem Heath, is looking into cases such as feeding scheme maladministration - which runs into mullions of rands - pensions and tender irregularities and theft, as weil as the illegal buying of land.

Mandela signed a proclamation last Wednesday appointing Heath the head of the new investigations unit and Mr Justice GPC Kotze as acting president of the tribunal.
"The big difference now is that, unluke a commission, we have been given teeth," Heath said. "We can functron totally independently in investigating and prosecuting perpetrators. involved in this sort of thing."

Of four feeding schemes being investigated, two were put into action by the previous government and were seen as a ploy to win more votes during the 1994 general elections.

Both the schemes, as well as two others instituted by the new government, either folded or were beset by problems which included
serious maladministration.
. In the Eastem Cape primary school feeding scheme more than R5 million was stolen by corrupt officials.

Heath said he had already recenved documentation and the matter was being investigat'ed as a prority.

The investigative unit was also looking at allegations of overcharging on accounts by the Bank of Transkei in the former homeland.

In 1995 it emerged that the bank charged a rate of 33 percent on a former Transkel govenment overdraft of R700 million. At the time the prime rate was 15,25 percent and the maximum legal rate 29 percent.

The difference over a year between the prime rate and the amount charged on R700 million is R122,4 million.
.There were 500 cases along the Transkei coastline where buyers used illegal methods to get hoid of land, including bribing headmen with amounts of money far less than the actual value of the property.

Recently it became known that for as little as R200, a bottie of cheap brandy or a few sheep, non-residents bought prime sites on the Wild Coast to build holiday cottages and fishing shacks. - Sapa.

Cotskin maternity wards in Gauteng hospitals are being occupied by healthy , abandoned babies, while doctors desperately try to find space for sick and premature babies.

Yesterday frantic negotiations between the welfare society and Johannesburg Hospital took place because the hospital needed to make space for 15 sick babies.

Johannesburg Child Welfare assistant director Carol Bews said: "They, want me to take seven health, "babies out but there is physigily no place for them. I have 拃 options open to me."
'Tyu', babies have to languish thére because there is no space in the province's overflowing childien's homes.
fitytrosts R450 a day to keep a by híy haby in hospital and R104
 Ne gesald lastyede healthy:

ster homes, Of trate, 82 were stive in hospital; some had been therefor 30 months.
Thertain hospitals said they received between three and 15 abandoned babies a month. Baragwanath Hospital reported 65 cases last year, Johannesburg Hospital 55, Katlehong's Natalspruit 24 and Coronation 22.

Baragwanath's social work

## Sick infants queue for admission

manager Lea Smith said one of her abandoned babies had been there since birth eight months ago. Smith's Johannesburg Hospital colleague, Beverly Kriel, said the hospital had 11 abandoned babies. Social workers said mothers gaverfalse names and slipped out of the hospital after giving birth.
I Hóspitals did " not accept healthy babies found in the veld or toilets, but some have to be admitted for treatment-and then ended up staying.

Even abandoned premature babies in incubators remain there because there is no place in thematernity wárds.

Both Smith and Kriel that the welfare department to help.

Social, workers and the welfare authorities's said more children's homes were needed. But it was more important to educate communities and develop a culture of foster-care and adoption.

Bews said institutions were the worst places for babies. They received no individual attention or stimulation in their first year. This caused emotional stunting.

The health'department said the solution lay in a "multi-sectoral" involvement of civil society and government dèpartments.






Parliament's welfare committee is obstructing the hasty implementation of the Lund Report on Child \& Famuly Support, which recommends that State mantenance grants be phased out

On March 5, the Cabinet endorsed the Lund committee's recommendation that a moratonum be placed on new grant applications
The system is costing the State R1,2bn a year and reaches about 400000 beneficlaries most of whom are coloured, Indian and white.
The Welfare Department swung into action to give effect to the Cabinet decision, though the welfare committee had not yet debated nor held public hearings on the Lund report
At a tense meeting last week, the committee insisted that the department inform it of any further steps designed to implement the Cabinet's decision.
Briefing the committee, Welfare DG Leila Patel said the system was unaffordable and in disarray The number of beneficiaries was growing at almost $8 \%$ a year and if all those eligible applied, it would cost the State R5bn-R20bn/year
The department argues that the new system of child benefit grants will save the State billions and reach many more of the poorest chuidren as well as elimınate the geographic and racial inequities of the existing system.

The Cabinet has agreed that State maintenance grants be phased out over five years, from August 1997, at an annual rate of $20 \%$ - a monthly reduction of R140 for households which now get the maximum grant of R 700 /month
Children up to the age of 18 are eligible under the present system, which pays out R 430 per parent and R135 per child for a maximum of two children.

It will be replaced with a flat-rate chuld support benefit of R75/month per child

## 50 Current Affairs

under the age of six. A household means test will target the grant at $30 \%$ of the poorest families - 3 m children This will be phased in over seven years, from August it is estumated that it will cost R2,7bn/year (in 1996 rand) when implemented in full. The 1997-1998 Budget allocates R75m to the scheme.
Patel told the committee the department would prefer a deadlıne of April 1998 but has been asked by Welfare Minister Geraldıne Fraser-Moleketi and the intergovernmental forum or national and provincial Ministers (Minmec) to do everything possible to launch the scheme by August ANC MP Judy Chalmers expressed the fear that meeting the early deadline could result in chaotic payment of grants "I have enormous concerns and wonder whether the Cabinet took full cognisance of everylhing at stake and whether August 1 is attainable."
The Black Sash demonstrated outside parliament on Budget Day to protest against the way government is steamrolling the measure through
"The decision to push the measure through before parliament has had the opportunity to hold hearings shows contempt for parliament and exposes the ministry's supposed commitment to openness and participatıon as a sham," says spokesman Alison Tilley.
Welfare committee members are also querying the Lund Committee's figures, which allow a child R1,72 a month for fruit and R1,63 for fish Welfare organisations say it is impossible to feed and clothe a child for R75/month.
Depending on the outcome of the public hearıngs, the Black Sash may consider legal action to stop the report's implementation by challenging the grounds on which the Minister may stop the payment of grants, as well as the possible infringement of the constitutional right to social security and " quality
Claire Bisseker

# Child abuse an 'epidemic' in SA <br> annually to the point where such crimes could be 

## NORMAN JOSEPH

Staff Repooter
The number of child abuse victims may increase to one million countrywide by the year 2005 if the present rate continues.

From January 1993 to the end of last year there was a 170 percent increase in the number of reported cases to the police.

Police Child Protection Unit head Jan Swart said victims and parents were often too scared to report incidents to police.

Only 20 percent of incidents were revealed and 80 percent remained concealed "and scar children for life", he said.

He quoted a Human Science Research Council
(HSRC) survey which showed that an "epidemic" could break out by the year 2005.

Rape, indecent assault, molesting and assault on young children were increasing at an alarming rate
labelled a "disease", said Superintendent Swart.

To help in their fight, Goodwood businessmen had donated two computers, a colour scanner, a printer and two fax machines to the unit.

Superintendent Swart praised Libertas Hospital staffers Mike Boyd and Antoinette Rossouw for allowing the unit the use of their ground floor offict space free of charge.

The computers can print a clear colour photo graph of a missing child and a modem can send the picture to any police service in the world within four minutes, he said.

Provincial violent crime and child protection units chief Leonard Knipe awarded acknowledgement certificates to businessmen Mike Boyd, Terry Morrison, David Jones and David Miller at a function held at the unit's Goodwood offices.

Superintendent Swart said, thanks to business, the unit was now better equipped.
 sacre of 18 villagers on the KwaZuluNatal south coast in 1995 was clearly a politically motivated attack by the InAfrican National Party (IFP) on the Arrican National Congress (ANC),
Judge Hillary Squires said in the Durban High Court yesterday.
In the summary of evidence, Squires said the attack was not factional because members of extended families were among both the accused and the victims. It was allso not merely were looted during the although houses Scuired during the attack.
Squires said the fact that the attwokers had organised themgelves intg ipated groups showed it had been anticpate betorehand that people fleeing

## 

 pupils in precarious, positionfrom the attack woudd ory to run in the direction of Izingolweni police station. During the trial last month several state witnesses said that when they tried to run away from the mob of 2000 people to the local police station another attacking group from the direction of the police station blocked theirway. Squires said the evidence of loca IFP leader and accused Sipho Ngeobo, 43, that the attack had not been sanctioned by the IFP, should be viewed with caution as witnesses had identified Ngcobo as one of the active participants in the attack. Ngcobo and 17 co-accused are on trial on 18 counts of All have pleaded of attempted murder. All have pleaded not guilty. The hiearing continues. Sapa. - 等左
 cial sichool feeding scheme will provina halt unless new contracts are awarded before existing contracts expire. Thousands of pupils were not fed this week, although officials in Bisho said today this was normal as it was the last weelk of the first school term.
A meeting of representatives from the health and welfare, education and reconstruction and development committees today heard that no new contracts had been awarded this year.

The committee was inown a tender notice, published on March 13 , which gave the closing date of April 3 - five ond term and more than a week after the current contracts expired.

Officials said they were worried that it might take up to three montied to get the scheme operating properly again, leaving pupils hungry.
for the nutrition pre deputy director for the nutrition programme, Noma-
lungelo Bongeo, and provincial: ordinator Nomawonga Kama said the contracts awarded to five nongovernmental organisations to administer the at the end of the Eastern Cape expired the end of the month.
Bongco and Kama told the committee that pupils were not being fed this
 The committee agreed to try to finid a solution. '

Kama said that at the end of last year the programme had reached $95 \%$ of the targeted schools.
 ting bread and peanut butter', biscarits and a soft drink every sehtôor day bscrits These figures excluded the Queenstown region, where statistics were unavailable at the time of going to press.

- Ecna.


CIVE SAWYER
POUTICal COARBESPONDENT
Justice"Minister Dullah Omar today tabled legislation in Parliament to abolish corporal punishment.

The legislation follows a 1995 decision by the Constitutional Court that corporal punishment of juveniles was unconstitutional
because it violated guarantees of respect for human dignity.

Corporal punishment also breached the constitutionai provision that no one should be subjected to torture, whether physical, mental or emotional, or be subject to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Although thernling concerned only juveniles, the bill tabled

ARG 2b/3/97
today abolishes all provisions for corporal punishment.

It amends the 1927 Black Administration Act, the 1944 Magistrates Court Act, the 1957 Witchcraft Suppression Act, the 1959 Stock Theft Act, the 1962 Animals Protection Act, the 1968 Dangerous Weapons Act, the 1976 National Parks Act and the 1977 Criminal Procedure Act.

Bisho - The provincial school feeding scheme will grind to a halt unless new contracts are awarded by Monday, when the existing contracts expire.

This week thousands of pupils were not fed, although officials in Bisho said that this was normal as it was the last week of the first school term.

A meeting of MPLs from the health and welfare, education and RDP committees heard that no new contracts had been awarded for this year.

The committee was shown a tender notice which gave the closing date of April 3-five days before schools open for the second term and more than a week after current contracts expire. The notice came out on March 13.

MPLs said they were worried that it might take up to three months to get the scheme operating properly again, leaving pupils to go hungry in the interim.

The nutrition programme's health and welfare deputy-director, Nomalungelo Bongco, and provincial coordinator Nomawonga Kama, said the contrácts awarded to five non-governmental organisations to administer
the schemes in the Eastern Cape expired at the end of the month.

They told the committee that pupils were not being fed this week as it was the last week of term.

The committee agreed to consider the problem and try to find a solution so that children did not go hungry.

Most of the meeting was spent discussing a report on how the five NGOs had coped with their contracts from September until December last year.

Ms Kama said that at the end of last year the programme had reached 95 percent of the targeted schools.

More than 875000 pupils were getting "Mandela sandwiches" of bread and peanut butter, biscuits and a softdrink every school day.

These figures excluded the Queenstown region, where statistics were compiled too late to be included in the report.

However, committee members said there was the problem that not all the NGOs were helping to train women.

It was agreed that Ms Kama and Mr Bongca would report back to the committee as soon as possible with more up-to-date information.-Ecna

# June 16 action threat over plan to cut child support 

JENHYY VALL
Healith Repopiter
The Government faces mass action on June 16 unless it stops its plan to cut monthly child support grants from R135 to R75 a child
The powerful Congress of South African Trade Unions, which is a member of the ruling tripartite alliance with the African National Congress and South African Communist Party, has joined forces with a number of non-government organisations to warn Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi to halt the implementation of the new child support system.

They have given her until June 10 to table an alternative or face a day of action on June 16.

Protesting bodies say their response could include protest action and asking President Mandela to intervene.
"We are deeply concerned at the proposals," said Kumi Naidoo, executive director of the protesting coalition.
"We do not believe a child can be sustained on R75 a month and are concerned that while the grant might prevent starvation it will not prevent malnourishment.
"We believe that in the long run it will cost the state less to revise the child support proposals in line with suggestions made by various non-governmental organisations, Cosatu, the Human Rights Commission and the Commission for Gender Equality," said Mr Naidoo:
"Government is giving greater priority to repaying South Africa's odious debt than to the plight of its own children.
'Financial modelling indicates that the new system will in fact cut not increase, expenditure on child
welfare by about R2,9-million ôver the next five years.
"This is in line with the Government's economic policy."

Mrs Fraser-Moleketi last week said there was "no turning back" on plans to implement proposals of the Lund Commission by August 1 and that she would introduce changes by proclamation if there was not enough time to get the changes through Parliament.

Cosatu has said that'instead of increasing spending on child support by R1,2-bilifion over the next five years, as had been promised by the minister, independent studies had shown the proposals would lead to a huge reduction in overall spending on child and family support.
Cosatu says'developing administrative capacity to pay historically excluded communities is a matter of priority.
"Why should poor children' and women be made to suffer to create economic conditions necessary to attract foreign investment?" asked Mercia Andrews of the New Women's Movement.
"The minister must go back to the Cabinet and demand that the Department of Finance give her the resources she needs to implement a decent system of child welfare."'

The costs of not doing so would be increased, mainutrition, increased child abuse due to poor economic conditions in the home, increased child delinquencyand child abandonment and increased exploitation of children. ${ }^{-}$

The further the child was removed from its family environment the more costly it was for the Government

To keep one child in a cofrectional services institution cost the state the same as paying 15 children a support benefit of R135 a month, Ms Andrews
said.

[^5]
## Cosatu denies backing等蚛 <br> (298)

 action on welfare cuts action on we tare cutsCOSATU denied last night that it woild take part in a day of mass action on June 16 to protest against planned social welfare cuts as reported in yesterday's Cape Times.

It said the error resulted from a statement issued by the South African NGO Coalition which is co-ordinating the protest.
"For Cosatu to embark on a day of action requires decisions by its constitutional structures. No decision has been taken:" :
Cosatu believed in greater equality in the social welfare system without a reduction in the government's commitment to effective child support, and that this should be part of an overhaul of the welfare system. , ${ }^{\text {mow }}$

Welfare Mini

NON-GOVERNMENTAL organisatons and Cosãtu have given Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi until-June 10 to stop the implementation of the new child support system and to table an alternative to the proposals or face protest action.

The South African NGO Coalition said this could include protest action on June. 16 and asked President Nelson Mandela to intervene.
"We are deeply concerned by the proposals," sald Mr Kumi Naidoo, executive director of the coalition.
"We do not believe a chuld can be
sustaned on R75 a month and hre concerned that while the grant might prevent starvation it won't prevent malnourishment."
"We believe in the long run it will cost the state less to revise the child support proposals in line with suggestions made by various NGOs , Cosatu, the HRC and the Commission for Gender Equality," said Nardoo
"Financial modelling indicates that the new system will in fact cut, not increase expendture on child welfare by R2,9-milhon over the next five years. This is in line with the

Government's echnomic policy"
Fraser-Moleketı last week sand there "was no turning back" on plans to implement proposals of the Lund Commission by August 1 and that she would introduce changes by proclamation if there was not enough time to get changes through Parliament in time.

Thus followed two days of submissions by concerned civil organisations to the Portfolio Committee on Welfare and before the committee held hearings in the Easterin Cape and the Northern Province - Sowetan Reporter (298)

## Children involved in serious crimes will still have to stay in jail

## By Hopewell Radebe

Political Staff
Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine FraserMoleketi has recommended that the law allowing the detention of children facing senous crimes un a normal prison be extended for another year.

Moleketi said her department had no choice because children's special prisons, called "secure care", were not yet available.

An amendment to section 29 of the Correctional Services Amendment Act 14 of 1996 was published
on May 101996 in the Government Gazette to allow for the detention of awaiting-trial chuldren over 14 and under 18 m prisons under certan limited conditions.

This was done to avoid repeating the 1995 mistake where President Mandela signed legislation rendering it ilegal to detain a child under 18 m jail

The process was undertaken in such haste that hundreds of children, including those who had committed serious crimes, were released because the law had been passed without making avarlable sufficient alternative
places of safety for them.
Many were simply released even without placing them under parental guidance And many never showed up in court to stand tral. Those who were taken to places of safety escaped withun hours because of lack of security.

Fraser-Moleketı said she was deeply concerned at the lack of places of safety for children and police were forced to continue to place teenagers accused of committing serious crmes in prisor.

Only this time, however, she believed children would face a greater risk outside prison because
of certan members of the public who might be hostle to them if released under the same unplanned carcumstances as in 1995.
"Pressure is now on the departments of education, welfare and justice to deal urgently with these factors causing the continued placement of chuldren in prison," she sald
This meant that provinces that were currently busy with construction of secure-care areas would have to speed up the process and have them completed before the same time next year, when the amended law would be expring

# New system needed for children facing charges, says welfare minister <br> Johannesburg - The yonth care system <br> revealed the entire system needed to be dis- <br> facility to be funded by R33-million chan- 

for children who are artaiting trial urgently needs to be adiressed - and Welfare Minister Geralline FraserMoleketi has listed a fotr-point plan to speed up the process.

In a statement yester day she said the departments of education, welfare and justice - which are responsible for placing children in secure facilitie:-should follow through on earlier findings by an interministerial committee thatcalled for a new child and youth care system.

The departments should also complete secure care programmes, transform probation services and implement a range of programmes designed to build family unity, she said.

The committee was established in July 1995 to contain the crisis in the care system and transform it after investigations
mantled and redesigned.
The investigation was prompted by the Correctional Services Amendment Act of 1994 which came into law in 1995. The new law prevented children under 14 -years-old who were awaiting trial from being held longer than 24 hours. They also have to be kept in places of safety; throwing the care system into disarray.

Then, in early 1995. President Mandela instructed that children should not be detained in prisons. This meant children were often placed in inefficient and poorly managed institutions where many suffered emotional and physical abuse.

In October 1995 the committee was asked to devise a plan to stop children who had committed serious crimes from running away from places of safety. It proposed each province build its own secure
nelled from the reconstruction and development programme's budget. The cash, however, only became available in March and only one care facility has opened, with a second due to open next month.

However, another change to the law in May of last year allowed for children over 14 and under 18-years to be detained in prisons under certain conditions, increasing the crisis in a badly managed system.

Ms Fraser-Moleketi then called for an extension of the law to younger children, saying it was better for children to remain in prison as an interim measure, than to face a repeat of the fiasco of 1995, while facilities were being built.

She called on all departments involved in child care to speed up their programmes to alleviate the plight of children who are currently atrisk.-Sapa
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# Provinces 'disregard priority' of secure care for children (298) <br> David Greybe <br> Prison or police cells could not. 

CAPE TOWN - Delays in the provision of "sêcure care" facilities instead of police or prison cells for awaiting-trial children who had committed serious offences were due mainly to disregard for the priority issue by some provinces, the welfare department said yesterday.

As a result, the budget of R33m for provision of at least one secure childcare faclity in each province fell short by R13m; officials told the parliamentary welfare committee.

Welfare MECs had been advised to seek extra funding from their provincial coffers.

There were 788 children between 13 and 18 years of age awaiting trial at the end of March, of which 321 were considered serious offenders.

National government's intention was for each province to provide a secure care facility with programmes which ensured the "appropriate physical, behavioural and emotional containment" of awaiting-trial children.

Welfare deputy director-general Esther Chinkanda said the problems with child secure care had a lot to do with the fact that welfare was a provincial competency, and that the national department "cannot give instructions" to its provincial counterparts.

Each province received its own welfare budget and decided how to spend it - "but our minister is held accountable for delivery" of services.

A province could therefore decide that an issue, such as the provision of child-care facilities identified by national government as a priority, was not, Chinkanda said.

However, the minister had at a meeting with MECs a fortnight ago got their backing for central government priorities.

Welfare's secure care project manager Johanna Prozesky said the welfare MECs had committed themselves to provide secure care centres by March next year.
$\therefore$ 碞
The first child secure care centre was opened in Soweto last Tuesday.
eT $7 / 5 / 97$
Plan to move
youths from jails
THE goveriment expects that 12 facilities for young offenders will be completeded within a year. This will enable hündreds of child dren held in prisons with hardened criminals to be moved.

Parliament's porffolio commit-.
tee on welfare wàs told yesterday that the plan had been kjck-started with R33m from RDP funds: A health department : spokesperson said the funds were. for buildingand provincés had to meet thí centres' running costs: $(2 \rightarrow-3)(298)$
 dren under the age of 18








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| By Rafiq Rohan |
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| Political Correspondent |
| Telfare Minister | ueyoy b！ey Kg




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By Jovial Ranta
Pölitical Corréspondent

## stav 815197

Cape Town - The Government expects 12 secure care facilities for young offenders to be completed within a year to enable the authorities to remove hundreds of children being held in prisons alongside hardened criminals.

Parliament's portfolio committee on welfare was told this week the construction of 12 facilities in nine provinces had been kickstarted by a R33-million grant from the Reconstruction and Development (RDP) Fund from resources made available to the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

Johannah Prozensky, heading the "department of health's mission to build the facilities, said the R33-million was intended for structural work. Provinces had to fund the running costs.

The 50 -bed Walter Sisulu Secure Care Centre in Noodgesig in Soweto, unveiled by Welfare and Population Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi last week, is the first of the 12 facilities. The second, in Hendrina, Mpumalanga, opens on June 14. Others, in the

Eastern'Cape and Northern Cape, are expected to be ready at the end of the year.
"We expect all the centres to be completed by April next year so the children can be transferred," she said. At least three provinces were still grappling with bureaucratic procedures, personnel problems and the lack of finance.

Secure care facilities are for young people who have committed serious crimes and are deemed to be in need of containment and care. They are intended to balance society's need for safety and protection from criminal activity with the child's right to safety, dignity and development.

The system is intended for the small number of young people who may be in some way harmful to society or to themselves.

The provision of secure care facilities forms one part of the Government's plan to deal with children at risk, especially those in trouble with the law.

Other aspects are the transformation of the probation services and the implementation of a wide range of diversion and family preservation programmes.

## uR75 isn't enough <br>  <br> 3: (298)

NGOs urge the government to boost child support, writes Jacqui Bull

WAT is an appropriate and sustainable level of child support? That is the question which faces the Cabinet The Lund Report argues that the govemment cannot afford to sustain (SMG) of R430 per family and R135 (sMC) per child per month if it is to be flat rate chald support orant of R75 flat rate chil suppored gran of R75 per child is proposed in its place onv be targeted at $30 \%$ of chidren only be targeted at $30 \%$ of children living in poverty
The ministry's dectsion to prior tlse the restructuring of child support and its commitunent to ensur Ing that all people benefit equally from the system must be welcomed However, the extension of the grant should not amount to an eradication of the constitutional right of everyone to "have access to soclal security, including appropriate social assistance for those unable to support themselves and their dependants"
The current proposals are an eradication of this right. Seventy-five rand is not a fair or realistic figure for child support it is based on the most minimalist and unfavourable parameters possible - the cost of feeding a black child aged 0 to 3 in the cheapest urban area
Studles on poverty conducted for the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) indfcate that children are the most vulnerable group and experience the highest poverty rates in South Affica It is estimated that 2,3 -million citizens sulfer from nutitional defictencles - including $87 \%$ of all African children under the age of 12 years
About 68\% of children live with care-glvers who eam less than R250 per month The challenge for the soclal security system is how to best meet the needs of these children
 PHOTOGRAPH KIM LUDBROOKI AFRIKA

The Lund Report is correct in its investment. As other strategles for allocation set aside to service South assertion that cash benefts well- poverty eradication kick in budget Africa's debt (see SA's "odious debt" be cost effective and are a reliable contributor to household security
It is true that they do not eradi cate poverty, but this is a longerterm programme which must be pursued alongside the soctal secu rity system.
The government has identifled programmes within the Growth Employment and Redistribution Strategy (Gear) and several of 1ts other policles to eradicate poverty. however, the current impact of hese is minimal
Given the adminisirative and capacity problems, it is likely to take wo to three years belore any of these programmes are able to sen ously reduce poverty.
What happens in the short term? our context demands the short-tern prioritisation of aocial securit
priorlties can be shifted from sorial security into these programmes, with explicit strategles to ensure that rectpients of social securty beneflt. The Cabinet's allocaton of $12.1 \%$ of the social security budget to child care is not appropHate prioritisation It is pointless to encourage foreign investment through reduced government spending when the sur vival of the future labour market is at stake The decision to be fiscally responsible must be weighed against the long-term costs of not priuritising a decent child support system, including the perpetuation of the cycle of poverty, the vilonce this generates and the impact on investor confidence and economic growth targets
Thereare many areas in which cur rised 0 penditure could be repriontised. One example is the enormous
dilemma on page VI) Is it moral to take money from the bellies of the poor to service this debt? Or should social securty spending be one of our prortty budget allocations?
An increase in social security spending to meet the basic needs of the poorest women and children is necessary to contain deepening poverty and destruction of our rich human resource The flat rate grant must be increased to R135 per child, and the target to all those children living with care-givers earning less than R800 per month
Jacqul Bull is programme coordinator of the NGO Coalition This article is based on inputs made by NGOs, the human nghts and gender commissions to the portiolio committee heaning on the Lund Report

## But the safety net's widened

Minister of Welfare and Population Development Geraldine FraserMoleketi defends the new child benefit grant

F
IRST I would like to emphasise that the debate around the child benefit grant is not a case of a shmurdown between my ministry and the vartous non-governmental organisation (NGOs) which have expressed views on this issue
There are, as the above article shows, areas of consensus between us lam concerned that in debating the detalls, we do not lose sight of the following principles
-There can be no compromise on the deracialisation of the grant. which up to now has been received by 48 out of every 1000 coloured children, 40 out every 1000 Indian children and only two out of every 1000 African children
Our goal is to reach three million children (up to the age of $s(x)$ by the year 2005 compared to the 203262 chlldren being reached by the state maintenance grant. This would represent a jump of more than $1400 \%$. with most beneficiaries being poor black rural chlldren who have never


Fraser-Moleketl' Keeping the principles In slght
had access to any state support. - We are shifting from a state maintenance, to a child beneff grant. In the past, about a third of the grant was earmarked for moth ers and the rest for chlldren. By focusing the entre grant on children we are al placing the accent on the most vulnerable group in our soci ety and b) making it possible for a far larger number of children to benfit from state support
The child benefit grant is a clear indication of the govemment's com-
mitment to the clause In the Constitution which states that every child has the right to "basic nutrition. shelter, basic health care services and social services"
$\square$ To ease the effect on those currently receiving the state mainte nance grant of R430 per family and R135 per child (for up two children younger than 18) the grant will be phased out over a five-year period This shows our desire to redress the imbalances of the past in a manner which is as humane as possible
With regard to the specific critscisms and suggestions ratsed in the article, frstly. I think we would all agree that R75 per child per month is not the ideal flgure, but one based on the need to provide a basic minimum to those children most in need on an equitable basis
Technical work is continuing on the precise amount and the pract1cal implicalions of the grant, such as determining a simple means test. But the figure of R135 per chidd per month for all those earning less than RB00 per month. as proposed in the article is. unfortunately, not ustainable
In debating figures, it is important that the child benefit grant not be seen in isolation. It is intended as a form of support and tur reate a safety
net, that is, to supplement other income and other programmes. That child support constitutes about one tenth of all social security points to the fact that there are other forms of support avallable Onc of the main assumptions underpinning the new grant is the dovetalling of various government programmes So , for example, the free health care offered to mothers with children under six is a ittal element in the implementation of vital element in grant.
In an ideal world, 1 too would wish to be able to spend, as the article suggests, more on soclal security in the immediate term However, in a developing country such as ours, we have to balance competing demands and decide how to use scarce resources in the most effective way Ultimately, the most eflectue antidote to poverty is for all our people to have a meaningful stake in the economy. While administering cash transfers, the Ministry of Welare in collaboration with other ministries has embarked on mumber of hasects almed at on a number or projects amed at giving a handup from the moinstream excluded fom the mainstream economy This developmental approach to wellare is one in which we have, and will continue to work
closely with NGOs

## Childhood, frail care bear brunt of cuts <br> POLITICALSTAFF <br> childhood programmes. <br> three more have now been stymied <br> July this year.

EARLY childhood and old-age home frail care programmes will bear the brunt of a R33-million cutback in the Western Cape's welfare budget.

The department will also be forced to curtail plans to build at least three additional multi-purpose centres for poorer Western

- Cape communities. The centres are designed to provide a range of services under one roof.

Western Cape chief director for Social Services Ms Virginia Petersen said the 1997/98 budget would allow the welfare department to fund 30630 children on the early

Although this was 3600 more than last year, the department would be forced to stagger the funding to about 2000 of these children for 12 to 18 months.

The department had hoped to bring the funding for the frail and aged in old-age homes up to the national norm of R1 300 a month.

However, it would now be able to sustain the programme only at the current rate of R1 100 for each beneficiary, Petersen said.

The multi-purpose centres building programme has had to be cut by R7m. Two such centres are in the pipeline for Atlantis and Worcester this year, but plans for
by the cuts.

The department would also have to put on hold the purchase of equipment and motor vehicles.

Describing the cuts as "tough", Petersen said the curtailment of its programmes had to be seen in the context of the overall reduction in the provincial budget.
About $90 \%$ of the social welfare budget goes to pensions, social grants and subsidy payments.

The department's budget has increased from R2, 055 bilifon to R2,28bn, the bulk of which will be taken up by increases in social pensions from R430 to R470 from

- Petersen said that although the actual increase in beneficiaries would be between $4 \%$ and $7 \%$, the department had only been able to budget for an increase of up to $4 \%$. The number of people in the province receiving old-age pensions was expected to increase from 252682 to about 280000 this year.

The department had also been forced to delay filling staff vacancles, she said.

The Western Cape has been hit hard by the nationat department's revision of its priorities to place a greater emphasis on shifting resources to poorer provinces.
State and society 'must help unemployed youth'

## CLNE SAUFYER

Poltical Correspondent
Finance Minister Trevor

- Manuel says the Government and society should work together on programmes to benefit unemployed and unskilled youths outside the mainstream of society.

He was speaking at an ANC
Youth League conference on youth development towards the next millenium. Mr Manuel said that, in theory, the Government's Growth Employment and Redistribution Strategy (Gear) addressed the needs of young people.

But an automatic link between the Budget and youth policy should not be assumed, given the growing split between those inside and outside the mainstream of society.

The average person outside the mainstream was young, with
low levels of skilland education, rural or recently arrived in the city, unemployed and a woman.

Mr Manuel said the shift towards social spending in the Budget should benefit youth.

This included the R40 billion for education, although a careful check should be made on how this was spent to ensure the quality of education improved.

Steps should be taken to rectify the fact that too few young people were being drawn into job creation and infrastructure programmes.

The R902-million for the Na tional Crime Prevention Strategy should target youth, given that the socio-economic situation of young people meant they were most likely to be involved in crime.

There was also a R 300 -million allocation for improving the lot of women and rural people.


Room to view: The room in which children this week testified for the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court that a senior official of the Johannesburg Children's Home was guilty of rape. Their testimony was televised for the

## courtroom via the camera on the right <br> Danger stalks 'places of safety' <br> The IMC, headed by Fraser- most prominent child-care resi-

Stuart Hess and Tangeni Amupadhi

RULES governing childxen's homes are woefully inadequate, the Minister of Welfare and Population Development, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, said this week.
She was responding to inquiries by the Mail \& Guardian about the spate of disclosures and criminal trials to do with abuses in child-care homes.
"The cases of molestation, child rape and general abuse of children who are in protected care is a major area of concern," said Fraser-Moleketi.
"There is a lack of adequate control and supervision especially of unregistered homes," she said.
The Child Care Act stipulates, she said, that all child-care homes must be registered. "There are, however, instances where groups or individuals establish homes without prior consultation with the Department of Welfare."

An investigation last August by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Young People at Risk (IMC) found that only $\mathbf{3 0} \%$ of youth care staff in places of safety are qualified in child and youth care.

The IMC, headed by' Fraser- most prominently involved in hor-
Moleketi, has recommended drawing dences is currentlonesburg up an ethical code of conduct for residential care facilities and a strict code of conduct for staff.
Fraser-Moleketi said: "We are in the process of taking our residential care policy further in working towards minimum norms and standards for state institutions as part of the residential care system."
According to the chief social worker at Gauteng's Department of Welfare, Annette van Loggerenberg, regional welfare homes "don't submit inspection reports unless any serious matters arise.

'Homes are then given three to six months to reply or to rectify the problems," she said. Cases of child abuse are immediately reported to the police child protection unit, she added.

Although provision is made in the Child Care Act to inspect - and, if necessary, close down - unregistered homes, inspections are only carried out once every three years by provincial welfare departments, said Van Loggerenberg.
Despite the legal provisions and safeguards, even one of the country's
rifying reports. The Johannesburg Children's Home in Yeoville has been thrust into the spotlight as a result of criminal charges being brought against a former senior official. James Arthur Frazer was earlier dismissed by the home after allegations that he had raped and molested children in his care.
In an earlier case, in 1993, the founder of the Cape Town City Mission Home for Children, the Reverend Bruce Duncan, was accused of sodomising Raymond Mitchell, a childcare worker, at the home. Later that year Mitchell was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for indecently assaulting aboy. Duncan fled the coumtry before any charges were brought.

In Durban, Livingstone Jacobs, the founder of the child-care home, Street Children's Shelter, appeared in court late last month on charges of indecently assaulting several children in his care.

The home was unregistered and was run by the Children's Rights Ministry, a group headed by Jacobs. The home has since been closed down by the KwaZulu-Natal Social Welfare Department.

# Young blacks at crossroads between culturres, ${ }_{A K T}$ stul ${ }^{9} 7$ <br> regards educational and job advancement opportu- 

Johannesburg - There was little doubt that modern, metropolitan black youth were at the crossroads in the process of acculturation, a market research study reported today.

They faced many conflicting and confusing situations in their development to mature adulthood but appeared to be dealing with this situation by embracing a mixture of traditional African and Western values, the study found

The report, "Aspirations, Values and Other Marketing Considerations Among Metropolitan Black Youth", is published by the University of South *Africa's Bureau of Market Research today.

It found that, on the one hand, the majority of young blacks still believed implicitly in lobola, circumcision and slaughtering for ancestors and deplored the decline in $u$ buntu and respect for elders. They acknowledged that their parents had a big influence on their behaviour.

On the other hand, they firmly believed in their right to make their own choice of marriage partner without consulting their parents and they were essentially "modern" in their approach to marriage and the status of women.

Nearly all favoured monogamy and the sharing of household chores as well as gender equality as
nities. Young women in particular felt the need to escape their traditional role and have the freedom to make their own decisions.

They aspired to be educated, successful, prosperous and live in a beautiful home with a spouse and two or three children.
"Their greatest fear is of AIDS and the realisation that their aspirations could be thwarted by disease, unemployment, crime and violence."

The BMR found there was a well-defined set of "in" things to possess or do in order to strengthen group identity. Young people were further identified by specific preferences for particular foods and drinks.

Free time on weekdays was largely home-orientated and they spent their time studying, watching television, listening to music or reading books once chores had been completed. Weekends were spent socialising or watching soccer. Going to the movies and reading newspapers was popular.
"Church activities still play a central role in the youth's lives, as a stabilising influence in a changing world," the report said.

In general, sport - especially soccer - was an integral part of their lives. - Sapa
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Protesters say welfare changes will deprive needy children
RAY HARTLEY
Political Correspondent

THE fragile child-support system would be cut by billions of rands if Welfare Minister Geraldine FraserMoleketi went ahead with plans to restructure it, trade unions and welfare organisations have warned.
Fraser-Moleketi's proposals, which have been accepted by the cabinet, would see:

- The abolition of a R430 a month payment to indigent mothers;
- The reduction of payments to children from R135 a month to R75 a month; and
$\because$ A reduction in the age of qualifying children from 18 years to six years.
The Black Sash's Alison Tilley said the changes would. give an indigent mother with two children R150 a month instead of R700 a month under the existing dispensation.
This is less than the household subsistence level for food and clothing for children under the age of six, the Black Sash has said.
Fraser-Moleketi said the new child maintenance payment would "bring relief to three million poor children over the next seven years, amounting to an additional R1,2-billion".
The cut-off point had been set at six-year-olds as these were the vital years in a child's development.
And, she said, the new system would lead to an increase in child-support spending of $\mathrm{R} 1,5$-billion in five years.

But a group of angry non-governmental organisations - including Cosatu, the Black Sash, the Community Law Centre and the Gender Advocacy Project are preparing to fire a broadside at Fras-er-Moleketi over the plans at parliámentary, hearings in Cape Town this week.
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They are to dispute Fraser-Moleketi's figures at the hearing, which they say is being held against the minister's wishes, saying the new system would lead to a radical cut in child welfare.
Research prepared for the organisations projects that the new child-support system could lead to a cut of between R2,1-billion and R3,7-billion in government spending on child payments over five years.
Instead, the lobbyists argue, government should keep its R135 a month payment per child in place and extend payments to those who have an income of less than R800 a month
Tilley said: "If we don't spend this money on children now, in 20 years we'll spend it on correctional services?
A document released by the Black Sash this week said that, while 68 percent of all children lived with a guardian earning, less than R250 a month, onily 30 percènt of them would qualify for assistance.

## Fraser-Moleketi urged to retract child plan <br> (298) star 21/4/97 <br> Cape Town - A coalition of civic Coalition, the Citizens' Advice groups yesterday urged Welfare

Minister Geraldine FraserMoleketi to reconsider her chuld support benefit plan and to suspend its implementation.

The coalition said that contrary to her promises, spending in this area would in fact be cut by R2,5-billion over the next five years.

In a statement released yesterday by several organisations, the minister was given until June 16 - Youth Day - to respond

The organisations include the New Women's Movement, the Black Sash, the SA National NGO 0 3HO:


Bureau, Ditha Labantu, the SA Catholic Bishops' Conference and the SA Council of Churches.

The organisations will make detailed submission to the $\mathrm{N}^{1}$ tional Assembly's welfare comb mittee today to show that Frase Moleketi's promised increases for child support were in fact "an illt sion" and a "broken promise to South Afficica's women and chil dren", the statement said

The submission would $n$ bi based on the results of research: conducted by the University of the Western Cape's Institute for Social Development. - Sapa.

# Public submissions needed on issues of child support N INTERESTING case study of public par- 

Aticipation this week will be the public hearings held toddy and tomorrow by the Joint Standing Committee on Welfare on a new system of child welfare proposed by the cabinet, based on the Lund Committee report on child and family support.

At a welfare department briefing to the welfare committee on March 14, the committee vorced its concern about the manner in which the Lund Committee proposals were presented. It said that no substantıve input by civil society was sought before the committee published its report in August last year or before the report's acceptance by the cabinet.

The welfare committee emphasised the importance of a transparent public process, with meanıngful parlamentary and public participation. The fact that hearings are now taking place must be seen as a victory for democracy

For civil society representatives who will be making their submissions to the committee, it will be a signuficant test of the extent to which their public participation or lobbying has a role in the formulation of legislation and policy particularly on the issue of achieving equity in child support benefits.

At the briefing, Dr Leila Patel, director-gener-- al of the Department of Welfare, outlined the detalls of the new system, which proposes to grant R75 per month to $30 \%$ of poor children up to the age of six in households with incomes below R250 per month, subject to a means test (which has not yet been specified).

This means that, although an estımated 69\%
of children live with a care-giver earning less than R250 per month, $70 \%$ of poor children in the 0.6 age group will be excluded In addition, no parent allowance will be pald

The hearings will include substantive submissions by the Women and Human Rights Project of the University of the Western Cape's Community Law Centre, the Black Sash, Idasa's Poverty Reduction Monitoring Service, Institute for Social Development and others. The last two, in particular, are expected to show how welfare minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketı's acceptance of cuts in child support - to the tune of R3-billion - offers bleak prospects for future generations of children, if implemented.

Among the decisions civil society organisations are likely to contest will be the six years and under age restriction and the requirement for mothers with babies to visit primary health-care centres regularly, which will place an added burden of time and money on poor women, particularly in areas where primary health-care centres are out of reach

A peg to hang criticisms of cabinet's approach on is the admınıstrative capacity problems of processing new welfare grants. Capacity is unevenly spread among provinces, the most limited capacity being in the poorest areas, Northern Province and Eastern Cape

In its role as overseer, the welfare committee needs to ensure that the department's capacity is spread equally across all provinces, that there

> That hearings are taking place must be seen as a victory for democracy.
is ready access to information, without any rural biases and that delays in grant applications are kept to a minımum

Another probable peg is the Bill of Rights which entrenches socio-economic nghts, especially for the child, providing for a culture in which social assistance is guaranteed to people - and therir dependants - who are unable to support themselves. The state is obliged to ensure that every child has what it is constitutionally entitled to. basic nutrition, shelter, basic health-care services as well as social services. This is also in keeping with the human rights culture enshrined in international law.

At a joint Idasa and Gender Advocacy Programme workshop yesterday - on women in provincial government and in civil society - Sandy Liebenberg of the Women and Human Rights Project spoke about the process of conducting the campargn of lobbying and organising around child support. She sald that, for her, public submissions represented a "window of opportunity" for civil society to make an input in public policy around issues of delivery

What her organisation and others will be doung today and tomorrow, Leehenberg said, is to call on the welfare committee to "intervene on what Parliament and civil soclety deem as appropriate in terms of child support".

Moreover, it is a test of Parliament's capacity to play a significant role in the formulation of socio-economic policy
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 South African children a
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to give the vast majority of be paid． vote from which the current
state maintenance grant will to the budgeted social security This amount is additional

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## New child benefit plan defended <br> By Joval Rantao <br> "The state maintentance grant has for

Cape Town-Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi has defended the Government's plan to introduce the new child benefit plan, and appealed to South Africans to give the new system a chance and to consider the interests of the country's poorest children who have never had access to a state maintenance grant.

She made her appeal yesterday after 13 non-governmental organisations, which included trade unions, sharply criticised the new system, approved by the Cabinet, and called on her to reconsider her child support benefit plan and to suspend its implementation.
' y ' The minister said the new system sought to deracialise the current state whaintenance grant and targeted poor children in rural areas. She said replacing the current system had become necessary in line with the constitution.
decades been reaching a very small section of the country's population and there wás concern about the continued affordability at the levels of the current grant. Figures for 1990 show that 48 out of every 1000 coloured children, 40 per 1000 Indian and only two per 1000 African children were receiving the grant. This is abnormal....
"Targeting areas like the Eastern Cape, Northern Province and KwaZulu Natal; where poverty levels are high, our goal is to reach nearly 3 mullion poor children by 2005. A mere 203262 are now receiving the benefit. An additional R1,2-billion will be made available over this period," Fraser-Moleketi sald.

She said the R75 a month per child was based on research done by the Institute for Development Plaining and Research at the University of Port Elizabeth on the household subsistence level.

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 In addition the Lund Committee enough as＂patent nonsense＂ month to feed and clothe a child is The Black Sash has described the apply to children up to the age of six
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 Angry women－marched on
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Welfare Geraldine Fraser－


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To approach the
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society 9
 Johannesburg, on Tuesday, April 29, bringing some rellef to awaiting trial juvenule delinquents and abused children.

Gauteng welfare and development communications officer Ms Samantha Collins yesterday said the centre will accommodate 210 children and 60 juveniles.

National Welfare Minister Mrs Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi will attend the official opening of the centre The first intake of children was expected yesterday

The centre is a pilot of the Inner-Minsterial Committee established with the full sanction of

President Nelson Mandela in May 1995 The IMC's mandate was to design and implement an integrated child and youth care system.

The IMC comprises the Ministries of Welfare, Safety and Securty, Justice, Correctional Services, Education, Health, Labour and seven non-governmental organisations

The concept of secure care for young people was a result of the uncoordinated release and transfer of more than 2000 children awatting trial in May 1995.
"This exacerbated the long standing crisis in the chuld and
youth care system. The amm of secure care is to guarantee the rights and safety of all young people in the system," said Collins.

The centre will operate and be managed according to the princıples lad down by the IMC whuch, among others, secures protection of the rights of a young person in the centre They also state that services will be delivered by competent multi-disciplnary teams.

A governing board of representatives from community development forums was established to ensure active community involvement

## Minister leaves door open for

 bigger child support benefits David Greybenest bf their comments and suggestions, saying the Lund report had been released in September.

She said it was not her job to defend

CAPE TOWN - Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi left the door ajar yesterday for an increase in the controversial R75 monthly grant for the poorest of children under government plans for a new child support benefitscheme.

She conceded that the public hearings on the new scheme had produced "many very important" inputs.

Fraser-Moleketi said she would deal with the issues raised at a "major" press conference in Pretoria tomorrow following a meeting between herself and her provincial counterparts.

However, it would be "premature" for her to announce an increase in the proposed flat rate of R75 for each child up to six. A technical team was still investigating the scheme.

The flat rate and other aspects of the scheme came under heavy fire from more than two dozen civil society organisations at a two-day public hearing of the parliamentary welfare committee on the Lund committee report on child and family support.

Fraser-Moleketi said she had not expected the hearings to be easy, but was "not unduly fazed" by criticism.

Government planned to deracialise the scheme, which had benefited coloureds, Indians and whites almost exclusively.

Because of the higher costs to the state of the new scheme, family support would be phased out and the child benefit rate and eligibility cut back.

Fraser-Moleketi chided the public and private organisations for the late- the figures provided by the Fiscal and Financial Commission for the cost of the scheme, to be phased in from August 1. A number of nongovernmental organisations maintained the figures were incorrect, resulting in a saving for the state at the expense of the poorest of the poor.

At yesterday's hearings the SA National Nongovernment Organisation Coalition argued for an increase in the rate to R135 and a widening of the target figure from the intended poorest $30 \%$ to all children living with a care giver whose monthly income was less than R800.
Jacqui Boulle, director of the coalition, which represented more thian 2400 non-government bodies, said that if government predictions proved correct, the number of applicants for child benefit in the next five years would drop because of lower unemployment. This meant poverty relief programmes should be a short-term priority, and that the welfare department should provide a reasonable grant to as many people as possible, especially in the light of the short-term savings that the nongovernment bodies claimed would be made.

Welfare committee chairman Cas Saloojee said the committee would hold public hearings in Northern Province and Eastern Cape before it drafted a final report.

Comment:Page 11

## Vice-chancellor is given a 'mock funeral'

 Kevin O'Grady BD $23 / 4 / 97$ STUDENTS abandoned a protest march at Pretoria University yesterday because of a strong police presence and instead held a mock funeral for vice-chancellor Johan van Zyl over the appointment of Reserve Bank governor Chns Stals as university chancellor.About 100 SA Students' Congress (Sasco) and Pan Africanist Students' Organisation members attended the "funeral" in protest against what they claimed was a lack of transparency in

Stals's appointment, Sasco Gauteng chairman JacobMamabolo said.

Another grievance, which would be the focus of a protest march at the University of SA (Unisa) on May 12, was the deployment of police on the Pretor$1 a$ University and Unisa campuses.
University spokesman Leon Rademeyer dismissed the complaints over Stals's appointment. He said that it was approved by the university's transformation forum - from which Sasco recently withdrew - and the university council.

## State child maintenance

# cuts to $\operatorname{stay}^{254} 4$ the <br> OWN CORRESPONDENT <br> Parliamentary welfare com- 

JOHANNESBURG: The controversial R75-a-child grant system - an attempt to even up racial and financial inequities in the social security system - will be phased in from August 1 with a $20 \%$ drop in grants each year for the next five.

It will drop the cut-off age of benefit from 18 to six, and the amount for each child from R135 to R75.
The proposals are hotly opposed. Organisations which face the task of telling mothers reliant on state maintenance grants that the money is to be withdrawn have accused the government of under-investing in child poverty relief.

Stinging criticisms of the flat rate grant were levelled by about 24 organisations at a two-day public hearing of the
mittee in Cape Town earlier this week.

Welfare Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi met her provincial counterparts in Pretoria yesterday to discuss the issues. A detaled response to the criticisms raised must be submitted to the parliamentary committee by June 16.

The state pays R1,3-billion a year in maintenance grants to 349692 people, but because the grant is divided into a parent and child component, only 203262 of those recipients are children, while 146430 are parents.

In addition, according to 1990 figures, most recipients are Indian ( 40 per 1000 children receive the grant) and coloured ( 48 per 1000), and only two in every 1000 black children receive the grant. The majority of recipients
(68 076) are in the Western Cape. There are relatively few in the poorer provinces such as the Northern Province (no registered recipients in 1996/7 according to department figures) and North West (2980).

The flat rate child support grant, recommended by the Lund Commission on Child and Family Support last August and approved by the cabinet in March, is an attempt to overcome these shortcomings by giving less to more people. About R75m has been set aside for implementation this year.

The state plans to use a simple means test to decide which primary care-giver of a child qualifies for state aid then limit that aid to a fixed amount for the first six years of life only - those being the years at which a chuld is most vulnerable.


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## Hot reaction to plans to cut child poverty aid

## By Janime Simon

The controversial R75-a-child grant system - an attempt to even up racial and financial inequities in the social security system - will be phased in from August 1 by a $20 \%$ drop in grants each year for the next five years

It will drop the cut-off age of benefit from 18 to 6 , and the amount for each child from R135 to R75.

But the proposals are hotly opposed. Organisations which face the task of telling mothers reliant on state maintenance grants that the money is to be withdrawn have accused the Government of under-investung in chuld poverty relief.
'Stinging criticisms of the flatrate grant were levelled by more than' 24 organisations at a two-
day public Yearing of the parliamentary welfare committee in Cape Town earlier this week

Minister Geraldme FraserMoleketi met her provinctal counterparts in Pretoria yesterday to discuss the issues A detailed response to the criticisms raised

## Less for <br> more is <br> the idea

must be submilted to the parliamentary committee by June 16

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The flat-rate child support grant, recommended by the Lund Commission on Chuld and Famuly Support in August and approved by the Cabinet last month, is an attempt to overcome these shortcomings by giving less to more people. A total of R75-million has been set assde for this year.

The state plans to use a simple
means test to decide which prt mary care giver of a child qualifies for state ald, then limit that and to a fixed amount for the first six years of life only - those being the years at which a child is most vulnerable and its mother least likely to be able to hold down a job

Howls of protest have come from, among others, the Johannesburg Chuld Welfare Society

Among the suggestions are that the grant be increased from R75 to R135, and that the qualifying age limit be extended 9 years, 15 years and 18 years were proposed.

Fraser-Molcketı has already hinted that careful consideration will be given to setting the figure higher than the R75 that the Untversity of Port Elizabeth estimated would cover subsistence-level food and clothing.

## Minister of welfare sticks to her child support plan Star 2514197 <br> Fraser-Moleketi says an additional <br> 2,7 million children will benefit <br> through government's new programme

## By Ramotena Maibotite

Political Reporter

Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi announced : yesterday that she will not back' down from her new child support benefit programme, which hias attracted widespread criticism.

Speaking at the Union Buildings, Fraser-Moleketi said the programme would come into effect on August 1 this year despite calls for it to be suspendecl.

The minister also said there was no reason to dot ibt the validity of the data used tio develop the benefit plan. She s,aid she was committed to seeing; that the new plan worked in an ""efficient and well-targeted manne er".

She admitted thit the new system may lead to more applications for other ${ }^{1}$ government grants, but said it was difficult to predict the effects " precisely".

Fraser-Moleketli, who was joined by provinicial MECs for welfare, was restronding to the doubt cast over the phasing out of the present statie maintenance grant (SMG), repliacing it with the controversial chilld support benefit, which she says; will reach more people than the SMG.

The Cabinet thas approved the proposal by Fryser-Moleketi to scrap the R1, 2 b illion SMG over five years and to replace it with the new benefit scheme at an additional cost of R.1,2-billion to help support poor ch ildren.

The old SMG consisted of a grant of R430 a month for every parent and R135 for every child for a maximum of two children under the age of 18 , with Africans making up only $2 \%$ of the beneficiaries and coloureds being in the majority at $48 \%$. Indians and whites got 40 and $15 \%$ respectively from the grant.

The new system will pay a flat rate of R75 a month a child to all "primary care-givers", which would apply to all children from birth to 6 years old. This compares to the models produced by the Lund committee, which worked on the basis of a R70 flat rate paid to mothers of children between birth and 7 .

A coalition of civic groups this week urged Fraser-Moleketi to reconsider the plan and to suspend its implementation. It said that contrary to the minister's promises, spending on child support would be cut by R2,5-billion over the next five years.

The minister said the total grant to child support beneficiaries would be cut by $20 \%$ annually over the next five years. However, about 2,7 million more children were expected to benefit by 2005.

The financial effects of increasing the grant of R75 per child and keeping the age limit at 18 as asked by the coalition should be studied with care, she said.


## R90 million centre for young offenders to open

## By Themba Sepotokele

JUVENILE offenders awaiting trial will no longer have to share prison cells with convicted criminals after the R90 million Walter Sisulu Child and Youth Centre in Noordgesig, Johannesburg, opens on Tưesday.

Speaking after a media tour of the modern centre this week, Gauteng welfare and population development MEC Mr Ignatuus Jacobs said the idea was to keep young offenders away from hardened criminals.
"We have found that rebuilding the social fabric is the way to go to prevent
certain social ills," Jacobs said. "The centre will form a nucleus of the community and is a key welfare project."

He said people from Diepkloof, Noordgesig and Orlando will manage the centre, adding that the staff was trained in new innovations and caring for children. They started working last month under the centres' Superintendent Mpumi Ntsamai.

According to Ntsamai 101 jobs hàve been created so far. She said the centre would accommodate 210 children. Sixty juveniles and 150 abused and abandonèd children would be housed in the secture unit facility.

A baby unit will care for 30 babies

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 month will be far less than the costs of the social depredation that the lower grants will cause. Political Wrter CHRIS BATEMAN reports.

COSATU and non-government organisations have threatened to resort to mass action on June 16 in protest at the ANC led decision to almost halve child-support grants from August 1.
The government's determination to reduce the monthly grants from R135 a child to R75 - in the hope that it can reach more families - prompted local non-government organisations (NGOs) yesterday to assume their most aggressive stance to date.

Cosatu's support for the NGOs threatens to turn the controversy into a major election issue in the Western Cape, where nearly a third of the country's present welfare recipients reside.
With social welfare delivery systems woefully inadequate and only $30 \%$ of all children up to six years old targeted for help, the NGOs and Cosatu claim that Welfare Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleket's scheme flouts children's constitutional rights to basic food and shelter.

The controversial proposal, formulated.by the Lund Committee, would phase out the monthly maximum grant of R 700 --made up of a R430 parent's allowance and R135 for the first two children in a family from birth until 18 years of age.

The proposal would replace this with a flat rate of R 75 a child up to the age of nine.

Western Cape recipients would be hardest hit by the measure, designed to enable the government to help more children.

NGOs and community organisations, particularly those in the Western Cape, are preparng, to oppose the implementation of the recommendations.

Although they support the principle
of equity, they argue that the recommendations would "deeply affect the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children and women in South Africa".
The NGOs, under the umbrella of the South African National NGO Coalition, threatened yesterday to embark on a "day of action" on June 16, National Youth Day
The organisations include the rural Women on Farms Project, the Black Sash, Cape Flats Development Association (Cafda), the University of the Western Cape's Women and Human Rights Project and Community Rehabilitation Project, Gender Advocacy Programme, the town-ship-based New Women's Movement and the Human Rights Commission.

Others are the South African Congress for Early Childhood Development Women's National Coalition, National Children's Rights Committee and the National Welfare and Social Security Forum.

The coalition's executive director, Mr Kumi Naidoo, said the NGOs did not believe a child could be supported on R75 a month.
"We recognise the fiscal constraints facing the ministry, but are deeply concerned that although R75 might prevent starvation, it will not prevent malnourishment," Naidoo said.
Welfare spokesman Mr Brian Sokutu yesterday reiterated that the new child support benefit was based on the need to deracialise govemment policies.
"We have a moral and constitutional obligation to extend benefits to those people who have not had access to public assistance in the past," he said.
"That is why we have set the goal of $\square$ Tum to Page 3


NGOs set
to protest over cut in child grants

> One of the most vehe-
mently opposed recommendations is the payment of a flat rate of R75 a month per child under 6 years old, subject to a means test. The proposals are to take effect on August I.

NGOs, under the umbrella of the South African National NGO Coalition, said in Johannesburg yesterday that if no alternative was tabled by June 10 , the coalition would be forced to engage in national action

Their call was supported yesterday by Cosatu, the SA Congress for Early Childhood Development, the Black Sash, the Women's National Coalition, the National Children's Rights Commiltee, and the National Welfare and Social Security Forum.

The coalition's executive director, Kumi Naidoo, said the NGOs \%did not believe a child could be sustained on R75 a month "We recognise therffiscal constraints facing the min-

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## 35838 child abuse

 cases probed last year
## CLIVE SAWYER

Polmcal Cobrespondent
The Child Protection Unit investigated 35838 cases of child abuse - including almost 14000 cases of rape - last year.

The number of investigations into child abuse cases has risen steaduly: in 1991 there were 12032 investigations; in 1992 there were 14272 ; in 1995 there were 28861 ; and in 1996 there were 35838.

Cases last year included indecent assault (4168) incest (253), sodomy (893), assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm (3841), common assault (4502), abduction (1184), and public indecency (944).

The figures were given in the National Assembly by Minister of Safety and Security Sydney Mufamadi, but he could not say how many investigations had resulted in arrests and convictions. Compiling this information would burden limited resources.

## (298) <br> cluverime <br> Minister sticks <br> to her guns

But Cape ANC leaders fear plan will lose more coloured voters to Nats

Welfare \& Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketı is not about to back off on her controversial new child welfare benefit scheme
But only weeks after facing down criticism from crvil society organisations, the Minister faces opposition from powerful elements withun her own organisation
ANC leaders in the Western Cape and


Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi . . . opposition from powerful elements

Northern Cape are quietly mobilsing to have the plan scuppered or put on hold until after the 1999 elections. They fear a trouncing at the poils as a result of disillusionment in coloured communittes, in particular, when the child benefit cuts start bitung.
In terms of Moleketi's plan, which emanates from the Lund Committee, government intends replacing chuld and famly support - currently R430/month (parental grant) plus R135/child (for up to two children younger than 18) - with a flat rate of R75/child aged up to six.
In the past, the grants went almost exclusively to coloured, white and Indian familles In coloured communities, 48 out of 1000 children under 18 benefit from the scheme. In African communities, only two children out of 1000 benefit
The ANC farled to win the Western Cape in 1994 In the Northern Cape, it received $49 \%$ of the vote to the National Party's $43 \%$.
"The principle of the scheme cannot be faulted. We must break with the past and spread the cake. But there is no way we are going to allow this to harm the ANC," says a Northern Cape ANC leader.
A Western Cape leader says the poor voted for the ANC in the 1996 local government elections in the province and "now we are abandoning them
"A way must be found to ensure that a new programme is phased in which will not
harm or alienate the present beneficlaries," he adds "Doing it this way will lose us the same people we are committed to helping "
The ANC leaders fear that disillusionment and anger at the cuts will tip the baiance in the NP's favour
In her Budget vote speech, FraserMoleketi indicated she would forge ahead with plans to implement the system from August 1
She dangled the carrot of compromise to her detractors only in so far as the details of the plan are concerned But "there is no turning back on this one," she says.
The SA Nongovernmental Organisations Coalltion (Sangoco), representing about 2400 bodies, will stage protest activities on June 16 to highlight therr grievances.
Coalition programme director Jacqui Boulle says the figures on which the ministry's calculations are based are flawed.
She says the University of Port Elizabeth research used is racist because the term "low income" merely replaced "black" in the survey, while "lower-middle income" replaced "coloured."
According to UPE's September 1996 household subsistence report, R73,71 is needed for a low-income child aged $0-3$, and R107,41 for a lower-middle income child.
Fraser-Moleketi says the new scheme will be fully operational by 2005, at an estimated cost of $\mathrm{R} 2,7 \mathrm{bn}$ - which means an "additional cost" of about R1,5bn over the next five years.
According to figures, however, FraserMoleketı will cut R2,9bn from child support
"The question is, can the State afford to pay? The answer is yes because the ministry has used conservative estumates that assume that there will be $100 \%$ take-up of the offer, and this will not happen," Boulle predicts
The lobbyists are also queryng Lund's assertion that a chuld needs $\mathrm{Rl}, 72 /$ month for frutt and R1,63 for fish Welfare organisations say it is impossible to feed and clothe a child for R75/month
Sangoco argues for an increase in the rate to RI 35 and a widening of the net from the intended poorest $30 \%$ to all children living with a care giver whose monthly income is less than R800
"We are committed to the principle of deractalising and we will not budge on this one," Fraser-Moleketi says "The nitty-gntthes will surely be finalised after the hearings by the parliamentary commutee, but the broad plan goes on."

Justice Malala

## Bill to protect children a first (298) Fagbic Choth 197 <br> MARITZBURG - Afri-

 can Christian Democratic Party member Jo-Ann Downs yesterday became the first KwaZulu-Natal legislature MP to introduce a private members' bill, proposing the creation of an office of the commissioner of children in the province.The bill was expected to win the backing of all parties as they had previously indicated support for the idea.
Downs said the office would effectively operate as a ministry of children with the aim of protecting the interests of children under 18 .
She said a similar bill was to be introduced in the National Assembly and the Gauteng legislature.
The bill required "predatory sex offenders" to "register" with the office, which would then publicise their names.
The office could inform community leaders, school principals and local police of the of fenders in ther neighbourhood.
Downs said that out of every 500 cases of chuld abuse reported, only 38 were investigated, resulting in one conviction.
The bill, if passed, will also give the office investigating powers, like search and summons of suspected sex offenders.
The suspect would be compelled to answer all questions.
Downs said the office would require a "modest" budget.

## Timber growers object to new water policy (3)

Robyn Chaimers 15197
THE Forest Industries Association's objection to the recently released naobjection to the recently res on allegations of a lack of consultation and intions of a lack of consicist analy of the policy's effect
sufficin sufficieforest industry.

The association, representing the majority of commercial timber growers, said yesterday it could have farreaching implications for the industry.

Water and Forestry Affairs Minister Kader Asmal this week launched the paper which, he said, would ensure equity in water allocation and sustainable water use with a greater emphasis on water conservation and water demand management.

The association said that contrary to an undertaking given by Asmal, no consultation took place between the time the cabinet adopted the principles and objectives of a new law and its acceptance last week of the paper.
The association said the water affairs and forestry department had invited comment and contributions before the completion of the national water bill by the beginning of July.
"The industry is seriously concerned that the time available is too short to make adequate comment, given the enormous impact the new leg-
islation could have. The association has formally requested the minister to extend the consultation period by at least three months," it said.
Aspects of the water policy document which concerned association members included that users would be subject to water use licences. In the case of forestry, although water is not delivered, there would be a charge for water used which meant that permission would have to be obtained to use and pay for rainfall, it said.

The limited duration of water use licences was also of concern, particularly as there was no guarantee they would be renewed. The association said this was a critical element, bearing in mind the long-term nature of investment in forestry and timber invesessing.

It appeared there would be no compensation for the loss of existing water rights.

The association said in view of the forest industry's major contribution to economic development, particularly rural development, the effect of the new water policy could have serious implications for investment.

Forest industry exports totalled $R 4,6 \mathrm{bn}$ a year and the association said $95 \%$ of this was value-added products with little raw material exported.

Taxi bodies welcome 'overdue' bill

## Bonile Ngaiyaz $B D 1615197$

TAXI industry players yesterday welcomed the approval by the cabinet on Wednesday of the National Land Transport Bill, with spokesmen for national taxi bodies saying the measure was "long overdue".

Transport Minister Mac Maharaj said on Wednesday the bill would consolidate the nation's laws on land solansport, including the provision of passenger transport services and specify legislation to control the industry.

SA Taxi Drivers' Union general secSA Taxi Mrivers Bokaba said that the legslation was a first step toward the legistation was a first step relations in the industry.
tribute towards the achievement of our aspirations adopted at our congress in
April last year. An unregulated industry has been nothing but a hindrance to our aims."

He said the union was involved in brainstorming sessions with the Na tional Taxi Task Team for the establishment of a labour forum which would work out relations between employers and employees.

SA Long Distance Taxi Association spokesman Bhotile Tswele said: "Everyone in the industry understands eryone in (hatis (legislation) is for the betterment of the industry, but government will have to publicise this more - parwill have to publicise this more - par."
ticularly in the indigenous languages."












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behind controversial new child support payment
Financial and Fiscal Commission chairman Murphy Morobe expla









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## Councill tackles crèche equity <br> PETER DÉNNEHY <br> Michael Popkiss said: "... r Faldiela de Vries suggested that

NOW that Guguletu and Nyanga are part of the Cape Town municipality, there is pressure for the same tariffs to be charged there.

The problem is that fees for nursery schools run by the council's health department are considerably lower in the two townships than elsewhere - R9 a child weekly, compared with R22, due to increase to R 25 next year.

A Feport before a special meeting of the amenities and health'committee yesterday noted nine nursery schools run by the hiealth department cared for 470 children at an annual cost of 23 ,4million

Medical officer of health Dr
because of the potential politi- the R25 tariff accounted for a cal sensitivity, a policy decision " ${ }^{\text {" }}$ different percentage of the will be required on whether or not to increase the fee."

He asked it was possible to phase in the increase over a couple of years.

The council's legal adviser, Mr Les Barchard, quoted the case of Walker vs Pretoria City Council, which laid down the principle that where services were materially the same but the tariffs differed, it could amount to prima facie discrimination.

He said a parent from another area could refuse to pay on the grounds that the same service was available in Langa and Guguletu at half the cost.

Committee member Ms
income of the parents in Langa and Guguletu than elsewhere, and that this difference should be used to provide a justification for different tariffs for the same service.

Barchard replied that the test was actually in whether the service was of the same standard, not what proportion of the parents' income the fee comprised.

During a discussion about ways to provide the Langa and Guguletu crèches with interim financial help, assistant director of civic amenities Mr Robin Horn noted: "If you go the route of a grant-in-aid, others will be wanting it too."

# Street kid thugs 'untouchable'  <br> hëlp, saia Director Dowd. 

 CRIME DESKCape town police say they are powerless to act against street children, who are responsible for a third of robberies in the city centre.

The police did not have the solution to the problem of juvenile offenders and it was how up to other government depart ment's to get involved, said central police station commissióner Raymond Dowd.

Children between eight and 17 were responsible for 35 percent of robberies in the centre of Cape Town between April 1 and May 4.

If the problem was not tackled quickly, not even draconian police measures would

He was speaking at the handing over of SA Law Commission documents on the justice system to Justice Minister Dullah Omar and his deputy, Manto Tshabalala, in Cape Town yesterday.

Director Dowd said the police had exhausted all avenues in trying to deal with the problem of juvenile crime problem but children involved in petty theft knew they were virtually untouchable. Departments responsible for addressing the problem seemed helpless.

In its paper on juvenile justice, the Law Commission says the system of dealing with child offenders was inefficient and that a separate, cohesive juvenile justice system was needed.

## Child abuse cases

 soar to new levelsIEROREOLNER
STAFF REPOATEA
The number of neglected and abused children in the Western Cape has spiralled to unprecedented levels with some welfare organisations reporting an average of 35 cases a month last year.
And this year there has been a 59 percent increase on the 420 children who were taken in by social workers at the Afrikaanse Christelike Vroue Vereeniging (ACVV) last year.

Last month alone social workers took in a quarter of the children they took in during the entire 1996/1997 year.

ACVV head social worker Ale cia Brand said the children came mostly from low socio-economic areas.

The ACVV renders welfare services to families with children up to the age of 12 .
"Unemployment, substance abuse, family violence, poor parental skills and homelessness are all factors that contribute to the increase in child abuse and

The economic climate also played a major role.

Low morale among parents led to physical and emotional neglect, abuse and abandonment, she said.
"These days we find that parents are not able to cope financially or emotionally because of low incomes and housing problems."

Ms Brand said this led to increased substance abuse, family violence and crime.
"Various sourcees report child abuse and neglect tó us. We get reports from police, hospitals, schools and members of the publiç."

Children were sometimies left with family or friends but the parents never returned to fetch them.
"It is important to know that the welfare organisations firstly want to promote family unity and that we will remove children only when it is the last and only option and in their best interests.
"It is always the aim of the social worker to work towards placing a child back with his biological family," Ms Brand said.

Shawco social worker Rachel Evertse said that in the first three weeks of this month she had attended to 10 cases of sexual and physical abuse in the Kensington and Factreton areas.
"There is definitely a gradual increase in child abuse and neglect and the situation is not getting any better," Mrs Evertse said.
"Every year the numbers go up."

Mrs Evertse echoed Ms Brand when she said the children mostly came from low-income homes and that parents were frustrated with their meagre existence.

Statistics from the Child Protection Unit show that during 1996627 cases of indecent assault were reported, 89 of grievous bodily harm and 14 of incest.

Policewoman Irma Haupt said 50 percent of these offences were committed on children younger than 16 by parents, acquaintances and family members.
"In these instances we usually ask social workers to investigate the home environment," Captain Haupt said.
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## Child welfare hearing <br> farcical - Black Sash <br> ARG 2715197 <br> East London - A poorly attended public

hearing in Umtata yesterday into the Lund Commission's recommendations on child welfare was attacked as "farcical" by the Black Sash.

East London Black Sash office director Zola Dabula said although the hearing was the only one for the Eastern Cape, no other organisations from Port Elizabeth or East London were present.

The Black Sash said that the recommendation to pay a welfare grant of R75 a child under the age of six was "patent nonsense".

The vast majority of needy East Cape children would battle to get their grant as 74 percent of Eastern Cape African children under the age of five did not have abirth certificate.

Sash casework had also shown that it took between one and three years for a social grant application to be processed in the Eastern Cape. Ecna

# C analvsis Child maintenance must be adequate and equitable <br> <br> Human rights commissioner Rhoda Kadalie responds to Financial and Fiscal Commission chairma <br> <br> Human rights commissioner Rhoda Kadalie responds to Financial and Fiscal Commission chairma Murphy Morobe on the new child support benefits 

 Murphy Morobe on the new child support benefits}

THE Financial and Fiscal Commission is one of the few institutions directly involved in developing the new child support benefit that is to replace state maintenance grants. It is therefore noteworthy that commission chairman Murphy Morobe deemed it appropriate to comment publicly ("Some misconceptions must be debunked", Business Day, May 16) on criticisms levelled against the proposed system by trade unions, churches, nongovernmental organisations and com-munity-based organisations, as well as the Commission for Gender Equality and the Human Rights Commission.

Even more noteworthy is that Morobe acknowledges the validity of the criticisms and, in doing so, contradicts public pronouncements by Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi regarding the new benefits. It is therefore not inappropriate to ask: whose misconceptions were being debunked?

Morobe concedes it "wll be difficult" to target the grant on just $30 \%$ of children younger than seven for the same reasons put forward by civil society, namely it would mean having to distinguish between the poor and the poor. But whereas civil society argues that this can be overcome by expanding eligibility to all children living with care-givers earning less than R800 a month, Morobe suggests "an alternative approach to assess (children's) eligibility" should be considered.

He does not elaborate, but we know that the welfare department is investigating a means test whereby children will have to be taken to a clinic to be weighed and measured to determine their nutritional status, and only if they are malnourished will they get a grant. This will impose tremendous costs on the already overstretched health system and, given that clinics are not accessible in most rural areas, the very children the system should be reaching will tend to be excluded. A nutrition-based means test is counter-productive as it addresses malnutrition only once it has occurred, rather than preventing it. It creates also perverse incentives for children to be starved so they can get the grants.

With regard to setting the grant level at R75 a month per elıgible child, Morobe notes there are "disputes over the methodology used" to arrive at the amount. This understates the extent of the disagreement. The minister claims the amount is based on the household subsistence level calculated by the Institute for Development Planning and Research at Port Elizabeth University. But Prof Johan Potgieter, who researches
the subsistence level, has stated publicly that R75 (in 1996 rands) covers only children aged 1 to 3 , and not children younger than seven, as claimed.

The suitability of the subsistence level data is also questioned as it distinguishes between subsistence levels for blacks and coloureds and is thus premised on racist assumptions. Morobe's call for further research to establish a suitable grant level echoes similar calls from civil soclety. We agree with Morobe that it is imperative to peg the grant to an inflation-linked standard to prevent its real value being eroded. The welfare department, however, has resisted this idea.

Morobe's admission that "Of course there must be savings... ${ }^{n}$ is the first time that anyone close to the process has publicly admitted this to be the case Until now, evidence that a massive cut in welfare spending on children in the short term was inevitable was either questioned or rejected by the minister and department.

Morobe does not put a figure to the "savings", but financial modelling done by the Institute for Social Development at Western Cape University projects cuts of $22,9 \mathrm{bn}$ over the next five years. Given wider acceptance that cuts are inevitable, the minister needs to find a mechanism to keep the funds in the welfare sector. The extent of savings could be reduced by not phasing in the new benefit, as proposed, but giving immediate access to all eligible children. Any remaining savings could then go to a social development fund that civil society could access for developmental welfare projects of the kind the department is promoting. It would be ethically and morally reprehensible for the minister to allow "savings" to be used to repay debt or cut the deficit.

Government's priorities are at the heart of the matter. Morobe argues that the cabinet's acceptance of the Lund proposals and its commitment to increase the budget for child maintenance from R1,3bn to R2,7bn over the next seven years "reflects a strong political shift towards spending on . poor children". But civil society regards the changes as woefully inadequate. Just $0,6 \%$ of the national budget goes to child maintenance. Increasing this amount by $10 \%$ a year over the next seven years is hardly a significant reprioritisation of government spending. As it is, inflation is $8 \%$ at the moment, so the real gains will be minimal.

Fraser-Moleketi often notes that "children are our greatest treasures". Why not, then, prioritise caring for them properly? We agree that government must "clarify" its
priorities. We go on to argue that the child maintenance budget should be increased over the next seven years to at least R5bn a year in 1996 rands. Apart from the moral and human rights arguments, reprioritising expenditure towards children is a worthwhile investment in human capital.

Such a budgetary increase for child maintenance would resolve the difficulties with both the means test and the grant level, by enabling the minister to deliver a grant of R135 to $80 \%$ of children 0-6 years old. This would show a strong commitment to children's welfare within reasonable budgetary constraints.

It would avoid the untenable possibility, suggested by Morobe, of the finance department freezing the growth of the programme if the uptake of beneficiaries is greater than budgeted. This would entrench an inequitable distribution of grants as rural children are likely to get access last. With the present plan, this is a real possibility as about $68 \%$ of children 0-6 years old live with care-givers earning below R250 a month, which far exceeds the minister's final uptake target of 3 -million.

Morobe's view that "the importance of an efficient administrative system cannot be over-emphasised" is precisely in line with what civil society has been arguing. Failure to transform the existing administration will sumply replicate the present inequitable system, but at a far lower level of grant. Poor children in rural, marginalised communities would continue to lose out:

Morobe refers to a range of substantive issues that need clarification if the new system is to succeed. It is unlikely this can be done before August 1, the proposed implementation date. So the minister is being called upon to delay implementation to allow more time to put the necessary administration in place. Failure to do so could seriously damage the credibility of the programme when poor people in rural areas try to access it, butare unable to do so.
Despite the ongoing public hearings, civil society is being excluded from the "technical discussions" that are aimed at clarifying these very issues. This would seem to contradict the minister's commitment to the principle of public participation, as set out in the white paper on social welfare.

We believe there is much in the present proposals that is positive. It is time the minister adopted a more flexible approach and sought to form a resl partnership with civil society to ensure that a system of child maintenance is implemented that will be truly equitable, adequate and efficient.

## Support for welfare minister

 over grants (298)
## By Norman Chandier


Welfare and Pbpulation Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi should not be criticised for recent welfare cuts because they are a result of the pruning of the budget deficit, it was said yesterday.
John Kane-Berman, chief executive of the SA Institute of Race Relations, said FraserMoleketi was being unfairly attacked for cutting back on grants.
"Minister of Finance Trevor
Manuel won golden opinions in March for Keeping his planned Budget deficit down to $4 \%$ of the gross domestic product. Now come the harsh consequences. Fraser-Moleket detrying to cuther coat according to the cloth Manuel handed her," Kane-Berman said.
State maintenance grants





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 ARGUS CORRESPONDENT
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W Cape youth commission mooted
RECOMMENDATIONS by the Provincial Youth Task Group (PYTG) for a Provincial Youth Commission to be established were welcomed yesterday by Education and Cultural Affairs MEC Ms Martha Olckers

The PYTG, which started its investigation in May last year, found there was a need for a forum where the youth could voice ther opinions.

Olckers said special attention would have to be given to urgent youth development projects and programmes identified by the task group. These included setting up multipurpöse centres and a youth service corps.-Sapa

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# IIf: Sow Cash for kids: h Anger over government plc 

MINISTER OFWELFARE GERALDINE FRASER-MOLEKETI IS FACING A FURORE OVER CHANGES TO STATE CHILD SUPPORT BENEFITS. WHLLE CRITICS AGREE THAT REFORM IS ESSENTIAL, THE NEW SYSTEM, ALREADY APPROVED BY CABINET, HAS BEEN GREETED WITH OUTRAGE. JENNY VIALL REPORTS.

Child maintenance grants from the State are the first line of defence against poverty and malnutrition for many people.

In South Africa an estimated 14,3-million children under the age of 15 live in poverty, of whom only 349692 get maintenance grants.

Administrative barriers and lack of information have severely restricted access to the grants and the system clearly needs to be changed.

Welfare Minister Geraldine FraserMoleketı says the new benefit system is premised on the need to de-racialise government policies "We have a moral and constitutional obligation to extend benefits to those people who have not had access to public assistance in the past."
Everyone agrees with that, but not with the proposals.

The new system recommends that the primary caregiver gets a flat rate benefit of R75 a month per child under six. This payment will be subject to a means test (Still to be determined) Ms FraserMoleketi has said she hopes to reach three million of the 5,1 -million children under six by 2005.

The present maintenance system gives a parent allowance of R430 (which falls away under the new system) and a child allowance of R135 for up to two children under 18 years old These grants will be phased out over five years.

The proposed new system, based on recommendations by the Lund Committee on child and family support, has met with opposition from the Non-Governmental Organisations Coalition, Cosatu, church groups, human rights groups and the Gender Commission.

They say the grant is too little and too limited and will have disastrous consequences for the most vulnerable members of society: children living in poverty.

They claim there has been inadequate consultation on the new system, saying the Lund Committee did not call for repre sentations from civil society before the report was published in August 1996
The Cabinet accepted the recommenda tions in March this year before the portfolio committee on welfare had the chance to discuss or hold public hearings on the recommendations. In April, when the portfolio committee did hear from civil society. warnings were sounded that the recommendations could seriously damage the welfare of children in South Africa.
Mrs Fraser-Moleketi responded last week by saying there was no turning back. "The new child support benefit will become a reality," she said.
While government argues that it cannot afford to spend more than the R2-billion it will cost to implement payouts for children, critics argue that it cannot afford not to.

Conrad Barberton of Idasa's poverty
monitoring service said debate on the pro posals had tended to focus almost entirely on what the new system was likely to cost the fiscus in terms of actual expenditure.
"What it hasn't done is to look in depth at negative consequences of the proposal," he said. "Fiscal constraint is used to defend choices, but we need to look at other kinds of costs and consequences."
One of these is the high infant mortality rates in South Africa.
"A decent system of social security will not be able to solve this but it could go some way to averting its worst consequences," Mr Barberton said.

UWC's Community Rehabilitation Project has said it is unrealistic for a child to survive on R75 a month, a sentiment echoed by many organisations. The household subsistence level for a low-income household in Cape Town is R96,83 a month, excluding rent and transport. (calculated by University of Port Elizabeth Institute for Development Planning).

The new system will have a disastrous effect on women and children from impoverrshed communities, the New Women's Movement has said. "The minister has failed to reprioritise women and chil dren's needs by reviewing the budget. She is determined to go ahead with the Cabi net decisions despite fierce opposition from women wholive in dire poverty."
The Women on Farms project warned that while self-reliance should be encouraged, many mothers would not be able to provide for their children on R75 a month.
Long-term impacts on children includ ed malnutrition, which impaired a child's mental development and caused stunting This in turn increased the burden on the health system and mental institutions reduced the effectiveness of education spending, and reduced the fature productivity of the labour force.

Other negative impacts were an increase in child abuse due to poor economic conditions at home, which increased the burden on policing and the judicial system and increased social welfare costs
Kumi Naidoo, executive director of the NGO Coalition, said that until there was an effective cross-departmental strategy to combat poverty, the new proposals would exacerbate problems of child labour, prostitution and crime.
"Is it not more cost-effective to invest government resources in social security for children than to spend resources on dealing with the consequences of child poverty?" said Mr Barberton.

The decision on the child benefit system has been based on fiscal constraints what the country can afford - and the minister has taken a conservative approach, one she says is fiscally sustainable in both medium and long term.
But critics say child maintenance grants should be based not only on what the Government says it can afford, but on what children need.

Mr Barberton said the Government had allocated little more than a "couple of crumbs" of the budget cake to address child poverty.
"If the department was serious about asking for an adequate slice of the budget cake it would have taken these costs into consideration, and worked out the costs of not implementing an adequate system. It

## Jw much is enough? <br> $n$ to cut funds for child welfare ${ }^{(298)}$



It is assumed that the Government lion on social to spend more than R2-bil-- the Lund committee the children. No one fare or the committee, the minister of welwhy financial constrant - has explained ty for children should be social securibillion and not mould be R2
more self-imposed?" said Mr Barberton.
In the 1997/98 Budget only 0,6 per. cent of the Budget was allocated to soclal security for children.
A third of the

Budget, at least R66-billion, was "top on government civil servants' service conditioments in through costs for social pendions, carryprojects and commitmal pensions, RDP programme, amongothent to the housing "The Budgong others.
almost entirely Council, which consists viding social security for not regard prosufficiently crucial to include children to be ity category of expenditures" in the priorberton.

Critics ask whether maintenance system ther new child maintenance system is being used to limit
> 'The new proposals will exacerbate problems of child labour, prostitution and crime.'
nance payments for chidren
for children spending on social security because of a lack of ades have shown that ty, the proposals will lministrative capacition in overall spending to a huge reducly support

Administrative barriers and lack of information continue to be a problem in allocating grants, with rural areas worse off than urban areas. "The Lund report did not address prob lems of administra tion in any detail," sald Mr Barberton, "and this is the greatcess to the present system constraint on acnance grants or any new systate mainte"Unless it's improw system. equally spread over provinastically and new grants will be the provinces, take-up of tem.
"Every aspect of the present cabin recommendations is aimed at limiting without the syst the absolute minımum
without the system becoming a sick joke."
The Lund Commission was established because the Government was concerned The commission cability of grants. ed figures of between R5 up with project-
million a year if equitable access was to be
achieved. "Thes.
These figures are so divergent. To use is rid as the basis of drastic policy change said Mr Barbertomesting other motives," "The arberton.
(of R135 a month that the present system sustamable is based child) is fiscally untic and unrealistice on two very optimisperfect adminstic assumptions, namely a up rates of 100 pration system and takeof anywhere in the world." Both Cosin world.
have asked Mrs Fraser NGO Coalition implementation of review the budget of the proposals and port.

The NGO Coalition has given ister until June 10 to comas given the min proposals or face action up with revised Mrs Fraceaction
standing firm. She has neti, however, is cation that she is prep not given any indiproposals she is prepared to move on the broposals and at a conference organised by the Ecumenical Foundation of Southern Africa this week she said" "There will decisions when government must take society will engare not popular and civil "It's a necege the state.
which will only sary creative tension cy and we need to rengthen our democra warded fromed to respect arguments for


By Siza Ngqwebo
THE Congress of South African Trade Unions wants employers to set up child care facilities in the workplace.

Cosatu gender coordinator in
KwaZulu-Natal Ms Bongiwe Mbeje expressed Cosatu's position at the Children's. Day celebration in Durban yesterday

Mbeje said employers
'should contribute towards setting up child care facilities.

Mbeje said that these facilities may be used as a means of combating the rise in the number of strēet children. "If we haveve 'a'safe place for our children in the workplace, then we 'cannot have as many street children as we have now," she said.

To set up such facilities, she - sadd the governmentremployers hatid workets must work'togethel.

## 

## Suffer the little children ...

# Masithethe project is taking street kids back home <br> arg $2 / 6197$ <br> <br> 298 

 <br> <br> 298}

MANY PEOPLE SEE STREET CHILDREN AS RUFFIANS WHO CONSTANTLY ROAM THE STREETS MUGGING TOURISTS AND ASSAULTING PEOPLE IN THE CITY CENTRE. BUT NOW A POSITIVE STORY ON STREET KIDS HAS EMERGED, WITH A HOMESTEAD PROGRAMME AIMED AT REHABILITATING THEM AND RETURNING THEM TO THEIR HOMES. CITY REPORTER JERMAINE CRAIG LOOKED AT THE PROGRAMME

When the Cape Argus team visited 15 -year-old Nathan Ludick at his modest Philippı home, we found him playing outside with his younger brother and sister

He looked every bit the protective older brother looking after his siblings.

Difficult to imagine, then, that only a week ago he had never before laid eyes on his younger brother and sister He is only now beginning to get to know them
What makes this family's story different from others is that Nathan left home at the age of elght and grew up on the streets of central Cape Town. Living a life of petty crime, his situation could so easily have had disastrous consequences.

Last week, his life took a new turn when he returned home.

For Nathan, his cloud seems to have a silver lining and for this new beginning he has Linda Ntshinga and the Homestead programme to thank

Linda is a street worker on a programme called Masithethe (let us speak), amed at rehabilitating street kids and getting them to return home.

Since the Masithethe programme was launched on April 1, Linda has managed to get Nathan and six other children off the streets and back to their homes. He also has interviewed 69 new children. Of these, 38 were new to the streets, 23 had been attending the Yızanı Drop-Inn Centre and eight were runaways from existing Homestead programmes.

Linda, a 24 -year-old SACS matriculant, and the co-ordinator of Yizani, and Shane Egypt are entrusted with making Masithethe a success.

It is his job to patrol the streets, making contact with the children and establishing which ones are new arrivals. He has to gain their trust and try to refer them to


Home, sweet home: Masithethe worker Linda Ntshinga chats to reformed street kid Nathan Ludick
Yizani, where many street kids come for meals and a hittle much-needed attention. Linda then tries to make contact with the street kids' families to see what the home environment is, with a view to getting them off the streets and back home.
It is a hard and thankless job, but Linda feels the reward comes when he is successful with children like Nathan.

Nathan's story is similar to that of many others out on the streets.
Born in De Doorns, he grew up in Belhar where he got along well with his friends and regularly attended school. Then his family moved to Philppi and he started mixing with the wrong crowd. He
sniffed glue and thinners regularly and got involved with a group who stabbed and robbed people in the city centre

He contmued this lifestyle for several years, but an incident two weeks ago made hım change his ways and leave his life on the street-hopefully for good.

The leader of the group with which Nathan moved around was shot and kulled.

With Linda's help, Nathan returned home and is now back "forever" and about to start working with his father

He says his father used to drink, but has since stopped. He feels things at home are "going well" and he does not want to return to the streets.

His wish for the future is simple: "I am going to work and save money. I want to be a father of the house. I feel happy here."

I met Linda and Shane at the Yizani Drop-Inn Centre, bustling with destitute street kids who were looking for a hot meal and a shower. The kids do not stay at Yizani, but go there as a stopover before returning to the streets.

Once the kids come to Yizani, Shane and Linda try to motivate them to attend formal programmes and get them to sleep at Homestead's shelters. They then try to establish contact with the families.

Linda says: "Masithethe's main objective is to return chlldren to their communities, so that they do not get too streetwise. I keep in contact with the kids to establish which ones are new. I try to build trust between me and them and then try to refer them to formal programmes."

What makes the Masithethe programme different from others is that it does not stop once the kids return home. Linda and Shane try to network with community structures, such as soccer clubs, to try and get the children to fit in. They do follow-up visits and take food parcels to the families.

Poverty is the umbrella cause. In some cases, there is a total breakdown of family structures and children are left to their own devices.

The outlook for street kids is bleak in most cases, but Linda is the perfect candidate to work with these kids, and he knows the importance of his job.
"I grew up in the communities they come from, I am ploughing back what I have got from the community It is a great job," says Linda.

## HSRC worried about child-abuse ignorance <br> The Human Sclences Research <br> vealed that a quarter of chird <br> "The public must clearly know

'Council is concerned that the public's perception of what constitutes child abuse falls far short of what child abuse and neglect truly is.

In a statement marking International Day of the Child yesterday, the HSRC noted that a recent survey had revealed that South Africans did not have a clear idea of what child abuse was.

Very few realised that child abuse included physical, sexual and emotional abuse, as well as neglect.
.This ignorance could have an impact on the rate of reporting of child abuse, the HSRC said, noting that its own study had re-
abuse cases were not reported.

Only 3\% of the respondents in its study mentioned emotional abuse when asked what child abuse was.
"The respondents seem to be particularly unaware of the impact of emotional abuse on children," the HSRC said

Child abuse in South Africa had reached "epidemic proportions", with 32033 cases - exclud ing offences under the Child Care Act such as neglect and abandonment - being dealt with by the police's child protection unit in 1996.

This represented a $43 \%$ increase on the cases reported in 1993.
what physical, sexual and emotional child abuse is in order to be able to report cases," said Evanthe Schurink, the HSRC's programme manager for child and family welfare.
"They must also know what signs to look for to identify the abused child and what to do if they suspect child abuse or if a child discloses abuse."

Schurink said voluntary action and the reporting of child abuse by the public constituted the core of the child protection system.

It was therefore crucial to monitor what the public perception of child abuse was. - Sapa.

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 By Nthabi Moreosele
 Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders says the figure may be as high as 200000.


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and granny because we would all die. She also told would calm down and tell them what happened.



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## ANC talks

## on child

## payments <br> (298.)

CINE SAWYER
PoLICA CORRESPONDR/ 47
The African National
Congress is set for an intense internal
debate on how to respond to the Land Committee's proposed R75-a-month child support scheme. Some ANC MPs believe the R75 figure, described by critics as unrealistic, should be increased significantly.

The Lund proposals have infuriated nongovernment organisations in the welfare sector, who have given Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi until June 16, Youth Day, to rethink government endorsement of them.

Cosatu and other NGOs have threatened mass action on June 16 unless the Government backs down.

The National'Assembly committee on welfare is to discuss its response to the Lund proposals soon.

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## Cash crisis for youth empowerment scheme $4 \operatorname{arar} 4 / 6 / 97$ <br> By Daisy Jones <br> the face of the organisation's Spokesman Sarah Chapman

The largest nationwide youth empowerment programme, the President's Award, is turning to its own beneficiaries for funding as corporate and other sources of income dry up.

Even the Neison Mandela Children's Fund, which has similar aims, will cut its donation to the programme by half, and corporate donors are also reducing their donations.

Now the disadvantaged youth who are supposed to benefit from the President's Award are having to raise funds and dig into their own pockets in
looming funding crisis.

The programme is a charity organisation which promotes business initiatives among the youth. It concentrates on equipping youngsters with skills.

The problem, says managing director Mzwabantu Ntlangeni, is that self-sufficiency will be difficult to achieve without interim financial support.

According to the President's Award's annual report published this week, "South African corporate donors tightened their purse strings at the same time as overseas funding dried up".
says potential recipients of awards from the organisation have pledged to pay R100 to participate in the programme.

And past participants are involved in fundraising initiatives such as the formation of a travelling gumboot dance troupe, and teaching and building for the organisation.

Last year 7600 youngsters received bronze, silver or gold awards, depending on the period of their participation in programmes. They raised R120 000 for the organisation, while corporate donors gave a total of R3,1-million.


## Cash crisis for youth empowerment scheme <br> By Dansy Jones <br> the face of the organisations <br> Spokesman Sarah Chapman

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## $(298)$ <br> revised social welfare scheme

## Minister to back down?

Pressure from lobbyists and ANC leaders may have forced a rethink

FMM $6 / 6 / 97$ After weeks or standing firm, Welfare \&
Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketı is on the verge of backing down on the implementation of her controversial new welfare benefit scheme
Opposition to the implementation of the scheme - scheduled for August 1 - has increased to such a level that sources close to the Minister have indicated a compromise may be unveiled by June 30 when she meets her critics.
The powerful parlamentary portfolo committee on welfare, which has held additional hearings on the matter in Umtata and Pietersburg, is also set to recommend that the scheme be changed

Though committee charman Cas Saloojee sald he could not comment on how it would rule, it is understood that committee members are almost unanimous in calling for the increase in grants to children The committee will release its recommendations in two weeks
The SA Nongovernmental Organisations Coaltion has held informal meetings with Fraser-Moleketı and her task team in which, it is understood, a reversal of her previous position was almost reached

In the meetings, Molekell admitted that her department's figures had been "very conservative"
Pressure for change to the system has also been increasing from within the ANC itself, from Cosatu and from church groups

Northern Cape premier Manne Dipico approached President Nelson Mandela two weeks ago to ask him to implore her to go sofly on the issue in a private meeting in Bloemfontein, Dipico is understood to have asked the President to postpone implementation of the scheme

Dipico and the ANC in the Western Cape
are fearful that coloured voters, who have been the main recipients of the scheme in the past, will switch their votes to the NP in protest Mandela is believed to have pledged to consult further on the issue
Under the barrage of criticism, Moleketi also appointed a task team to revisit the plan The team is expected to report back to her next week and may also suggest a compromise
In terms of FraserMoleketı's plan, child and family support now R430/month (parental grant) plus R135/child (for up to two chuldren younger than 18) - will be replaced with a flat rate of R75/child aged up to six Despite the intense lobbying aganst her plan over the last few weeks, she adamantly refused to budge

But indications are that she may indeed increase the R75 allocation to R135 and ensure that present beneficiaries do not take cuts over the next five years as initally planned

Moleketı's plan will be fully operational by 2005 at an estimated cost of R2,7bn, which means an "additional cost" of about $\mathrm{R} 1,5 \mathrm{bn}$ over the next five years for chuld

welfare
The lobbyists argue that the plan's general approach was fiscally over-conservative and government will actually cut R2,9bn from the welfare budget
According to Dirk and Claudia Haarmann of the institute for Social Development at the University of the Western Cape, the department's plan has two flaws it assumes there will be a takeup rate of $100 \%$ when the plan is started, and that it will have an administrative capacity of $100 \%$

But this is practically impossible A new system takes time to implement and the provinces are burdened with huge admimstrative problems
"However, if the calculations are based on more reahstic assumptions, the cuts in present spending will be far higher," they say in an article prepared for the Institute for Democratic Alternatives for SA
Assuming that there is a take-up rate of $40 \%$ in the first year of the new system and that administrative capacity is limited, they figure the cuts from the present Budget level over the next five years would be R2,9bn

Justice Malala

## Government under pressure to rethink child welfare grants system

## POLITEAL STAFF

The Government is set to come under pressure to review its decision to replace the child support system and increase the monthly subsidy grant per child from R75 to R135.

Politıcal parties represented on Parliament's welfare commit tee, including the ANC, indicated yesterday that in response to concerns by members of the public and non-governmental organisations they would recommend to
the committee that the grants should be increased.

The committee is expected to submit its recommendations to Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine FraserMoleketi.

In a report tabled yesterday after two weeks of public hearings in rural areas, the welfare committee said although communities did not propose an alternative amount, they made it clear that the R75 flat rate was not sufficient

The Government has said that
the new child support benefit should be seen as a supplementary income. The R75 was not meant to sustain an entre family. Expenses such as transport, rent electricity and other incidental costs would also not be covered by the new child support benefit.

Non-governmental organisations, which included trade unions, sharply criticised the new system, approved by the Cabinet, and called on the Government to reconsider the child support benefit plan and to suspend its implementation.

# ANC ALSO REJECTS WELFARE CHANGES State told to rethink maintenance 

IN A SHOW of multiparty opposition to the government's budget squeeze, Parliament's welfare committee has supported'widespread public rejection of key proposals.

THE ANC yesterday joined opposition parties in rejecting key changes to the child maintenance system, particularly the drastic reduction in monthly grants to R 75 per child.

In response to concerns by the public and non-governmental organisations, parties in Parliament's welfare committee, including the ANC, yesterday recommended the grants be increased.

The committee is expected to submit its recommendations immediately to Welfare and Population Development Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.

In a report tabled yesterday following two weeks of public hearings in rural areas, the committee said although communities did not propose an alternative amount they made it clear that the R75 flat rate was not sufficient. The amount was only accepted by four presenters. Proposals of what a rea sonable amount would be varied from R80 to R650 per family, plus R100 per child.

Members of the communities
also rejected the cut-off age for beneficiaries and called for a holistic approach to the child benefit system.

In a report on the public hearings comprled by advocate Ms Jenni Eksteen on behalf of the committee, the means test was not accepted by those who made submissions to it, along with a phasein of the new scheme, a moratorium on new applications and payment into banks and postal offices
"It was also made very clear that people in different regions had different proorties, whilst the basic concerns remained unchanged," Eksteen said. "For example, schooling expenses such as fees, uniforms and other incidental education costs were very dominant at the Western Cape Parliamentary hearings. But transport costs weighed heavily on the minds of presenters in the Eastern Cape and Northern Province."

The government has maintained that the new child support benefit should be seen as a supplementary income. The R75 was not meant to sustain an entire family.

Expenses such as transport fent, eleetricity and other incidental costs would also not be cóvered by the new child support benefit.

Eksteen said another issue to colour the discussion was the fact that the pre-Social Assistance Act amendment of 1996 regulations gave the grant until the age of 18 and older under certain circumstances. Whereas the post-Social Assistance Act amendment of 1996 reduced the age to 16 years.

Members of the pubic also suggested that recipients of the child support benefit or the current state maintenance grant should be exempted from paying school fees and that subsidies to day-care faciities should be increased.

Non-governmental organisations, which included trade unions, sharply criticised the new system, approved by cabinet, and called for its suspension.

Fraser-Moleketi said the new system sought to deracialise the current state maintenance grant and to target rural poor children. She said replacing the current system had become necessary in line with the Constitution.

The government intends to spread the grants from the present 203262 recipients to three million. - Political Staff
are receiving an education, they are now battling to find job opportunities.
Stuart Hess reports

MORE than $40 \%$ of young South Africans are neither employed nor in school, according to a study conducted by the National Youth Commission.
This alarming figure, which applies to young people aged 14 to 35 , can be blamed on a number of historical and cultural issues, says commission chair Mahlengeni Bhengu.
The situation is prevalent among the country's female population. "Many young women in rural areas are inhibited by a lack of opportunities owing mainly to early motherhood and the status of young women in rural areas where traditional law stall exists," says Bhengu.
Young people in such areas have found no opportunities in the job market - and no training system is in place.
Nkhabele Prusent, director of Employment Services in the Department of Labour, sees unemployment as a major problem. "Young people are nowhere in South Africa today," she says.

She believes the government has to look at mproving the skills of schoolleavers, thereby enabling them to have practical experience before they enter the workplace.
"We need a skills revolution which looks at careers outside teaching or admunistration," says Prusent. "We need youngsters with technical skills to be engmeers or scientists."
For this to happen, however, the attitude of teachers and other trainers
to become serious about implementing the many strategies and plans it envisages for young people - "to have a stronger focus on the needs of the youth m South Africa, especially in terms of job opportunities", says Bhengu
The commission praises the government for the "huge strides" it has made in recognising the important role youth play in South Africa.
The commission, established in 1996 to assist the government in developing a youth policy which would enhance job opportunities, skills training and education, will present its findings to the government at the end of the year.
Bhengu believes government's higher education policy is "well co-ordinated" and provides the majorty of young people in South Africa with opportunities they never had in the past.

African National Congress Youth League representative Thabo Masebe says the youth of today are fighting a different battle to those of 1976. "That generation [1976] was fighting for equality and aganst Bantu Education," he says. "Young people today have the opportunity in terms of education, but they are fighting for jobs and other means of umproving their lives."
He believes the government has provided opportunities for the youth they have never had before, but in terms of employment opportunities the situation has not changed "that much", compared to the period leading up to the elections in 1994. There is "a lot of hope" among young people today that the quality of life will improve.
The youth league views its role as "sensitising" the government about problems facing the youth today. "We will assist them with establishing initiatives and programmes aimed at accelerating youth development," says Masebe.


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 out the grants over five years as it would lead to

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 recetved mostly by whites, coloureds and Indi-
ans - could be changed, she added.






 Even Deputy President Thabo Mbekijoined the Her department is also ill-equipped to imple-- beginning of 1998, wt
debate by saying in Parliament this week. "At the ment such a scheme. It has not yet developed a by the end of 1997." ) pion squrd



 proposed scheme, writes Marion Edmunds

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 March 5
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SOMEIHING TO SAY: Two young girls at the Grand Parade yesterday make sure their messages protesting agalnst welfare cuts for children can be seen.

## Protests at welfare cuts

## CYNTHIA VONGA

STAFFWRIIER
ABOUT 100 solemn-faced women gathered yesterday on the Grand gathered yesterday on the Grand Parade- not for the festive Youth against cuts in child maintenance grants.

Holding placards and singing songs the women hoped to catch the attention of President Nelson Mandela when he made his speech
"Maybe then he will tell us why our children will have to survive on R75 per child a month," an emotional mother sald.
Wielding placards that read. The children will turn to crime if you allow malntenance cuts", women from the New Women's Movement protested.
The movement is fighting the
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Ministry of Welfare's announcement that it would be reducing the child maintenance grant from R135 per month per child to R75 a child This grant will cover only children up to six years of age unlike the previous system that covered children up to 18.

Spokesperson for the organisa tion Ms Vainola Makan said: "It is unacceptable that the government expects a budget that used to cater for 300000 people to be spread among two million.

This is unrealistic, we came here to the Youth Celebration because we feel that the youth they are trying to uplift will be the ones who will be most affected by these drastic cuts.
"With the old system, children $u p$ to 18 years were given a maintenance grant. With the new system, which is expected to come into place on August 1, only children up to six years will recelve a maintenance grant of R 75 .
"This will have a disastrous effect on the youth. How will unemployed mothers care for these children? This means that these children? This means that
there wili be fewer opportunittes there will be fewer opportunitiles
open to these children, who already do not have many," she sald

Makan said that under'th existing system an unemployed mother received a R430 paren grant and an additional R135 per child - but not for more than two children. So an unemployed moth er with two chlldren would recejv R800amonth.

Under the new system the government will support children only untll they are of schoolgolng age when It will be the responsibility of the parents to provide for their children's education and everyday needs.
"We support equallsation but they must not do ft at the expense of the poor - rather tax the super rich," Makan sadd

I don't think that the government has taken into account the inflation rate. What will R75 be worth in the year 2000?
"The latest development is that there will be only a $30 \%$ coverage. How does the ministry propose to choose the children who will get maintenance and those who will not?
"At the moment they say they will award maintenance to mothers with health and nutrition prob. lems Are they encouraging mothers to starve their children to get money?"














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 The minister's hope is that the num-
 "care-givers". As a "cost-containment




 next five years.



 grants by cuts of $20 \%$ a year over the


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## SA lâw deficient en child sex abuse - report (298) ct 191667

 PRETORIA: South ansuficient protection against sexual abuse, according to an SA Law Commission issue paper released here yesterday.Few offenders are being convicted and most aspects of the existing legal position neèd to be revised, the document says.
"The criminal laws and criminal procedure, as it presently stands, as a mechanism to protect children from abuse, is to a great extent ineffective," the report said.

There is no criminal offence labelled "child' sexual abuse" or even "child ne ${ }^{\text {glect }}{ }^{\text {" }}$ in South African law, and such crimes have to be dealt with in terms of common law covering a wide range of offences.

The Prevention of Family Violence Act of 1993, which provides for an interdict to prevent assaults on an applicant or child, is not commonly used to prevent child abuse.'
"An ongoing reluctance in many police officers to involve themselves in issues of family violence is part of the problem, while bureaucratic delays and logjams are seriou's stumbling blocks," the paper says.
"Présenting Deputy Justice Minister Ms Manto Tshabalala with a copy of the paper, Commission member Mr Thandabaritu Nhlapo said the document was the first step towards drafting new legislation against child abuse. - Sapa

# Move to boost child support <br> should be exempt from school fees. 

A PARLIAMENTARY welfare committee recommended yesterday that the child support benefit be set at R135 a month per child, $80 \%$ more than the R75 proposed by Welfare Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.

Children between $0-9$ years should receive the benefit, paid out to the first two children of the family, so targeting $80 \%$ of children, and not $30 \%$ ( $0-6$ years) as the ministry recommended.

Owing to the current fiscal restrictions which necessitated the benefit being hmited they agreed on an age constraint of $0-9$, provided the limit be extended to its previous 18 -years as soon as possible.

Non-governmental organisations, including the Black Sash and
the South African National NGO Coalition, protested against the Lund Commission's recommendations for state maintenance grants.

The committee agreed with the Lund proposal for a means test which would be based on the caregiver's income. Care-givers earning R800 or less would be eligible for the benefit.

The old child support benefit should be phased out over five years, starting next January rather than immediately as proposed by the ministry.

The committee recommended that reform of the maintenance court system be given priority to ensure that fathers who could support their children be forced to do so. Also, children receiving benefits

The Black Sash's Ms Alison Tiiley said they believed civil society's representations to Parliament and their consideration of those proposals had resulted in the committee's recommendations.
"There are some technical issues to be worked out, but the recommendations meet both the criteria of affordability and reaching as many poor children as possible."

SA National NGO Coalition executive director Mr Kumi Naidoo said: "While we recognise that the recommendations do not go as far as many would like to see, it is a substantial improvement on the proposals as they presently stand."

The coalition would meet Fras-er-Moleketı on June 30. - Sapa

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## Parties in

 wider child benefit call Minister pressed
## CINE SAWYER

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 Pressure on Weizare ${ }^{\text {u }}$ her proposed child Moleketi to recons growing, with the National supportsly welfare committee officially recommending that benefits be widened.

Among the committee's recommendations is that the R75-a-month maintenance grant proposed by Ms Fraser-Moleketi' be raised to R135.

Her own party, the African National Congress, was among those which backed the committee resolution. Others were the National Party, Inkatha Freedom Party, Democratic Party and PAC.
The plan, as originally approved by the Cabinet, proposed paying only R75 a month to children aged up to six. But the committee recommended:

A R135-a-month payment for children aged up
to nine, limited to two children per family, but said the age group which benefited should be extended to 18 "within the shortest possible time"
-The date of introduction should be January 1998

- Phasing in - all eligible children within the age group, subject to the limitation of two children fam-
ily, will immediately qualify for the beneitit Whasing out-a five-year
ed by the Welfare Department the basic income of the
-A'simple, test based on the basic or or less eligible getting the benefit for their children
The committee also recommended that reform of the Maintenance Court system should be given priority so that fathers could be forced to take financial responsibility for their children.


## ANC group rejects child welfare benefit plan <br> children would be introduced in Januáry

## Jacob Diamini

CAPE TOWN - In a clear rejection of Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleket's proposed child benefit scheme, an ANC parliamentary study group yesterday presented proposals designed to cover more children at almost double the R75 suggested by the government.

The proposals, unveiled during a meeting of the parliamentary welfare committee, would cover between 3,9-milhon and 5million children at an estimated annual cost of R6,3bn to R8bn.

Committee chairman Cas Salojee sard the proposals had been drawn up in an attempt to address concerns over the government's new child benefit system, which op-
ponents said would leave many childreh beyond the poverty line.

At present single parents receive R435 and R175 for every child under 18. FraserMoleketi's plan is to pay R75 for children between ages 0 and six in order to widen the system's reach.
In terms of the first of three suggestions presented, children between ages 0 and six would receive R135 from January 1998.
The group's projections are that there will be an addrtional R1,7bn cost to the budget over the next five years and the final cost, using 1997 figures, will be R6,3bn This would benefit 3,9 -mllion children.

Proposal two is that the benefit be set at R135 for children between the ages 0 and six. The scheme, targeting $80 \%$ of needy

1998 while the present system is phased out over two years.

Additional costs to the present budget over the next five years would be $R 66 \mathrm{~m}$ while the final annual costs would be R6,3bn. The proposal would reach 3,9 -mil lion children.
The last proposal calls for the benefit to be set at R135 for children between ages 0 and nine. However, only two childrén 'per family unit would be allowed to get on the system.
The group's projections are that this would add an extra R2bn to the current budget over five years and would cost an estimated R8bn a year. About 5-million children would benefit

# Law Commission proposes review of laws on sexual abuse of children <br> By Gill Gifford 

Crime Reporter
The South African Law Commission (SALC) yesterday proposed a farreaching review of laws designed to protect children from sexual abuse, which the commission said has reached alarming proportions.

The commission, in an issue paper made available in Pretoria, said 35838 crimes against children were reported last year.

It identified several major shortcomings in the body of laws designed to protect children. These were: - The practical problem of defining a sexual crime, which was now too narrow, excluded homosexual intercourse, and presumed that only girls and not boys under the age of 12 were incapable of consenting to a sexual act.

- Gender bias, which was regarded as a problem, with sodomy being defined as only a male-on-male offence and rape as solely a male-on-female of fence.
- Procedural law, which involved a number of professions and structures in the reporting, investigating, court-
hearing and sentencing process and which required co-ordination and a set code of conduct.

The prosecution of child prostitutes, the lack of laws to counter "child sex tourism", the underground marketing of children to paedophiles for commercial sexual exploitation and the development of a register of sex offenders are other issues dealt with.

Speaking at the release of the paper, SALC spokesman Professor Thandabantu Nhlapo said public comment on the document would be accepted until the end of August. It would then become a discussion paper accompanied by draft legislation to be handed to Justice Minister Dullah Omar.

Joan van Niekerk, chairman of the six-member project committee which drew up the paper, said research had found that many abused children who had been channelled through the legal system claimed the trauma they suffered at the hands of the courts was worse than the original abuse.

The Issue Paper on Sexual Offences Against Children is available from the SALC at (012) $322-6440$.

## Child-allowance boost of $80 \%$ recommended

The parliamentary welfare committee recommended yesterday that the childsupport benefit be set at R135 a month per child, $80 \%$ more than the R75 proposed by Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi

Children between 0 and 9 years of age should receive the benefit paid out for the first two children, thus target ing $80 \%$ of children and not $30 \%$ ( $0-6$ years) as the ministry recommended.

Due to current fiscal restrictions that limit the benefit, the committee agreed on an age constraint of $0-9$, provided that the limit be extended to its previous 18 years as soon as possible.

Non-governmental organisations, including the Black Sash and the SA

National NGO Coalition, protested against the Lund Commission's proposals for state maintenance grants.

The committee agreed with the commission's proposal for a means test that would be based on the care-giver's income. Care-givers earning R800 or less would be eligible for the benefit.

The old child-support benefit should be phased out over five years, starting in January, as opposed to im mediately as proposed by the ministry The committee also proposed that children receiving benefits should be exempt from school fees.

The Black Sash and the SA National NGO Coalition welcomed these recommendations. - Sapa.
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THE ABOLTION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS HAS RESULTED IN LITTLE OR NO DISCIPLINE, AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF CONTROLLING PUPILS HAVE OFTEN PROVED INEFFECTIVE, REPORTS SABATA NGCAI

- Most black communities believe that caning is the most effective way to discipline an unruly child.

Hence there was an uproar in township communities when caning at schools was banned last year.

Most teachers and parents disapproved of the ban because they feared pupils would become undsciplined.

Some schools, like Masiyile Secondary School in Khayelitsha, continued to use caning last year in defiance of the ban. And at Bulumko Secondary School in Khayelitsha last year teachers were assaulted and their cars stoned by pupils who went on the rampage because their parents had agreed that teachers could cane them if they misbehaved.

Teachers were even held hostage by students until they were released by police who fired teargas There was no schooling for about three weeks because teachers feared for their lives.
Lack of discipline in the Cape Flats schools now threatens to turn school campuses into battlefields, with teachers sometumes being the targets

Pupils have manhandled women teachers and used abusive language, and fighting on school property has become commonplace.

Detention, a punishment many schools have opted for, has not worked in many cases.
Frequently parents have called on teachers to use the cane to control undisciplined children But so far, the temptation has been resisted by the teachers because it is illegal in terms of the South African Schools Act.

At Manenberg Senior Secondary School, where pupils have manhandled teachers, the principal, Abdurahman Petersen, says the abolition of corporal punishment has tied the hands of teachers 'and brought about mayhem.
"Taking away corporal punishment is a disservice to children, and to education as a whole," he said.
"We have to call in parents every time children get unruly. We detain them (the children), but this does not work on many ,occasions. The children defy us because they know there is nothing we can do
"Sometimes we suspend unruly children, but this is a tragedy because it deprives the child of an education. Discipline fell away after corporal punishment was abolished last year. The boys swear at and manhandle women teachers If a child knows they can be punished, they will behave much better.
"When corporal punishment was still enforced, there was not a single parent who came here to complain about his or her child being abused. The child knew that if they did wrong they would be punished," said Mr Petersen
In terms of the Schools Act, any teacher 'applying corporal punishment could be
charged with assault. The new code of conduct for teachers even prohibits them from using abusive language to pupils.

At Lavender Hill Secondary School, principal Abel Appel said parents had urged teachers to cane the pupils "We refuse to do it because it is illegal," Mr Appel said.
"The pupils themselves always remind us that we are not supposed to touch or scold them."

He said teachers requested the assistance of parents when they had to discipline the pupils. The school even went to the extent of suspending unruly pupils, with the consent of the parents.

Other teachers attributed the lack of discipline in schools to the problem of bigger classes, which made it difficult for teachers to cope

At Joe Slovo High School in Khayelit sha, princıpal Balakazı Mdingı said the school was faced with the problem of truancy. "Discipline will continue to be a problem until the right environment conducive to learning returns - the ideal goal of Curriculum 2005," she said.
"We are faced with problems of bigger classes and we are still grappling with the new teaching methods of the new curricu lum. The learning environment leaves much to be desired." she said.
But at Guguletu Comprehensive Secondary School giving extra work to a naughty pupil seems to be working. School principal Nontobeko Msengana says the school involves parents in any decision-making on how to punish the pupils.
"For each naughty child we call a parent and discuss the matter with the child involved," she sard.
"We apply our punishment, which on many occasions includes forcing the child to clean up a particular area at the school for a day or two. It works very well and in recent months it has acted as a very good deterrent in restraining pupils from doing wrong,"she said.

While some of the teachers feel they were left in the lurch by the Government when it abolished corporal punishment without providing an alternative, the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) is planning to explore how to use discipline at schools in a positive way.

When completed, the project is expect ed to bring about a radical change in meth ods of maintaining discipline

The HSRC said it discovered that many teachers tended to equate discipline with corporal punishment, expelling culprits and using other negative practices, but put little focus on the positive aspects of discipline.

The HSRC.drew a sample survey from Pretoria, the West Rand, East Rand Johannesburg and the Vaal Triangle which revealed that all schools were look ing for an alternative to corporal punish ment.

In its survey, the HSRC found that edu cators agreed disciplıne in schools was essential But the vast majority felt it was basically the responsibillty of the parents to teach children obedience, responsibili ty, respect for others, self control and dis cipline.

According to the HSRC, however, teaching children to distinguish between

## e is spoiling the child亳r as discipline in schools breaks down ARG26/6/97


right and wrong and instilling democratic values was the combined responsiblity of parents, schools and churches

The HSRC survey concluded that some psychological and physical forms of disciplinary action were harmful to the child. As far as the physical punishment was concerned, the surveyed teachers found it totally unacceptable to throw a book or chalk at a child, to pull his/her ear or hair or to pinch the child.

Yet the majority of the respondents found spanking a child acceptable. Spanking was thought to be more acceptable than sending a child out of the class or send inghim/her home. In the same vein
the respondents
thought that it was totally unacceptable to belittle a child, to tell the child that they were stupid, or to threaten or to ignore the child.

The majority of the respondents felt that a child's behaviour should not be ignored, and that the transgression should be dealt with. More than a third considered suspension as a viable option.

Parents of pupils at primary schools
differed slightly from the parents of secondary school pupls when it came to suit able ways of dealing with transgression. Parents with children at prımary schools were more in favour of letting the child stand in the corner, pleading with the child to stop his/her ill-behaviour, threatening or spanking the child and ignoring the behaviour of the child
Parents of secondary school pupils were more incluned to agree to shouting at the child, sending them home or suspending them. The vast majority of the respondents thought that giving the child extra assignments and detention classes were good options for dealing with transgressions.

In the HSRC survey, parents were asked how seriously they regarded certain infringements by teachers

Sexual harassment of children, staying away from school without a valid reason and doing private work at school were viewed as serious transgressions. Not being properly prepared, not checking children's books regularly and being untidy were also viewed as serious.

Although it was generally accepted that it was the task of the teacher to maintain discipline in the class, the question arose as to whose responsibility it was to reprimand the teacher.

The respondents assigned the main responsibility to the school principal

Although traditionally the line of responsibility runs through the department of education, very few respondents regarded the school inspector as somebody who should reprimand the teacher.

Several parents assigned this responsibility to the school governing body. The HSRC said the plot study did not attempt to come up with solutions to the problem of discipline at school.

The aim was rather to explore some issues that required further investigation.

The HSRC said the search for solutions would have to involve all stakeholders. "Parents have a right to be involved with the governing of schools and ensuring that discipline is maintained," a HSRC spokesman said.

Teachers should also be empowered to deal effectively with discipline in schools while maintaining the right of children to farr treatment.

Finding ways to protect these various rights wll be a challenge, but we need to find solutions if a culture of learning is to be promoted.'

## Staff 'prey on young children' at shelter (298) ARG271697

 condition, with some showers out of order. Plugs are missing, floors are soaked in water and dirty piles of clothmg lie around.This year the home has had a problem with its hot water supply and on two occasions the youngsters have had to wash in cold water for several days at a time.

The children attend school in the morming and complain of boredom the rest of the day because of lack of facilities at the home.

They claim staff take home luxury items such as biscuits, fruit and chocolates and that some children steal food to sell in order to buy cigarettes and dagga - this is in addition to allegations by staff that colleagues are stealing basic food meant for the children.

The management team told the commission that in recent months some children had escaped from the barely secure premises and allegedly had stolen from farms to raise cash for dagga and cigarettes.

Mr Paschke said management members "appear to have the best of intentions, but seem to be out of touch with fundamental issues affecting the institution".

He was disturbed by allegations of insufficient food and that no-one seemed to be in charge. "There appears to be a management crisis at the institution."

Approached to comment, the Department of Social Welfare head, Virginia Petersen, said the department had launched a full-scale investigation into the institution earlier this month after allegations against staff.

She did not know when it would be completed.

She said her department had become aware of the problems in the middle of last year and attempts had been made to rectify them by providing guidance and training for staff.

But stronger intervention had become necessary because of "high levels of collusion by staff" and their inability to apply their new traming to the job, resulting in a progressive deterioration of standards, she sald.

Mr Paschke welcomed the investigation and said the commission would monitor it and call for a report on the outcome.

# Children preyed on at shelter <br> <br> undSay barines <br> <br> often been left to take care of themselves.

 <br> <br> Probe into "crisis" <br> <br> Probe into "crisis" ARG 2716197 (298)} ARG 2716197 (298)
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Chme Desk
Small children at a Stellenbosch place of safety are going cold and hungry this winter as staff allegedly steal their food and older children take their clothes and shoes.

The Human Rights Commission has heard "disturbing" accounts of suffering among young children at the Lindelani Place of Safety, most of whom are there through no fault of their own.

Only a few of the 70 -odd children are awaiting trial. Most are there because of they have been abandoned or abused.

The commission did a spot check of the home last week after hearing allegations of fraud, theft and mismanagement.

It has been alleged that staff and some children steal food from the kitchen and that older children steal clothes and shoes from the younger ones, leaving them shivering in the bitter winter weather.

The children who steal food allegedly sell it for cigarettes and dagga while the other children go hungry.
The commission heard from the home's interim management team that staff morale was low and that in the past absenteeism had been high and children had

During the inspection, members of the team running the home in the absence of a manager for the past 18 months at first refused to talk to commission legal adviser Ron Paschke, because they did not have permission from the Department of Social Welfare. But they later agreed.

They said that although most of the children, aged six to 17 , had been traumatised at home and had behavioural problems, there was no money for a psychologist to treat them at the refuge.
Lindelani is home to about 60 abused and neglected children who have been removed from their parents' custody, and to an average of 10 awaiting trial on criminal charges at any one time.

They are cared for by a staff of 32 , including social and child-care workers.

During the commission's tour, it emerged that the youngsters, who are Xhosa and Afrikaans-speaking, are constantly short of such basics as towels, toothpaste, soap and toilet paper. Three children have to share one toilet roll a week and when this runs out, they say they use their clothes, scraps of fabric or hands.

Ablution facilities were found in a poor
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## Youth trust forced to cut back on targets

## Dustin Chick

BD 3/7/97

298
A STRUGGLE for funds is forcing the trust which runs the President's Award for youth empowerment o cut back on its targets.
The community service programme dates back to 1983 when it was a government-supported project for white schools and a minority of black youth organisations. This changed radically after President Nelson Mandela was appointed patron-in-chief in 1994. The awards trust has grown into the largest youth development programme in the country, whose aim is to empower disadvantaged youth.

The programme is aimed at people from all walks of life, between the ages of 14 and 25 . Of the 12 million people in this age group, only 3-million can be absorbed into the formal economy

The programme comprises three awards inold, silver and bronze - which take three years toctomplete. Participants must be involved in three aretas of community service, a team-orientated expedifion ${ }^{2} \mathrm{~K}_{\mathrm{a}} \mathrm{a}$ skill or a hobby and a physical recreation aimé deat encouraging goal-setting and achievement. $2,5 \mathrm{y}$

Operations director Vanessa Westcott said that a lack of funds was the organisation's most pressing problem. Last year's enrolment of 7000 candidates had had to be lowered to 5000 this year.
Westcott said the trust was looking for donors; on whom it was entirely reliant as it received no state subsidies. JCI and Johnnic were currently sponsoring the award.

The President's Axard had created'a number of endowment funds to ensure self-sufficiency by the year 2000, Westcott said.

The fund had raised $\mathrm{R} 3,22 \mathrm{~m}$ last year, most of it from corporate donors. Participants had committed themselves to raising R100 each.

Westcott said one of the principal aims of the award was to create suitable job candidates. A youth placement programme had been implemented, and a national'register of participants had been drawn up, listing their skills and other attributes. The trust had als ${ }^{\circ}$ ' opened several career information centres to help'members in writing CV's and to give them a better understanding of career opportunities.

## ${ }^{6} 70 \%$ of children exposed to smoke'

 18peared to have well-developed beliefs about tobacco and smoking well before they had direct experience of it.

Wits researcher Thea de Wet said that by understanding why and when children decided to smoke, interventions could be undertaken to discourage them from smoking and to prevent tobacco companies from targeting children as potential smokers.

Another Medical Research Council project, being conducted at the University of the Western Cape, has shown that if a mother smokes during pregnancy and breastfeeding, the baby's lung growth and development are per-
manently impaired. In its annual report, the council said the testing of a new vaccine against viral diarrhoea would begin soon.

The viral diarrhoea strain is responsible for about $28 \%$ of deaths from diarrhoea among SA children. Studies in Venezuela showed the new vaccine protected nearly $90 \%$ of children against this strain, but work in Africa with the original vaccine failed.

The link between TB and HIV/AIDS is another focus of the council's work. Researchers have calculated that, with the HIV epidemic, the incidence of TB could increase fourfold in 10 years.

 caused much controversy when Par
liament renewed it earlier this year -red uәчм Кsıəлопиоэ чэnu pasneo

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 serious crimes cannot be mixed with
them.
 for neglected or abused children -awaiting-trial children, she says
these are not secure and are used
 makes this a difficult problem to
solve in the short term," she adds. "The independence of magistrates dren awaiting trial are charged with
offences not listed in the Act.
 Moleket. enough by the legislature to be snoןләs рәләріsuov sem чэцим













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 are too scared and traumatised to



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## Child support grant in creased to 100 <br> Bonile Ngqiyaza

WELFARE Minister Geraldine Fras-er-Moleketi has made a partial climbdown on the implementation of her controversial child welfare benefit scheme, increasing the proposed R75 a month child support grant to R100.

The concession followed an African National Congress national executive committee (NEC) meeting at the weekend and widespread opposition from ciyil society organisations and from within the ANC itself.
,Shortly after the announcement yesterday, welfare ministry spokesman Brian Sokutu said the R75 figure had "always been a projection rather than a principled position".

Asked if he thought the increase would appease parties opposed to the original proposal, Sokutu said they
should understand that the ministry such low levels would be dufficult to imwas domg its best with the resources at its disposal and within the budgetary constraints it faced.
"Poverty alleviation is a challenge, not for the welfare ministry alone, but for the country as a whole - which is why we went to the NEC"
He said that after the technical committee on welfare had finished its work in August, the department would make another announcement regarding the child support grant's implementation
Black Sash national durector Hillary Morris welcomed FraserMoleketi's shift, but expressed disappointment that no announcement had been made regarding the original cabinet decision to target only $30 \%$ of children under the age of six.

She said-even the ministry's technical advisers believed targeting at
plement, and in a recent workshop on the issue had recommended that the $30 \%$ target needed to be reviewed. "The failure to take this expert advice on board is baffling. At least six out of every 10 children live with care-givers earning less than R250 a month".

Sapa reports Fraser-Moleketi said the new child support benefit would reach 10 times as many children as at present and the R100 cash grant would be paid to a "primary care-giver", and not necessarily simply to mothers in needy familhes

The benefit, to be implemented from next year, would cost the state "about R1,384bn a year", and would be phased in over three years, Fraser-Moleketi said. The existing state maintenance grant - to be phased out over five years-cost the state R1,038bn a year.


雨雬；biscuit：Abe Nkomo and Sasko＇s social responsibility manager Rob Bradbury with the new nutritional biscuit

## －iscuit for poor pupils gets full marks

．：－TE MAMMIES
tiff Reporter
$\therefore$ new vitamin－enriched biscuit
iE been developed to help
cuing schemes fight
linuirition among ！poverished primary school ：itidren．
The biscuit，popularly known as ndunakuki＂，has already improved he health of children in the village
of Ndunakazi north of Durban in a pilot programme．

It forms part of a programme jointly run by the Medical Research Council，the Sasko baking and milling group and residents of Ndunakazl．The biscuit has so far reduced vitamin and mineral defi－ ciencies by half in the town．

The biscuit contains more，vita－ mons and minerals than found in normal staple foods．

Nonnie Vorster，Sask＇s product developer，says the biscuits are cost－ effective at 23 c for three and have a shelf life of three months．

Lenore Punnet，deputy director of nutrition in the Western Cape， says they could be used nationally．

The results of the Ndunakazi pro－ jest were handed to Abe Nkomo， chairman of the parliamentary health committee，in Cape Town yes－ terday．

##  <br> Johannesburg - Welfare and Population: <br> Development Minister Geraldine Fraser--Moleketi says the Cabinet has accepted à recommendation from her ministry to ;i introduce a new cash grant for children, the child support benefit. <br> The grant-a flat rate of R100 a child per month would replace the state maintenance grant for women and children, Ms Fraser-Moleketi said yesterday. The child support benefit would reach about 10 times more children than the present grant: <br> Furthermore, the R100 cash grant for povertystricken children up to the age of six would be paid to a "primary care-giver" of the child and not necessarily simply to mothers in vulnerable families. <br> She said this approach moved away from the concept of a parent in the traditional sénse and embraced the reality of different family forms in South Africa. <br> However, beneficiaries would be "mèans tested", she said, adding that the requirements for, primary care-giver - whether it be a parent, aunt; ;grandparent or guardian of the child - were still being researched. <br> The child support benefit would be implemented by January 1998 as the existing grant needed to be phased out. The new cash grant would cost the state "about R1,384-billion a year," Ms Fraser-Moleketi said, and would be phased in over three years. <br> Itwould be paid in quarterly instalmentsinto the bankacéout or post office account of the beneficiary. The existing grant cost the state R1,038-billion a year, she said:--Sâpa <br> 

## Biscuit no

## threat to

## bread, jam <br> (298)


PEANUT butter and fam sandwiches eaten with a PLAN GT Ded milkshake were a tried and tested way soya-based milkshake were a tried and tested way
of combating mainutrition among children and of combating malnutrition among children and would not be replaced by fortified biscuits in the school feeding programme in the Western Cape. Mr john VIljoen, a spokesman for Peninsump this winning formula for the vitamin-enriched this winh biscuit which was launched in the city yesterday. The biscuit, which is made by Sasko, the baking and milling group, has been used for a research project on combating malnutrition in Ndunakazi a village in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, in KwaZulu-Natal.

It contalns iron, beta carotene, todine and vita $\min C$.
The research, by the Medical Research Council (MRC), concluded that the fortifled biscuit given to the children with a cooldrink was cost-effective (42c a child a day) and practical and, with nutrition education, should be seriously considered by school feeding schemes.
"We have found the soya-based milkshake to be far superior to any of the biscuits or sachets (of cooldrink) we have been offered," Viljoen said.

Feeding schemes around the country (with the exception of the Western Cape) have been dogged by corruption controversies since they were inltiated as a presidential lead project $\ln 1994$

Dr Spinnler Benade, the MRC's programme leader for the hutritional intervention programme, sald it was easy to monitor the distribution of biscults.
"A certain number of biscuits go into a school and a certain number are consumed. There is litte place for corruption," he satd.

Peninsula School Feeding has been feeding local children for over three decades. It runs $90 \%$ of the school feeding operations in the province which involves about 310000 children at 840 schools.

It costs about 59 c a day to feed a child the bread and milkshake - 50 c of this is subsidised by the government.

Benadé said the biscuit had been offered to the Ndunakazi community as a short-tem solution to a nutrition crisis.
"Ultimately, we wan't the community to produce thelr own food
"A long-term agricultural project has been started, but it could take up to a decade before we reap results

Meanwhile, we had to do something about the nutritional status of the children.

A report, detaling the MRC's findings following the introduction of school feeding in the com munity, was handed to Dr Abe Nkomo, chalmman of the parllamentary portfollo committee on health at the blscuit launch.
"As a boy growing up near Pretoria, I felt the benefit of school feeding," sald Nkomo
"The Methodist missionaties used to make us soup and when they eventually stopped it because of a lack of funds, the children were disappointed and really missed it."

Asked what he thought of the yellow, bananaflavoured blscuit, Nkomo sald he liked the taste and thought it would go down well with young children.


AN increased flat-rate grant of R100 per child, for any number of children under six in a disadvantaged family, was announced yesterdắy by the Miníster Welfare and Population Development, Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.
The hike in the grant, under the Child Support Benefit System, means that the department will be forking out R1,384, billion, R300 million more compared to the R1,038́bṇ originally allocated.

While welfare organisations welcomed the increase, they regretted that the age limit was upheld by Fraser-Molekett.

At least $30 \%$ of the country's poorest children will benefit from the system due to be implemented in January next year. The system, aimed at children only, will be phased in over the next three years.

Originally the grant was R75 per child. National? public debate and outcries from welfare bodies prompted the department to re-evaluate the proposals.

The South African National NGO'Coalition also welcomed the increase, although it was lower thán the R135 suggested by them and the parliamentary portfolio cormmittee on welfare last month.

Coalition programme drector Ms Jacqui Boulle-said the increase reflected that R75 was an unrealistic amount for children. She said the department's target of reaching $30 \%$ of the country's poorest children would discriminate against a large number of people living in abject poverty.
"About $68 \%$ of children are living with care-givers who earn less than R250 a month. While we would like to appeal to the minister to increase the target, it is close to mpossible to find means test which is administratively viable and costeelfective," said 'Boulle.

Johnnnesburg Child Welfare (JCW) said the increase was welcomed in the light of the budget restrictions, within which Fraser-Moleketi operated, but regretted that the age limit termained unchanged.
regretted that the age $\therefore$ "It is our hope that the government will in future allocate an appropriate portion of the national. budget to social secunity for children of all ages because this would help us combat other problems, such as child labour and prostitution which result from destitution," aJCW's'sokeswoman said.

Fraser-Moleketi said that R135 per child was not viable. "We don't want to put the beneficiaries at nisk and need to realise the importance of having assured a poverty grant for children "

Frasér-Moléketi acknowledged there was a much larger"percentage of poor childrèn, but said it was about , making difficult choices when deciding that only $30 \%$ of the poorest children would benefit.

Under the previous system, a family received a maximum of R700, which in'cluded R430 for the mother and R135 pert child up to a maximum of two children
Fraser-Moleketi said she envisaged an efficient.system to prevent fraud. The department would stick to quarterly payments and was negotiating banking facilities with post offices for womèh in rural areas. Own Correspondent

## JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN CRISIS

## Street child arreste-



THE INADEQUACY of the justice system to cope with juvenile criminals led police to allow a streetchild, who ventured into crime at age 11, to walk free in spite of numerous arrests and convictions until he turned 18 and could be imprisoned. CYNTHIA VONGAI reports.
in the city was committed by streetchildren.

He added that the most com-

THE case of Leon Eksteen is a glaring example of how the justice system in South Africa is falling. This Oudtshoorn-born teenager began a life of crume at the age of 11 - but police were forced to wait until his 18th birthdảy before they could finally arrest him and be sure he would be imprisoned.

During the intervening seven Evars he was arrested 33 times on several charges of theft, housebreaking and escaping from custody.
, Each time Eksteen, a streetchild, was arrested by police, he was elther warned by the court and freed, or sent to a juvenile holding centre from which he escaped.

Eventually police from Central Cape Town got so fed up, they waited for his 18th birthday to arrest him again. No longer a minor, he was sentenced to three years for a theft committed in 1993, and is now in Pollsmoor Prison.

The extraordinary battle police had to jail Eksteen came about because of legislation which deals specifically with unconvicted juvenile offenders between the ages of 14 and 18 .
Amendments to the Correctional Services'Act b'y the Minister of Correctional Services, Dr Sipo Mžimelă, in November 1994, makes it illegal-for unconvicted minors to be detained in a prison, police cell, or lock-up facility.
"Instead they are to be referred to "places of care" and only in extreme'cases are the minors to be sent to lock-up facilities.

Eksteen escaped from the Cape Town and Wyn-
berg reformatories and places of safety six times before his final arrest in April last year. He was sentenced in February'this year.

Police spokesman CaptainAndre Traut said police have a mammoth task in trying to arrest $\therefore$ juveniles and then keep them in custody until they were tried and sentenced.

Superintendent Piet Taljaard, the unit commander for theft from.cars; sald most of the crime

FOUND GUILTY

- First crime on police records was in 1989- house breaking In Upington, Eksteen was 11. - 1991-trespassing charge in Cape Town.
- 1992 - theft in Cape Town.
- 1993-theft
- 1993 -theft
-1993 - theft
-1994-Escaped from a reformatory school. Charged with unlawful escape fromi custody. He was re-arrested and sentenced to three years at a reformatory school. He escaped and was re-arrested on his 18th birthday in April 1996. Sentenced in February 1997 and sent to Pollsmoor.


## NOT CONVICTED;

- 1991-house-breaking in Cape Town.
- 1993 $=$ four separate charges of theft in CBD. - 1994-He escaped from Cape Town Magistrate's Court, then followed four charges of atheft in Rondebosche Escaped. ariested for theft, escaped again, Arrested in Claremont - - ) after being found with "house - $t_{s}$ anter being found wht "house 101995 - four charges of theit.: Re1996 mour charge of the theft, escape from Wyaberg cells, theft mon crime was theft out of cars in the central business district
"What happens, is that these kids go to court and are referred to places of safety or juvenile homes. These are sometimes full and the children end up on the street again
"Meanwhile, their case has been postponed to a later date, and because no one is making sure they turn up on the court date they are sometimes re-arrested for the same crimes five times or more," Tajaard said.
"Some of these kids are hardened criminals. You'd expect that they could be housed somewhere until they appear in court.
"But when it comes to this, everyone just seems to shrug their shoulders. There is no room in these places of care - and no one
seems to want to tackle the problem. No one seems to want to take the responsibillty to look after these kids.
"I think that some state department should take care of these problems."

Traut said: "Unfortunately these places of safety do not keep these offenders inside. This is a cause of concern for us "

A quarter of all crime in South Africa is committed by criminals under the age of 21, at a cost to taxpayers of over R15 bil-
( 'lon a year, according to a recent media report.

Most of the 100000 or so young crimınals prosecuted each year are petty offenders who never strike again, but an estimated five'percent become habitual violent criminals;"and the justice system is unable to cope with them.
"We call them 'the untouchables'," says Director Raymond Dowd, Cape Town police commissioner. "We try to put them bêhind bars, but the justice system allows them to slip through the net."
TTum to Pagé 3


# Limited child welfare grants come under fire Stan17/7197 (298) 

Organisations have welcomed increased grants but say
decision to support only the poorest must be rethought

## is <br> By Prascilea Smag <br> and Ruso Thon

While welfare organisations have welcomed the increased flat-rate grant of R100 in the new child support benefit system, they have called on the Department of Welfare to rethink its decision to target only $30 \%$ of the poorest children in the country.

The new amount, applicable to any number of children under six in a disadvantaged family, formed the basis of changes in the Child Support Benefit System announced by Welfare and Population Development Minister Geraldine FraserMoleketi on Tuesday.

The South African National NGO Coalition (Sangoco) said it was deeply disappointed that no announcement was made to increase the target number of children who would receive the grant.

Sangoco president Rams Ramashia said, "With over $60 \%$ of South Africa's children living in abject poverty, we find the de cision to target just half of this unacceptable.
"We call for a simple cost-efficient system based on incomes less than R800 in a household."

The hike in the grant means that the Department of Welfare will be forking out R1 384-billion, R300-million more than the R1038-billion originally allocated.

While welfare organisations welcomed the increase, they regretted that the age limit was
upheld by Fraser-Moleketi At least $30 \%$ of the country's poorest children will benefit from the system due to be implemented in January next year. The system, aimed at children only, will be phased in over the next three years.

Originally the grant was R75 per child. National public debate and outcries from welfare bodies prompted the department to shift its thinking and re-evaluate the proposals.

Johannesburg Child Welfare said the increase was welcomed

in light of the budget restrictions within which FraserMoleketi operated, but regretted that the age limit remained unchanged.

JCW spokesman Jackie Loffell said, "It is our hope that the Government will in future allocate an appropriate portion of the national budget to social security for children of all ages because this will help us combat other problems, such as child labour and prostitution which result from destitution."

Sangoco programme direc tor Jacqui Boulle said the in-
crease reflected that R75 was an unrealistic amount for children.
"About $68 \%$ of children are living with caregivers earning less that R250 a month and, while we would like to appeal to the minister to increase the target, it is close to impossible to find a means test which is administratively viable and costeffective," said Boulle.

Fraser-Moleketi said that the amount of R135 per child was not viable at this point.
"This amount is not sustainable," she said. "We don't want to put the beneficiaries at risk."

Targeting workshops, planned for next month, will determine which children qualified for the Child Support Benefit System.

Fraser-Moleketi acknowledged there was a much larger percentage of poor children, and said deciding that only $30 \%$ of the most poor and vulnerable children in the 0.6 age category would benefit was a difficult choice.

Under the previous system, a family received a maximum of R700, which included R430 for the mother and R135 per child up to a maximum of two children.

The minister said she envisaged a simple and efficient system to prevent fraud.

She said the department would stick to quarterly pay. ments and was in the process of negotiating banking facilities with post offices for women in rural areas.


## Nats slate minister on child poverty grants

## POUICAL CORRESPOMDENT $22 / 7197$

298. 

Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi has gone against her own African National Congress caucus with her ruling on poverty grants for children, says Patrick McKenzie, National Party spokesman.

Ms Fraser-Moleketi at first backed the Lund Committee recommendations that the child welfare grant be set at R75 a month.

The ANC-dominated Welfare Committee proposed this be increased to R135 a month. Last week Ms Fraser-Moleketi announced theflat-rate grant would be R100 a child. She said R135 was not viable.

Mr McKenzie said the minister had ignored the workings of democracy "and instead shown the stubbornness with which she operates".

By Bongme Mlangen

The plight of young girls as victims of sexual abuse in South Africa has worsened, in spite of the commitment the Government and women's organisations made in Beijing to promote and protect the rights of girls.

When the Beijing Declaration was signed in 1995, the country committed itself, among other things, to uplift women from poverty; to fight violence against women and to promote the human rights of women and girls.

Two years later, women's groups agree that not much has been achieved. Police statistics show that child abuse cases involving young girls have increaséd by about $40 \%$ in the past two years. In Soweto alone about 300 cases are reported every month.

Fatima Shaik from the Nisaa Institute of Women's Development says as long as male children are groomed to be in control and aggressive, and female children are encouraged to be subservient, young girls will remain powerless and have a low status in society.

On Saturday, the country will observe National Women's Day, and the low status and frequency of abuse of female children will be the main focus.

There is consensus among women's groups that for the persistent violation of girls' rights to end, the justice system's approach to child abuse as well as society's attitudes and behaviour towards girls will have to change.

They acknowledge that the Government has ratified sev-
eral conventions in an effort to sharpen the laws that protect women and children.

However, these conventions have not improved the lives or protected the rights of hundreds of thousands of women and girls who are victims of abuse.

The conventions include the Beijing Declaration, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The recent case of Mamokgethi Malebane was an example of how the justice system fails abused children. Mamokgethi (7) was murdered by the man she accused of rap-

## Society has

## found many justifications for abuse

ing her. The murder occurred after the accused was released on bail for the rape case.

Although the country is compelled to take appropriate national action to protect children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, $\mathrm{Bu}-$ sisiwe Dhlamini of the National Institute for Public Interest, Law and Research (Nipilar) says Government alone cannot win the war against sexual abuse.
"Society will have to change its attitudes towards girls and women," says Dhlamini, adding that the fight against the violation of women's rights
will have to go deeper and start in the home, because that is where discrimination against women begins.
"It is a fact that a boy's birth is seen as greater cause for celebration than the birth of a girl. Girls are also saddled with house chores and are not always given enough time to do their schoolwork," she says.

Dhlamini adds that cultural practices such as forced and early marriages, as well as lack of education, have put girls in powerless positions

Global, statistics indicate that one in four girls will be sexually abused before the age of 18 and that an increasing number of girls are commercially exploited by their families.

Shaik says society has found many justifications for abuse, even using culture as an excuse. This has made people tolerant of the scourge.

Although society needs to change its mindset, Penny Mlahleki from the Network Against Child Labour says this will only come with extensive education, change of value systems and general respect from the public.
"Women and girls should be taught not to accept being relegated to second place."

Dhlamini points out that the future of abused girls is at stake and the challenge to fight further abuse lies in the hands of today's women.
"If the present generation of women lose their fight against patriarchal attitudes and continued inequality there will be no hope for the women of the future who are today's girls," she says. no work since its induction last year and had instead taken study'trips which produced nothing.

The commission, had not come up with a single youth programme, in spite of its. R 10 m budget and the numerous problems in the provincé-

National Youth Commission communications director Paul'Johnison said he was surpriséd by De Wet's allegation's because he had found ${ }^{\text {th }}$ the province to - be ' hardworking where 'youth matters were concerned.

Eastern Cape chairman Thembi Mácelezi said he would meet'premier Arnold, Stofile' to discuss the accusations. $\square$ National commission chairman Mahlengi Bhengu said yesterday that the body would hold hearings on youth policy to guide government in establishing youth development programines.

She said the comimission'was not meant tûo be an implementing organ. It had a clear mandate to "initiate and develop an overarching policy to govern the range of issues' ..: (facing) the development of SA youth ${ }^{n}$.

# e projects 'on track' 

provinces were given tough final targets to meet. In addition, there was greater clarity on what was required from provinces in terms of their business plans and provincial overseers were becoming more skilled, he said.

The slow start to delivery under the programmes related largely to delays in local elections and the lack of operative local municipal and community structures. "We are, however, confident that we will spend all of our allocated funds by the end of government's financial year," he said.

Of the 1190 business plans submitted, 1066 had been approved by the end of last month and funding recommendations is-
sued. Figures showed that KwaZulu-Natal, the Northern Cape and North West still had to commit a small percentage of their respective $\mathrm{R} 269,9 \mathrm{~m}, \mathrm{R} 97,2 \mathrm{~m}$ and R120,5m allocations.

The three provinces had disbursed R86m, R42,5m and R44,5m respectively of their allocations The other provinces had committed all of their funds

The Eastern Cape had disbursed almost R135m of its $\mathrm{R} 230,9 \mathrm{~m}$ allocation, Free State R47,6m of its $\mathrm{R} 92,7 \mathrm{~m}$ allocation, Gauteng R70,1m of R155,7m, Mpumalanga R45,8m of R89,4m, Northern Province R95m of R200m and Western Cape R70,4m"of R94,8m.


National Youth Commission chairman Mahlengi Bhengu, centre, with policy director Thembinkosi Ngcobo, left, and commission CEO Steve Mokwena at a news conference on policy in Pretoria yesterday.

Investigate youth body, says member 298
Nomavenda Mathiane Bor fis
AMEMBER of the Eastern Cape Youth Commission has asked the public protector's office to investigate the commission's actıvities - or lack thereof.

National Party member Boeije de Wet, who claims to have been appointed to the commission by former Eastern Cape premier Raymond Mhlaba, said it had done no work since its induction last year and had instead taken study trips which produced nothing.

The commission had not come up with a single youth programme, in spite of its R 10 m budget and the numerous problems in the province.

National Youth Commission communications director Paul Johnson said he was surprised by De Wet's allegations because he had found the province to be hardworking where youth matters were concerned.

Eastern Cape charman Thembi Macelezi said he would meet premer Arnold Stofile to discuss the accusations. $\square$ National commission charman Mahlengi Bhengu sald yesterday that the body would hold hearings on youth policy to guide government in establishing youth development programmes.

She said the commission was not meant to be an implementing organ. It had a clear mandate to "initiate and develop an overarching policy to govern the range of issues . (facing) the development of SA youth".

## SA 'taking advantage of Zimbabwean slackness'

## Michael Hartnack $\frac{30}{30} 1918197$

HARARE - SA businessmen were takng over the region while their Zimbabwean counterparts preferred to blame President Robert Mugabe's government for their lack of enterprise, Zimbabwe's commissioner of taxes Gersham Pasi said yesterday.
"What is needed is for the private sector to be more innovative and show more mitiatiye in the production of wealth," Pasi told a seminar.

Pasi attacked a small group of "know-it-all economists" who expected the July 24 budget tabled by Finance Minister Herbert Murerwa to solve all the business sector's problems. The government had provided a good enabling environment and it was up to entrepreneurs to explont it.

Pasi told the seminar, attended by more than 400 accountants, tax advisers and treasury officials, that in vew of Zimbabwe's military assistance to Mozambique during its 17 -
year civil war its businessmen ought to be in a commanding position in the former Portuguese colony.
"But the South Africans are literally taking the country over," he said. Similarly, SA businessmen were movng into Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Tax incentives represented a form of payment from the government which had to be made good by the remaining taxpayers, and incentives had to be phased out, he said.

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 derenad tread to comminsuccie, and nearly one in Peninsula high schools shows that one in 12 chil. Recent research covenng 7340 youngsters from 16
 Yet, with the rationalisation of teachers and an
increase in family stresses, less and less help is being
 Gilered downto they younh The number f feenage sulcdes may be much
. of hope heralded by the new South Africa have not
filtered down to the youth and medical records, indications are that messages establish because some suicide deaths of young




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## Teen suicides tied to depression CT $14 / 81^{197}$ (2988 <br> stream subjects and are allowed

From Page 1
sense of hopelessness and helplessness. Society provides no guarantees or security for their futures.

In addition, at least one in five who attend the centre - a psychiatric unit of UCT's medical school and Groote Schuur Hospital have been sexually abused.
"Increasingly, with both parents "working, children are left alone and unsupervised in the afternoons. This lack of limit-setting leads to behavioural problems."

Although parents aren't to blame, says Berard, they should be made more aware of the situation.

And because teenagers are seldom physically ill, they aren't often seen by doctors. The diagnosis of depression is left in the hands of educators and parents, who, more often than not, ascribe bad behavibur or "acting out" to naughtiness.

Clinical psychologist Mr Gary Read, who heads William Slater's research unit, investigated the trend in Groote Schuur's emergency psy chiatric ward last year, where two or three teenagers were admitted each day after suicide attempts.

Most of these were young women, who in $90 \%$ of cases, took an overdose of pain-killers or tranquillisers - often the property of one of their parents.

That girls are more at risk, reports another study, could be because they are more reflective and less likely than boys to direct aggression outward

While most young women tảke an overdose of some sort, young men usually choose a more violent means to end their lives - like cut-
ting their wrists, hanging or trying to shoot themselves, says Read. "Weath-wsit behaviour by some youngsters further clouds the issue, says Schlebusch." "The way they live - behaving recklessly, exposing themsèlves to Aids', getting into gunfights and literally playing Russian roulette with their lives - might show they don't give a damn," says Schlebusch.

Read found that $68 \%$ of those who attempted suicide suffered from some form of depression.
"Most kids who are depressed entertain suicidal thoughts. They may not attempt suicide but think about death."

Suicide attempts were normally unplanned, impulsive and precipitated by circumstance - usually an argument with a parent.

Common behaviour before a suicide attempt includes loss of concentration, a drop in school performance, social withdrawal and occasional disruptiveness.
"They may be rude to figures in authority," says Read
"And, looking no further than the symptom, schools often react by placing them in detention. This exacerbates the situation. The community doesn't understand depres sion when it comes to teenagers. We need to empower and educate teachers and parents."

While schools play an undisputed role in preventing teenage suicides, teacher-counsellors are falling prey to the education department's rationalisation process.

Many schools have no counsellors at all and in others counsellors are expected to teach main-
only a few periods of guidance.

The Western Cape Education Department says it's unaware of the alarming trend.

It is in the process of promoting teacher support teams at all schools which will "provide first-level intervention and support" to pupils with problems, in addition to services provided at 17 school clinics throughout the province.

Preventing teenage suicidal behaviour is vital, says Schlebusch.

Suicidal behaviour "leads to a spate of hospital admissions and expensive procedures, resulting in much psychological anguish and high health-care costs.
"This does not take into account costs incurred in post-hospital treatment and the treatment of devastated loved ones. Apart from the enormous cost in human suffering, health-care planners cannot continue to ignore the financial implications."

The William Slater Cenfre for Adolescents and Young Adults in Rondebosch is the only local daycare facility of its kind dedicated to the welfare of teenagers with emotional and behavioural problems

Treating teenagers with suicidal tendencies forms only part of its service to the community.

The centre runs a $10-12$ week programme for people between the ages of 14 and 22 who are suffering from depression, suicidal tendencies, eating disorders, sexual abuse, difficulty with interpersonal relationships or adjusting after stressful events, anxiety and the refusal to attend school.

## -

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## R4,3m stolen from  <br> POLITICAL STAFF <br> tenced to a fine of R600 or 12

SHOCKING figures from the Department of Health have revealed that at least R4,3 million was stolen from feeding schemes in South Africa's nine provinces.

According to figures released by Health Minister Dr Nkosazana Zuma in Parliament yesterday, the Eastern Cape accounted for a lion's share of the misappropriation.

Inthat province, more than R2,3m had gone missing as a result of theft, corruption, fraud or mismanagement.

In a reply to a question by Democratic Party leader Mr Tony Leon, Zuma was unable to explain the circumstances under which the money had disappeared and whether charges had been laid against the culprits.

She said more than R796,8m had been spent on school feeding schemes nationally.

In the Northern Province, police have been investigating the theft of at least R1,6m after a member of the school feeding project committee used the money to buy food for "personal use".

In Mpumalanga, at least R30 000 was lost when members of a project committee stole cheque books and used them fraudulently.

In one case, a school principal who paid R8 000 to a supplier without proof was convicted and sen-
months in jail.

In KwaZulu-Natal, at least R350 000 had been lost.

The Western Cape had the lowest number of cases misappropriations - three, involving R23 000 - and the North West was not mentioned in the report.

Leon said the DP calculated that the $\mathrm{R} 4,3 \mathrm{~m}$ that had been stolen could have provided meals to at least eight million school children. He called on Zuma to announce what steps, if any, she had made to ensure cost-effective and honest delivery of school meals.
"The (minister's) answer illustrates how the scheme was misconceived and mismanaged from the start. In the Eastern Cape, the entire scheme was suspended, then reinstated in 1996 after a R35m grant from the Department of Health; yet no less than half the misappropriation happened in that province.
"In the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal, where corruption and chaos were widespread, non-governmental organisations have been largely excluded from the scheme.
"By contrast, in the Western Cape, where a few misappropriations occurred, and North West which appears to be in the clear, NGOs have been at the forefront of the school's delivery system."


## Child Welfare drafting new ${ }^{(2298)}$ anti-abuse plan

## By Charity Bhengu

SPURRED by growing concern at the high rate of child sexual abuse in South Africa, Johannesburg Child Welfare Society consultant Dr Jackie Loffell is drafting a child protection plan that will for the first time make provision for specialised services that are properly staffed and financed.

Social worker Loffell said the welfare society needed to deal with victums in a anorespecialised way because child rape had become a compléed. IsSuent "hear $\dot{\text { s }}$-ago, setting up a pilot propect bthatcompared the progress of gabused tritildren assisted by the new, speto chalsed service with those whose cases \%were handled in the traditional way.
Funded by the Iris Ellen. Hodges
Fund ${ }^{1}$ and finished in July: 1996,
Loffel s work indicates that the new
seco sialisatıon strategy cañ reduce "séc-
ondary abusce the trauma fo which

- Achild yictims are subjected while pass-
ing through the bands of the police and courts.
s The study was based on a battery of - testsoyer a period of two years on 40 sexually"-abused girls aged six to 12
years. Several patterns emerged, one of ${ }^{\prime}$, which was that lack of proper supervi-
$\therefore$ sion during the day-seemed to be â common factor in most casf


Dr' Jackie Loffell PIC: JOE MOLEFE
assert themselves against the men who were abusing their children.

Loffell said: "Most of the mothers would face serious difficulties for their childreñ as well as themselves if they took action against or left the perpetrator. This is because offenders tend to be providers ${ }^{\text {a }}$ of famly income and accommodation in a socio-economic environment which offers very few options for the women concerned and thèir children."

- A disturbing feature of the study was the lack of any coherent law enforcement approchoAlthough most offenders had been teported to the police, fewer than half had been prosecuted, and only nine convicted. Of the most received fines or suspendTeds'sentences, and only three were
 firmionclusions from the test scorés due to a number of factors, including the unstable state of the child protec-
tion systemband the fact that Child Welfare was involved in major - destriucturing at the time Loffell


The study showed an urgent.need for improved co-ordination of the dif-
$\Rightarrow$ ferent components of the child protec-
 tare and for arpopery coordinated no mechanism whatever existed for
Sistategy tọ deal with offenders" "t dealing with the vast majority of
The work also highlighted the diffiz
$\because$ culties faced by poverty stricken fami
$\therefore$ lies whose crrcumstances seemed to
predispose children to ábuse, while a
the same time obstructung efforts to

* protect them
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atrevealed aneed to strengthenthe ", position of mothers to enable them to with."

offenders - those who were neyer "azrested, or never prosecuted
ared said the yast majority of offenders" "simply-fell through the soffenders "simply-fell through the
cracks in both the criminal justice and the welfare systems: and that those and the last cases, there was no proper system for monitoring trèatment "or dealing* with defaulters. Finatly, two abasers werc imprisoned, but there was likewise no reason to believe that their psycho-sexual problems would be dealt with, given the lack of appropriate programmes in most prisons 'dealing with the vast majority' of o did not, were ineffectively dealt ith


# Stopping the rot in feeding schemes 

$m+G 29 / 8-4 / 9 / 97$

(298)<br>\section*{A black empowerment company has devised a scheme to save millions lost to fraud, writes Charlene Smith}

(overnment and some provinces are investı gating whether "food gating whether "food based system, could save millions lost to traud and corruption in school feeding schemes
Figures released by the Depart ment of Health this week showed that at least R4,3-million - enough to feed eight million chtliren - has en form feeding scheme been stolen fom in the past year acrear Almost double that mount was lost he previous year
And more bad news is expected after an investigation into school feeding schemes by the Public Ac counts Committee, due out soon.
The Department of Health is ur gently looking at ways to stop the rot Feeding schemes were one of the frrst profects inttiated by President Neison Mandela after his inauguration, but mismanagement and cor. ruption have seen the goals of erad icating malnutrition and developing community empowerment defeated in some areas, particularly in the Eastern Cape, Northern Province and parts of KwaZulu-Natal.
Now, a "food cheque" scheme has been mooted by a black empower ment company, Intando Yesizwe, which would see vouchers or "food cheques" issued to schools on a monthly basis by its management company, which would pay suppliers In addition, Intando Yesizwe would also help estabIish community structures to monitor the ef fictent use of school montes, promote local economic development and alert the authorl ties to any suspected scams

Dr Abe Nkomo, head of the parllamentary select committee on health, said there was a "dire need for upgraded man agement systems" in relation to the delivery of the nutrition programme and "anything that approximates a foolproof solution would be welome".
He said the Intando Yesizwe emphasis on community involvement was critical "because dependency can be avolded and the success of these projects ensured only through community involvement Where communitles have taken ownership remarkable strides have been made.
"At Ndunakazi, in the Valley of a Thousand Hills, the nutrition programme has taken on other partners in the form of the Medical Research Council and a bakery, and there has been a marked improvement in the nutrition of schoolgoing children and in the broader community "
Dr David McCoy of the child health unit at the University of Cape

Town, who has been seconded to the Health Systems Trust, said a vouch er system, if done properly, could re duce the scope and potential for cor ruption, "but if the primary school nutrition programme is going to transform itself from a limited school feeding scheme into a more comprehensive nutrition programme, the voucher system may need further thinking'

Many small traders complain that they are being put out of business by selling to schools that delay payment or don't pay at all However, a Department of Health offl cial said schools were given the money upfront and there was no reason why they should not pay timeously

Providing cheques on a monthly hasis would also allow for better bur geting At present feeding projects receive cheques to cover three months of food, and often spend all the money long before the time period is up
Department of Health research shows that in Northern Province, as an example, poltce are investigating the theft of R1,6-million after a mem ber of a school feeding project com mittee used the money to "buy food for personal use" In another case a committee member used government cheques to spend R83 000

In Mpumalanga, school feeding project members stole cheque books and awarded themselves R30000 A school principal paid a suppliter R8000 in another instance with no proof of any food having being deivered. So far more than $\mathrm{R} 796,8 \mathrm{mmI}$ ion bas been set astde for feeding schemes in the three years of their operation, and each year massive fraud has been uncovered.

Part of the reason for the stag gering losses, aside from poor con -__ trols and a high level of

The 'food cheque' scheme would remove cash and government cheques from the system. it would also establish a data base for each province illiteracy and innumeracy in rural areas which gives those who can read and write the capacity to pull the wool over the eyes of ellow committee members, is a staggering lack of information in all provinces about how many schools they have and how many children attend each school
In 1995, feeding scheme officials were able to defraud R5-million by creating "ghost" schools

Dast Moodley, an economist and former trade unionist in the food sec tor and a consultant to Intando Ye sizwe, said the 'food cheque 'scheme would remove cash and governmen cheques from the system It would also establish a data base for each province that would collate and provide information on the numbers of schools and accurate enrolment fig ures. "If questions were raised about a certain school we would be able to provide information that would pro vide an automatic audit trall of wha was spent and where, and also whether expenditure tied up with enrolment flgures."
Intando Yesizwe would have to take responsibility for any fraud or corruption, but the cheques had
such tight security measures con tained in their printing and distrib ution that they were confident fraud could be kept to a mmumum He say that once approval is received, a six month pilot project could be up and running in a province within two months

The system can also be pro grammed to ensure that only certai foods recommended by Departmen of Health nutritionists can be pur chased, which would free health of ficials from the management of what has become a huge and cumbersome project fraught with difficulties

The involvement of community monitors, who would recelv stipends, would ensure greater com munity management and economic Investments in the programme whether using the now unemploye vendors wha used to sell frod to chit dren as patd cooks in schools or the creation of cooks in schools, or the jects to supply schools Professor Ronnie Green Thomp son, superintendent general in the secretariat of health in KwaZulu-Na tal, said any method to speed up the system would be welcome
"There are multifaceted problems that vary from area to area, most of which range from a lack of capacity to communtcation problems and dir ficulties at delivery level We took


Hungry mouths: Millions have been lost in foeding schome fraud. PHOTOORAPH: QUY ADALSS
over an imperfect feeding scheme from the national department in 1996 and are still trying to hone it.

However, while forensic audts have been introduced at a cost of some R5-million nationally to pick up fraud and maladministration, not enough has been done to eliminate the potential for abuse

Green Thompson says that the good done by the feeding projects still outweighs the bad

But while starvation is beline avotded there is sttll a need ion greater entrepreneurship in the administration of the scheme Com: munities must be empowered to watchdogs"

## Thax freedom:

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 (a) and (b) Not applicable necessary scientific evidence for culling has been
gathered.






 The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
(1) Yes.

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 Transnet Limited furnished the following reply tothe hon member's questoon: SaSIydygina oitand so talsinin əul


 (1) Whether the Blue Train has been
refurbished; if so, at what cost;
(2) whether she is considering the privatisa-
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 the State Law Advisers.
 (1) The initral draft was prepared by the Depart:INGWdOTEAEG TVNOILOLILSNOJ GNV
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## developing of life skills



 following issues are addressed:




 ment programmes Programmes are being
implemented by provincial Departments of


 the relevant details;



 Welfare and Population Development: *47. Mr C M GEORGE asked the Minister for











(3) There was a request by the City of Cape Town 즈N

 The children also attend school, if
possible They are assessed by a social
worker to delermine whether experinences hehavioural problems.
counselling is avalable

 for a period of two years During this




 structures and street children are
encouraged not to earn money on the

 the decision making processs regarding

 minmum routine and discipline and chlidren are taught to acjust to a group work and job creation projects. social work intervention by way of


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<br>(3) whether he will make a statement on the :sansezau дечм

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 Public Service and Admustration

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 in the Lomé Convention. In the meantume, an

 Industry, Water Affarts and Agriculture They tees responsible for Foreign Affarrs, Trade and
 matter? N2094E
The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY:
 relevant detais;
 (1) Whether Pariament is to ratify South
Africa's accession to the Lomé Conven-






















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 (1) NGOs have a direct relationshp with donors The EXECUTIVE DEPUTY PRESIDENT
 health care recevve priorty when such
 detals,
 to tender publicly for funds received from governmental organsations are required

 NGOS: tenders for funds from foreign donors No members or staff of the Commission have cred-
it cards paid for by the state

合 (2) whether there is a limit on expendture in
 (1) Whether any members and/or staff members
of the National Youth Commission have credit *5. Mr A I LEEN asked the Executive Deputy
President: [Written Question No 577 ]
 plied arms and equipment. EUC's pertaning to the South African sup organisation and that they have strictly
adhered at all tmes to the stipulations of the 20
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 The MINISTER FOR WELFARE AND POPU
LATION DEVELOPMENT:

 (2) whether she will reconsider these prowhat are the relevant details: age limits which are to be imposed, if so, terms and over-restrictive in respect of the Kıetauou ul ıuasulus x suyəuaq ıroddns pi!ч pasodord әч! эеч

(1) Whether she or her Department has Welfare and Population Development:

 certanly a prority focus
Minsters.
 (3) Not all donors work in the health sector, but South Africa.


 donors, or watt for donors to tender and there(2) In order to access donor funds, the NGOs
or not. Any reasons that such a letter might the decision whether to accept that resignation
 (1) When a Mimster is presented with a letter of

 purpose of his reply furnished to his Department for the
 (1) What were the reasons for the resignation Finance: $\dagger$ G ALANT asked the Minister of




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 of January 1998.
(2) No, Cabinet of 20 August 1997 agreed to introәәทีุயшัว
 30 May 1997 respectively. The Department has


 hearings were called for by the Portfolio Com-

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 ＊14．Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the M1

 the records of all beneficiaries will be will be removed from the system and clean-up process, the process during
which duplicates and invalid records to all provinces as a first step in the process will entall an extensive data
clean-up process. Reports are provided


 before the final amalgamation. Where рәృesourau pue poisal sem plea document The Department of Home
Affars will assist in this regard.
 tity numbers are detected, All benefi-
ctaries will be reregistered and encourin cases where there is no identity num-
ber, or where duplicate or invald iden-
tity numbers are detected All benefiThe system generates identity numbers
in cases where there is no Identity num-

 Chapter E of the Public Service Staff Code on
transverse systems, with effect from 1 February
 The national Department of Welfare was
appointed principal of the system by the Office

 рәјешея Incidentally all the provnces decided to use the





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criucal data, such as identity numbers,





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investigation by the relevant provincial



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3) paragraph 3;




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| Welfare and Population Development |
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provinctal level ond su！pling kivedes juәsin ue pey．L aq dnoss su！nonuou unapul ue 1 eq．$L$
 Klojeudordde aq siajy）uoụeqoid＇pa






 These recommendations include

 mittee on Young People at Risk（IMC）was recommendations－
（a）In April 1996，the Inter－Ministerial Com－ the Minstry and the IMC is still in a process of
working towards the implementation of Cabinet

 to accommodate 60 children and the Walter
Sisulu Child Care Centre in Gauteng has a capa－ Cape Province，Enkuselweni has been upgraded
to accommodate 60 children and the Walter （3）yes，there was a slight increase in the number of －
 mation furmished；




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 Democratic Republic of Congo with regard to the
















 bility, domestic stnie and breakdown under the
regime of former President Mobutu, whether we





 Prof B TUROK: Madam Speaker, further arising

 The EXECUTIVE DEPUTY PRESIDENT: involvement was not that successful? [Interjections] Deputy President therefore admit that South Africa's



 Dr B L GELDENHIUYS Madam Speaker. further
 реч ulı̄̊

 ing about the Democratic Republic of Congo and The EXECUTIVE DEPUTY PRESIDENT





 May I, in this regard. draw the hon the Deputy
President's attention to reports emanating from







 Mr A J LEON: Madam Speaker, if I could address
a follow-up question to the Deputy President, the question to this question. your question That will be the last supplementary the statement which I cted.


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 deserves.

 also beng attended to by the relevant bodies. includ-
ing the Unted Natoons, the Unted Natoons High

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Kpuanina are suosiad Kuew $\mathrm{MOH}_{\mathrm{H}}$ (e) (1)

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 alny fo sumal un Kldas pao nof pasafsuda suonsanठ in terms of international relations [Applause.]


 people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
have every possibility of bringing about democracy on their part, and I am absolutely certan that the of the South African government. It is an obligation own human rights, is not an obligation on the part torship, to establish a democracy, to ensure their moves the people of the Congo to remove a dictaDemocratic Republic of Congo was a struggle for ously wrong. The struggle for change in the sending a gunboat to enforce guarantees, is obvieign country giving guarantees to South Africa, and
that South Africa would then have the possibility of eign country giving guarantees to South Africa, and and this, that and the other. These matters are being I believe that all of those various questions are
being addressed - preparations for elections




(Reply partly latd upon table).
(1) The National Youth C chief director, directors, assıstant directors,
state accountant, admınistration and secretarıal The names, positions and benefits of the per-
sonnel is as follows. Chief Executive Officer: Steve Mokwena Rank: Chief Director Job description
to exercise and perform all the functions con-
ferred or imposed upon the CEO by the
National Youth Commission Act and Public
 to undertake research for the Youth Commis


 person of the Commission.

 Directors: Mr Paul Johnson and Mr Thembinkosı


 si uosssumuo
 Poynton Building in 124 Church Street Pretoria.
These premses have been made available by the


 Salary• basıc Salary R27882
Benefits• housing allowance,








 sary time on the telephone,
receive visitors on behalf of the incumbents;




 of the Commission or cause such services and
functions to be performed; and


 exercise or perform any function assigned to
them in terms of the regulations;



The director/s shall (in respect of the pohcy, :suolıduэsəp qo

 [Interjections.] No, I think I will answer the ques-

 II more questons. which 1 have answered, and in should have asked for He has asked a question. and
I have answered the queston. He has asked two Leon. If that is what he wanted. then that is what he
should have asked for He has asked a question, and The DEPUTY MINISTER With respect to Mr of the Government's functionung?


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 Deputy Minster's answer, and in his capactity as the
Deputy Minster in charge of youth matters in the





 jections.] What? Of the expenditure? [Inter-
 the National Youth Commission for the period



 for the period specified


 Mr A J LEON Madam Speaker. maybe I missed
the answer, but the Deputy Minster does not seem
the permission of this House to do so? answer to a question on the Table, or must they get Minister to decide by hrmself or herself to lay the further point of order: May I then draw the concluDr W A ODENDAAL: Madam Speaker, on a

 uи pue 'uои!
 The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, on the [Interjections]



 with him. way, and then I might have an opportunity to agree
 tooning? [Interjections.]



















 discussion any further


 [Interjections.]


















 [suouparàuI]

 If the House is volently opposed to a Minster
dong anything. the House will take the matter pu.
In this case, the House is satisfied that it was in





 He also possesses valuable experience and
information with regard to regulations of sod






 rently registered for an Honours degree in
Business Economics Commerce decree with Unisa．He is cur－

 Mr Jacobs＇work history began in 1985 as sqosera ${ }^{1} \mathrm{~N}$ impressive and did not have a lasting
impression． experience．His candidature was not this stage has very limited managerial Moodley has very limited knowledge of of youth and sports．Unfortunately Mr
Moodley has very limited knowledge of
 Mr Moodley obtained a social work
honours degree．He is presently employed Mr VS Moodily
to managing staff and large budgets which
is central for this position．
 politics．He also presented a clear vision
on the task of the Commission．At this

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 experience，Mr Jena was found to be a
good candidate for the position．
Mr AH Butler




 policy development．He has a clear vision
and is well spoken．He has a history rich in Mr Jena is very knowledgeable on youth范 for budgeting，preparing information and
communication strategies for the organise－






 Mr N Jena that would adequately equip him for the
post． also does not have managerial experience
that would adequately equip him for the




 Union．His career has focused on union
organising． was elected as branch organiser of the
Union．His career has focused on union
 at the Department of Post and Telecoms－
muncations in 1981．While at the depart－
















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 beer of successful projects． －wnw e u ip paldgipred pure patyury se y pure
 has specialised in policy and research at
both academic and implementation levels．







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 Director for the Joint Enrichment Project.
Responsible for the overall management of se posolduә sem aq 966 I of $\ddagger 66 \mathrm{I}$ шол



 Mr Mokoena obtanned a masters degree in
 Mr S Mokoena terms of the level and content of this
particular post
 youth development and management of
staff Ms Horn is at this stage not ready in
 the field of sports and recreation. Howu! proved эuapere Sulpueisino ut seq ә us










 Ms J C Horn began her career in 1981 at
the Department of National Education as Ms J C Horn munications person and would be best
placed in such a position He came across strongly as a com-

 Mr A J LEON: Madam Speaker, would the deputy
Minister perhaps care to answer part (3) of
Question 2? (c) Mr Mokoena was appointed at R191 712 incumbent must also possess experience in
managing staff, budgets and projects. policy development in South Africa The yinoर jo aspopmouy punojoid e ane

 The requirements for this position dictate

The following, man criteria were used to
determine the successful candidate:
(a) MrS Mokoena
and experience meet the high standards
 asm for youth development Mr Mokaena
is the most suitable candidate for the post possesses a noticeable passion and enthusiNation and supervision of personnel. He -!fou ul poos $2 q$ oi prieadde ruzoyow 1 W having managed large budgets in the
region of $\pm \mathrm{R} 13$ million. managerial skills overall are impressive,
having managed large budgets in the programmes. His financial and staff and implemented a number of youth projects He also has effectively designed ly. In his work experience, he has attracted
and fundraised large amounts for youth highest levels, nationally and internationalHe is a good communicator. He has
managed to profile youth issues at the vision of a national policy plan. He has astute policy making skills which He has astute policy making skills which
 Youth Commissions. Mr Mokoena made a


The Chairperson of the youth commission
tised according to the National Youth Com-
mission Act, No 19 of 1996 .
 The EXECUTIVE DEPUTY PRESIDENT:
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President' [Written Question No 225]
(1) Whether
 National Youth Commission: post of chairperson






 The DEPUTY SPEAKER • It is in order



 rational qualification

(z)
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 Che person appointed to the post of 1) Whether South Africa has supplied any Кәчі әлам иочм on (iI) рие иәчм (i)(q) imposed on the end-users of have arms, if
so, what conditions.
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Chairperson is Ms Hlengiwe Bhengu.
(b) The sal _______ zsoz

［Written Question No 979］［Removed ］ ＊29．Mr I J PRETORIUS－Home Affairs NB 1996 figures are unaudited and thus not final
figures． （b）Reserve as at 21－08－97
喵榙 $\$ 661$ EとてIとて く82 IZ0 て
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 improvement in these service elements

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[^11]＊32．Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of
Finance•［Written Question No 982］
 Mimster Manuel
（a）No （bbb）any other specified city？
The MINISTER OF FINANCE：

 grounds of ill－health and（ii）on how many of
 киеш моч ио（ qq ）рие јиәшеп！ （i）（aa）on how many sitting days was he or she were present at Parlament on each sitting day



the amendment of Section 29 of the
Correctional Services Act, no chld will be held the provincial welfare departments. Following
the amendment of Section 29 of the
 R33 000000 for the upgrading of secure care
faciltues withn each province to accommodate has made provision and negotated for
R33 000000 for the upgrading of seacure care
 The Inter-Minusterial Committee on Young
People at Risk (IMC) charred by the Minister by the department concerned, i.e. Department
of Correctional Services. pertaining on this issue can be best dealt with
by the department concermed, i.e. Department

 prisoners Those young people who ared
awatung tral on schedule 2 (serous offences).





 launched at the Gauteng Department of
Welfare and Population Development's multi

 location of particular residential faciitites,
according to therr spectif needs The Walter

 (a) No. it is understood that this mine, situated in
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 police investigations Measures to stop the loss


 prosecutors are required and being sought

 organising the prosecution system to fit in the
new cluster system In addition and as part of developed, Attorneys-General are re-
organising the prosecution system to fit in the that a new court management system is being
developed, Attorneys-General are reimplementation in all cases. In the same way of resources and human power hamper

 organised transnational (syndicate) crime and example in commercial (white collar) crime,

 unfortunately the prosecutors cannot do the
work of the police My vew is that in the corrent stuation there
should be closer co-operation. though
 Neither Attorneys-General nor prosecutors
need my permission to become involved in
montoring investigations. this regard, if not, why not; if so, what
incentives?
N1846E 3) whether doctors who undergo such extra process, if not, why not; if so, what are the
relevant detalls; undertaken so as to determine whether
this requirement will not accelerate this (2) whether an investigation has been

 proposed requirement that doctors (1) Whether her Department ls-currently
experiencing a brain-drain owing to the
*8. Rev K R MESHOE asked the Minister o
Health:


Z Z Z Z Z Z (4) whether negotiations with hospitals in
respect of the allocation of such students
have taken place; if not, what is the
position in this regard; if so, what were the
results of these negotations,
(5) whether such students will be receiving
any guidance or be supervised during the
additional years of postgraduate
vocational traming; if not, why not; if so,
from or by whom?
N1841E facilities. if not, why not; if so, what is this
plan. devised a plan to ensure that students are
sent to hospitals that have adequate
facilities, if not, why not; if so, what is this (3) whether she or her Department has


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 developing a National Nutrition Surveillance
（3）Yes，the Department of Health is currently （2）Falls away

Keme lieg（III）pue（il $^{(1)}$（I）（q） （1）（a）Unknown．

The MINISTER OF HEALTH

 （3）whether she or her Department intends









 （3）Doctors working in many rural hospptals （2）Not applicable


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 The MINISTER OF HEALTH








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 prosecutors are required and being sought әлои корdua ol saวnosà suipnput

 organsing the prosecution system to fit in the developed．Attorneys－General are re－ implementation in all cases．In the same way
that a new court management system is being radury ranod uremy pue sasinosa．jo
 special investigations Active monitoring，
 example in commercial（white collar）crime，

 unfortunately the prosecutors cannot do the
work of the police
 My view is that in the current situation there need my permission to become involved in
montoring investigations Nether Attorneys－General nor prosecutors

## Children's Fund

 distributes R12-m
## By Charity Bhengu

THE Nelson Mandela Children's Fund has distributed over R12 million for hundreds of projects to alleviate the plight of South Africa's poor children.

Chief executive trustee Mr Jeremy Ratcliffe said this was as a result of the support of individuals and companies who made donations and organised fundraising campaigns throughout the country.

In its short existence the fund had achieved remarkable results in the funding of children's projects, Ratcliffe said.

Mandela has donated one third of his salary to the fund since it was founded on
$11 / 9 / 97$

## one 201995

A total of R5 480000 was donated to homeless, abandoned and abused children; R3 330000 was given to education projects and disabled children got R2 912000.

The rest of the money was given to young offenders, places of safety and disaster relief.

If attempts by SA Sweet Factory to raise more money prove fruitful, the fund will be about R3 million richer.

The factory has launched a national campaign to raise R2 500000 for the fund through a competition. For inquiries phone Mark Barenblatt at (021) 439-3539 or 0824569058 .








 talk about how the crime has affected them
and how compensation can be made.

 The process also verifies the offender's







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## Interdepartmental structure set up to service needs of youth <br> Bonile Ngqiyaza BD 2b/a/a $\frac{1}{7}$

AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL :government structure, which would draw together the efforts of various government departments and help assess and service youth needs and issues, was announced by the national youth commission yesterday.

An inaugural meeting of the structure was convened early yesterday and commission spokesmen said afterwards a basis had been laid for quality work in youth development.

Nine representatives from nine government departments - which include health, labour, education and environment, and the deputy president's of-fice-make up the committee.

Commission chairman Mahlengi Bhengu said the initiative was in line with the legislated task of the commission to promote a uniform approach by all state organs to matters relating to the youth.

Bhengu said the committee had been specifically established to draw all existing and planned government services, programmes, research and other initiatives affecting the youth in a range of ministries and departments into a comprehensive, co-ordinated national framework.
$219 / 97$


> Ugly secrets of empty playground

> LAURICE TAITZ
> 608

'IAM a 15 -year-old pupil at George Hofmeyr School, Standerton I was placed at the school in February 1996 after the children's court decided that I had a par ent who was unfit to have custody of me I am a Grade 9A (Std 7) pupll and have been placed first in my class for most of the time I have been at the school. I hold school academic colours with a golden academic badge.
It is an industrial high school with about 160 gurls. There are four residential hostels, one of which Louwenburg, is the therapy hostel, known as the strafkoshuis (punishment hostel).
Pupils are grouped according to their complance with school rules and scholastic performance. At night, Louwenburg pupils in the C, S or SS groups are locked in their rooms and required to use a bedpan The school encourages pupils to inform on each other. A pupil who does so is rewarded.
The school applies two methods of punishment based on isolation room arrest and locking up. Under room arrest a child is confined to her room and may not leave except to attend school or confirmation classes. She showers under the supervision of the staff member on duty
Detention in the lockup is the most serious form of discipline, short of transfer to a reform school. The lockup is a small cell in each hostel, $2,5 \mathrm{~m}$ by $4,3 \mathrm{~m}$, with a high ceiling, a single door with an inspection window and a single grated window. A low internal wall partitions off an open toilet. It has two steel beds bolted to the floor, each with a foam mattress and blankets but no sheets or pillows.
Children held in the lockup are not allowed to have any property with them, not even their schoolbooks, and they do not attend classes. They are not allowed to wear therr own clothes and are provided with a school nightie They may not wear underclothes, or have hairpins or rings.
The child has no contact with her peers unless another child happens to be held in the lockup at the same time. She has no contact with her teachers She is not taken out for exercise. The child is not told beforehand how long she is to be confined. She is held in the lockup until Mr Bester (the headmaster) decides that she has learnt her lesson. Usually it is for less than six days. But I understand that children have been held for between two and three weeks in previous years, and last year a girl was held for four days and then, on the next day, again locked up for a further 15 days.
The first time I was held in the lockup was on 26 April 1996. I was locked up for Satanism because I was playing a game called "matchman" that a neighbour at

Katrina X, whose re disclosed, is a 15-yeal taking her school an court because she $h$ 'lockup' at a hostel a an edited version of th lawyer in :
such hallucinations
A pupil tried to commit was pregnant. She tore a st tied around her neck. She 1 taken to hospita

One day during the mid-s duty told us that we must hostel We did not hear he into the office and shouter may not watch television, and write out 100 times. "1 speaks to us."
I was angry with the teac out I sard to one of the girls a car accident "The girl rep called to Mr Bester's office had been unfar. He said anything and that I was to

This time, I was held w absconded from the schoc supposed to do so, we ta other. I cried, we sang, read played games, screamed an I was depressed I talked to dwarf I was scared at nigh blotches that looked like a was held for five days.
The third time I was locl away on an outing and went life at the school was unbear and never did anything righ
I was taken back to the $\mathbf{s}$

## 219197

# finement misses her mother 

ne cannot be choolgirl who is government to $n$ detained in a ihment. This is she told to her levit
in the lockup She ir nightie which she d unconscious and

Jays the teacher on d clean around the e TV. She called us sine told us that we $t$ sit in the passage listen when juffrou
as we were walking iuffrou would die in hat I had said. I was um that the teacher ad no right to say n the lockup.
ther girl. She had ugh we were not whispers to each e to each other and ur fists on the wall and again saw the jain saw the black mucked my thumb 1
was because I ran I ran away because was never left alone

Mr Bester asked me
why I ran away. I told him that I missed my mother and wanted to be at home. He sard this was not a good enough reason and at 1.30 am I was placed in the lockup.
I was sick, with nausea and vomiting, and was given pills by the matron.
After five days Mr Beater came to the lockup and asked what we had learnt. I told him I had learnt not to run away. I was released.
There were five of us in the lockup on this occasion, because there was not enough space for the children in the other lockups. We shared the two beds and slept together as best we could. We read the Bible, played games and sang. I sucked my thumb. I did not cry this time.
After my release, I was placed under room arrest for 15 days.
Four days after being released I was again placed under room arrest, this time for "lesbianism". I had received an affectionate letter from a friend and wrote back to her It was written in friendship and was not a love letter.
One of the psychologists at the school was given my letter by my friend during counselling. He reported it to Mr Bester who announced to the whole school that I had written a lesbian letter and would be going back to room arrest for "a long time".
I was released on the day my lawyer consulted with me. I had been under room arrest for six days. It is humiliating to be locked up. The other girls avoid you, mock you and treat you like rubbish. The prefects shout at you more. I felt alone and unwanted.

I do not believe that punishment in the lockup has helped me. It has made me hard and I now have no feelings. I don't care what happens to me. The school can even have me moved to (the reform school in) Constantia (in the Western Cape) I don't want to be in this school, I did nothing wrong to deserve it and this place is making me insane.

Detention in the lockup is particularly damaging to some of the other girls, especially if they are held alone.


## ST 219197

GEORGE Hofmeyr High School, which is home to 180 girls, does not feel like a place where teenagers live. It is far too quiet and the perfectly manicured lawns and flower beds make its grounds look unlived in.
But the school's emphasis on order and discipline hides an ugly secret. Its four residential hostels, Bennett, Claasen, Louwenburg and Simmons, each contain a "lockup" - a $2,4 \mathrm{~m}$ by 4,3m cell with a high celling, a door with an inspectıon window, a sungle grated window and a toilet that is partitioned off by a low wall.
Inside the cells are two steel beds, bolted to the floor.

It was in one of these cells that Katrina X was held as a punishment for "Satanısm". She was also placéd under "room arrest" a"number of timès confined to ${ }^{+}$her hostel room and made to shower under staff supervision after being accused of "lesbianism".
She is now taking the school and the government to court to try and put an end to these disciplinary practices.

The school's principal, Pieter' Wilhelm Bester, said the disciplinary system was in place at industrial, schools, reforms schools and places of safetycountrywide:
"The previous educa-" tion system made provision for isolation facilities and for detaning pupis.:

He said' pupils 'at the school' had "behavioural disorders" and had been placed, there under the" Child Care Act. Many of them were there because of a ${ }^{\text {K }}$ lack "of , , adequate parental care.
Bester refused the:Sunday Times'access to the school's hostels and"contact with pupils.
Situated on the woutskirts 't the quiet tural backwater of Standeriton, in Mpimalanga, the schooplis surrounded by a high fence. Its flat and emptýllooking groụnds bare all - there are no placessto hide, no concealedicorners
In the austere facebrick hostêls and school buildings, burglar bars are fitted, to every window, and all outside doors are fitted with security gates. They ivere all.closed, despite, the spring warmth.
The windows looking out of the hostel rooms are covered -with netting and thick lace curtains, making it difficult to see in and, probably, out.
There is a stern and forbidding atmosphere, and staff members. - teachers, cooks and gardeners - greet strangers with suspícion.
Thêin'stitution is one of four industrial schools in Mpumalanga.

words "yes", "no" and "maybe" written on them which are wrapped up in squares of toilet paper.

Mr Bester said the game was satanic. I was held in the lockup for 20 hours While in the lockup I cried a lot and sang to myself. I was moedeloos (dejected). I wanted my mother. I talked to myself and saw visions of a dwarf. I was scared, especially when they put the light out. I saw black blotches at night that looked like a man who was coming to my bed. I had not previously had


FORBIDDING: The girls at George Hofmeyr High School are locked up in tiny isolation cells if they misbehave

Picture: ELIZABETH SEJAKE


## ST 2119197

THOUSANDS of children at governmentfunded care facilities risk being "disctplined" through detention in special isolation cells where they are held in solitary confinement around the clock.
This form of "discipline", under conditions similar to the detention provisions of the apartheid security laws, is thriving at schools of industry, places of safety and reform schools.
Some of the children at these schools are awaiting trial or have been sentenced. But others were removed from their parents because the courts have decided that the care offered them at home was inadequate.
The system to which they are moved, however, can sometimes be worse than that from which they came. Through no fault of their own, these children find themselves forced into a tightly regimented institution, where what appear to be comparatively trifling infringements of discipline are dealt with by punishment that systematically violates their rights under the Constitution.

A year ago this week, the government was warned that some of the methods of discipline in these schools contravened the Constitution's Bill of Rights.
The report which lifted the veil on these practices was commissioned by the cabinet, and was written by the inter-ministerial committee on young people at risk.
Top officials said they were outraged to find that such conditions existed.
But, despite the initial outrage, the practices outlined in the report have
contmued. About 6000 students, in 59 schools, could be affected by the discipline imposed at these institutions.
Now the central government and all nine provincial governments will have to explain to the High Court why they have allowed the practice of school-imposed detention without trial to carry on.
The writers of the report, handed to the government a year ago, said that isolation cells were widely used for punishment.
These cells were usually small rooms with a peephole in the door. Generaily, there was an open toilet and, sometimes, a washbasin inside the small cell. No reading material was allowed, except, sometimes, the Bible
"The child or youth placed in isolation at some facilities is permitted to wear only pyjamas.
"The duration of time in isolation cells varies. The average time is five days, but some facilities were found to be holding young people for 14 days and, at one reform school, for 28 days. During the time in isolation, children are deprived of education. They are generally not released for exercise. Meals are brought into the cell."

The report mentioned one school where the blankets and mattresses were taken out of the cells during the day. Children were routinely held in isolation for as long as 28 days at this school.
The report said there was a serious lack of understanding of adolescent sexuality. Investigators discovered "a hysterical reaction amongst staff interviewed to same-sex experimentation, which is labelled as lesbianism or homosexuality, and is harshly punished".


41the provincial education departments to the High Court, claiming "cruel and inhuman" punishment after she was locked up in an isolation cell for, among other things, playing a schoolyard game that was deemed to be "Satanist".
In a hàrrowing affidavit, Katrina $X$, who is an awardwinning pupil at George Hofmeyr High School at Standerton in Mpumalanga - and whose real name cannot be disclosed - told how she wept, beat her fists against the wall and hallucinated when she was locked up in the cell.
Her application has stung the government into action - a year after it was alerted to the grave human rights abuses in special schools by a cabinet report
Welfare Minister Geraidine Fraser-Moleketi admitted there was a need for "desperate intervention to take place". She said a team was being sent to Katrina X's school to "help the staff to develop alternatives to isolation". : Gentral government and the nine provincial education departments, which are being taken to court, haven't said if they will contest her action
Pieter Wilhelm Bester, 'headmaster of the George Hofmeyr High School, said he had suspended the use of the lockup due to the court application.
He said girls at the school had "behavioural disorders" and had been placed there under the Child Care Act.
"The previous educational system made provistons for isolation facilittes and for detaining pupis," he said. In hèr affidavit, Katrina X'told of repeated pertods of "room arrest" and isolation in a special cell where pupils were held around the clock, not allowed out for classes, exercise or meals. They were refused permission to wear underclothes or to have access to books or writing materials
She was once held in the lockup for playing a guessing game involving three matches wrapped in tissue paper marked "yes", "no" and "maybe", which was deemed to be an "occult activity".
I On another occasion, Katrina says she was given "room arrest" - a milder form of isolation - for writing a letter to a friend that was deemed to be "lesbian".
During her time in the lockup she began hallucinating, wept and beat the walls with her fists.
In his affidavit, which forms part of her application, clinical psychologist Peter Johnson says that isolation and confine ment alienates children and prevents them from forming trusting relationships. It also leads to a hardening of attitudes and disregard for norms and values. Katrina X is one of thousands of children who are disciplined by "room arrest" or locking them into isolation cells at reform schools,

## CARMEL RICKARD and LAURICE TAITZ

industrial schools and places of safety.
Her High Court application alleges that the methods of discipline used at her school are common practice among other government care facilities, but are not authorised by any legislation.
According to the Legal Resources Centre in Pretoria, which is acting on her behalf, "room arrest? and "lock up" also breach the Constitution for a number of reasons.
They amount to unlawful administrative action; they infringe the child's right to be protected from maltreatment, abuse and negiect; and they are cruel and inhuman punishments. They also infringe the child's right to dignity, the right to psycholog-' ical integrity, and the right to be treated in a manner which takes account of the child's age.
The centre adds that

South Africa signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995 and is, therefore, bound by the convention. However, the practice of "lock up" and "room arrest" breach many of its sections.

The centre also points out that many of the children at these facilities, who are at risk of being "disciplined" in this way, are young and lack the authority to enforce their rights. They are often poor and do not have the resources to bring legal action. They are often put into these institutions because they do not have adequate parental care, yet the institution responsible for their care is the "perpetrator of these practices".
Child care experts have welcomed the case because they say it will focu's attention on the conditions in these care facilities. They have criticised the situation in which the court removes a child on the grounds that the family is not providing adequate care, only to have the child put into a situation which in some cases is worse.
Fraser-Moleketi said that during the last two weeks Operation Go had been established by an inter-ministerial committee, involving the departments of welfare and education, to assess what to do next.
"We will not gloss over issues like these (the forms of discipline used in these care facilities). We have given the provinces detailed programmes of what must be done to deal with the system comprehensively."

## A SCHOOLGIRL'S STORY: Page 7



## Rights abuses common at sp̈̈ecial schools 298 JOHANNESBURG: Human right CT $22 / 9 / 97$

 abuses, highlighted by the case of a 15-year-old Mpumalanga pupil who is taking the government to court for "cruel and inhuman" punishment, are common at special schools, says a recent report.Mr Thami Mseleku, special adviser to Education Minister Dr Sibusiso Bengu, said the recent report of the inter-ministerial committee for youth at'risk showed practices of this nature were "quite widespreáad".

The teenager's affidavit tells
whose parents are not fit to look after them, the children are treated as delinquents. Yet they are the victims of their parents," Mseleku said.

Welfare Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi had promised "swift action", he said.

The Education Department recently set up a commission that recommended that special schools - which include reform schools be integrated into the normal schooling system! - Own Correhow she suffered while locked in an isolation cell for misbehaving.

She reportedly plans to take the government and provincial education departments to court for her treatment at the George Hofmeyr High School in Standerton.

Mseleku said such practices had been allowed at special schools under the old dispensation, but not under the Constitution and the new Schools Act.
ri."In many schools of the industry and special schools for children

## DP's 'shoddy report <br> PRETORIA: The National Youth Com-

 mission (NYC) yesterday dismissed a DP report calling for its demise as a meaningless document which had been "shodduly cobbled together"."If any other statutory organ had produced a research document as shoddily cobbled together and factually inaccurate as the section on the NYC clearly is, it would have been vilified," spokesperson Mr Paul Johnson sald.

The report, released by the DP on Tuesday, listed seven statutory bodıes which it said needed closer examination. Serous questions had to be asked about their cost to the taxpayer, DP spokesperson Mr James Selfe had said.

He had called for the scrapping of the NYC, saying its functions should be transferred to the office of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.
Johnson said the DP's assertion that NYC chairperson Ms Mahlinge Bhengu was earning a salary of R350 000 a year
showed what he called a fundamental misunderstanding of the pay scales
"The salary component (of Bhengu) starts at R191 712 per annum. The gross package, assuming all benefits, allowances and schemes are activated, works out roughly to R350000."

Reacting to the DP's criticism that Bhengu was 26 years old and inexperienced, Johnson sald: "They have her age wrong. She is in fact 27. ."

He added. "It is surprising that the DP of all parties should raise this in relation to the principled issue of levels of public service remuneration."

Commission members, Johnson said, received a basic annual salary of R163000, the same as a director in the public service. "I assume the amount of R276 000 the DP gave is what it will come to if you activate all benefits."

The NYC had only one office, he said, "not seven. The DP had failed to distinguish between the NYC and

## dismissed CT 2/10197

provincial youth commissions
They had also been incorrect in putting the NYC's annual budget at R10 million. It was R6,9m.

Complaints by the DP that the body had failed to come up with a single youth development strategy were also ill-informed, Johnson said.
"These projects are not of the nature that they can be launched almost as soon as they are conceptualised They require long-term, meticulous planning, preparation and canvassing."

Johnson, communication director, said the NYC had a staff complement of 21, but not all posts had been filled. He was, for example, awaiting applications for the position of his deputy.

Asked about the need for this, he said• "In my ąrea you can argue that if they pay me double, I can do everything. But for what they pay me, I am not going to do more than what I am doing." ${ }^{\text {-Sapa }}$

Reacting to the report recommending
egy since it was formed last year.
Comm director

Paul Johnson said it was unfortunate that the report was factually challenged.

He said the commission's annual report
to President Nelson Mandela had been comris pleted but not yet formally presented because protocol dictated presentation at the convenience of the office of the President.
"Both the CEO of the commission and
scale - that of chief director in the public
I, service, " Johnson said.
The salary component starts at 191712
${ }_{4}$ a year and the gross package, assuming all
I benefits, allowances and schemes were ac-
tivated, amounted to about R350 000. Full-
time commissioners earned R163000 a
year.
The ANC Youth Leagut also criticised the report, saying that it wifis not acceptable for the DP to criticise the commission on the

- basis of inaccurate information and ignorance. The Freedom Front also lashed out at the DP report, saying that the party had now declared itself an enemy of the



## Sactwu to join protest on child labour $C($ (BR) 310197 <br> unhealthy and unsafe working <br> complete. Quotas were arbitrary

## Shiriey Jones

KWAZUIU NATAL EDITOR
Durban - The South African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (Sactwu) will join the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation, representing 220 unions and 8,25 million members in 120 countries, in a protest tomorrow against the abuse of workers' rights.
A Sactwu spokesman said that while globalisation of these industries should spur growth and social development, the opposite was often the case, particularly in developing countries.
"Every day brings stories of underpayment of wages, excessive working hours, child labour
conditions and the harassment, intimidation and even murder of those who try to mprove conditions through trade union organisation," he said
"In these sectors, the majority of production is for export and is carried out on the orders of mult-national manufacturers, merchandisers and retailers," he said

He said multinationals often plugged into seemingly inexhaustrble supphes of poor, uneducated workers in Asia, Latin America and Africa. "Of over 250 million working children across the world, as many as 5 million, some as young as four, are enslaved in ... the textile. clothing and footwear industries
"A visit to a factory in Bang-
ladesh revealed children as young as seven working 20 hours a day. Many were sick, some almost blind . Many of these children received only a couple of bowls of rice per day," he said.

Simılar stories came from Pakistan, China, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, the Phulippines, El Salvador and Haitı.
"Most of the 120000 garment workers in Srl Lanka's free trade zone live in converted cattle sheds and barns. These house 50 to 60 workers without sanitation. Wages are so low all suffer from malnutrition. They also suffer sexual harassment and rape."

Sactwu said Lesotho's garment workers were often locked into factories and not permitted to leave until the day's quota was
depending on orders. Working days were between 16 and 18 hours. Mistakes meant a beating with a knotted plece of fabric.

Tomorrow's demands, which will be endorsed by Sactwu, include the implementation in every country of the core conventions of the International Labour Organisation, including the right to freedom of association and to bargain collectively; the prohibition of forced labour, child labour and discrimination; the implementation of all labour laws; the payment of living wages; the adoption of codes of conduct by all employers' organisations and by individual companies; and a commitment by retailers to only sell goods made wthout exploitative conditions












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> Natal to pass youth body intolaw (298)
DURB'AN - The Kwa-Zulu-Natal government planned to pass legislàtion éstablishing a youth commission at its next legislature session to ensure youth played a role in stimulating economic growth in the province premier Ben Ngubane said yesterday.
Ngubane said as no funds had been allocated in the provincial budget for the commission, it would become fully operational only during the next financial year.
He said he had received submissions from youth for the appointment of six commissioners,' but he preferred three. They would act in a full-time capacity
Ngubane's announcement followed the Demo cratic Party's (DP's) call for the scrapping of the national youth commission as it was a waste of taxpayers' money.
But Ngubane said there was a need for the body in KwaZulu-Natal as its youth was "traumatised" by political violence and AIDS.

## Employment bill to go

 to Parliament todayReneé Grawitzky
THE much contested Basic Conditions of Employment Bill will be tabled in Parliament today after Labour Minister Tito Mboweni decided that sufficient consensus had been reached with labour and business, despite them dis-
puting this. puting this.
The Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) welcomed the tabling of the this since April.

Business SA.
our belief that (BSA) said: "It remains solved only as a issue cannot be rajudgment but must also have political the financial and economic concerns to the parties."
'Cosatu's assistant
tary Zwelinzima Vavi general secrealliance meeting did said that if an sort out disagreement take place to hearings were held on the bill public would strike on the days bill, Cosatu and business presented their submissions on the bill.
:'Meanwhile, Mboweni met a BSA delegation yesterday to discuss stumbling blocks to a negotiated settlement onithe Skills Development Bill which is opposed to or training. Business was opposed to the centralised collection of a $1 \%$ to $1,5 \%$ levy on payroll to fund training and the establishment of sector education and training authorities.
Industry sources said there was agreement on large sections of the bill and the process was going well. Labour, the source said, in the wain supported the bill but would have preferred the training levy to have been in the region of $4 \%$.
Negotiations came to a halt on Wednesday when government and business negotiators could not find a solution to business's concerns, sources said. The parties agreed BSA negotiators should meet Mboweni.
Labour and business are concerned about the October 16 deadline. A labour source said "depending on how we conduct oureives from now on we by October 16 as it does discussions time for report-backs to members novide

## Crimes against child

- Nómavenda Mathiane
THERE has been a $108 \%$ increase in the number of crimes committed SA since 1993 under the age of 18 in SA since 1993.
Statistics released by the welfare SAPATment and the SA Police Service of 115 ) show that last year an average of 1.154 children were sexually abused, abused, each month were physically -A total of month.
were reported last year child neglect 969 were physical near, and of these were emotional neal neglect and 137 This year 84 glect


##  Welfare Societies in SA

National Council for Child and Family Welfare consultant Ros Halkett said many people were ignosusp about what to do in the event of suspected child abuse.
burns on a scratches, cuts, scalds and abuse, she said were indications of and une said. An excessively dirty and unkempt child skin infections, nappy rashes and pepr hygiene could abuse.
Halkett said if the abuse was obriously severe it shoula be reported to the SAPS's child protection unit. Suspected cases of abuse should be report-
ed to a social worker.

## By Simon Zwane <br> Political Reporter

He youth commission came into being amid much fanfare on June 16 last year after President Nelson Mandela announced its founding at a Youth Day celebration.
imost a year-and-a-half after its formation the Al has died down completely. All that is heard of it 15 hype has dated criticism that charwoman Hengiwe the often stated monthly salary of R30 000
Bhengu earns a monthit handed its first annual report When the commission hande event went unnoticed. the President recently the event commission did not Even the strongest opponent.
bother to look at the report. In the foreword Bheng cuccesses in its first year of has scored a number of succementing but facilitatung existence "As a nokng new ground in its mandate of organ, it is now breaking formulating policies and develassisting government to address the needs and aspiraopment progra people," she says.

## Stakeholders consulted

However, her clams are not borne out by the report The 19-page report ndicates that the commission spent the past year planning what it needs to do and how to do it.

All the programmes that have been identified as essential for youth development are still at a conceptualisation stage or at the stage where communities and stakeholders are being consulted

- A technical committec is being established to draw up a national discussion document on the national youth services programme which aims to equip the youth with education, skills and work experrence through community reconstruction projects;
- Consultation and resource mobilisation is still taking place to establish a pilot multi-purpose community centre in Pietermartzburg, KwaZulu-Natal; and
- The establishment of the youth information service to empower young people is still being conceptualised.

Although the commission has been successful in holding a national youth summe in Cape Town on June 14 and 15 , it has not yet been able to translate the summit's dellberations into a youth policy.

It still has to hold provincial summits before a first policy draft is produced This would then be submitted to the national youth policy plenary session before it is tabled in parliament. The commission envisages that the policy will be launched by the President in December.

## Limited time

To achieve this in the limited time before the end of the year, seems impossible.

There are at least seven provinces in which summits must be held and the draft would have to go through the slow parlamentary process before it is adopted as policy.

Although the commission has participated in a number of international youth summits and has developed relations with youth organs in other countres, these cannot be regarded as successes.

The youth of this country, and indeed the citizenry in general, will not judge the commission by the number of international relations it has forged buit by its achievement in alleviating their plight.
The report therefore shows the first important step yans ibeen taken and a blueprint has beeni/developed to Aenstire that new ground can be brokent , idot of work still lies ahead. -7

The centre depends and of volunteer workers from the community, and two weeks ago the Department of Education installed a
 school, Freeway Park Primary, to each full-time. The government's primary-school feedngs scheme also kicked in, and so some of the chil
dren's meals are subsidused

Msezane is grateful for the help from the education department, but says the welfare department has stll not endorsed her work. She says the close the centre down twice, once beрие ‘еаге геп̣иәр! once because the centre "does not meet the necessary criteria"
 city councll says any application to open a new day-care centre would have to go through various official
stages before it can be approved ated to the various departments of


 Once all the departments approve, a
 plicant, subject to certan conditions," he said.

Msezane is impatient with such bureaucracy. "They have funds for
 not meet the criteria. A child is a child. What criteria?"

Despite opposition, Msezane says

 and take me away". She says it's
worth it if some of the children can wake something of themselves, by make something of themselves, by ing "a leader, or a soccer star"
 could have ended up like these children," she says. "Luckily, my teach-
ers took care of me, and helped me ers took care of me, and helped me
finish school and my teacher's train ing. I didn't plan this ..but I realised once I'd started maybe this is my течи ssu! gotforfae." (298)

tul 1994 he was on the streets "I was


 steal cheese or chocolate

Sipho and the other children at


two, use the lounge as a makeshift

- If this facility did not exist. these

 his real name) is 11 years old He is
 ferent fathers His mother lives on a farm and cannot support them Un-
vorced and had two teenaged chil-

The Boksburg city
council is trying to
close the orphanage
and education centre in
Thabisile Msezane's
small house, reports The Boksburg city
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Swapna Prabhakaran rphaned and runaway
streetchildren in Boks-
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something more than just rphaned and runaway
streetchildren in Boks-
burg have been given
something more than just rphaned and runaway
streetchildren in Boks-
burg have been given
something more than just option of a better life, thanks to the hard work of Thabisle Msezane Msezane started the Sithabile
Day Care Centre in middle-class Dawn Park in Boksburg early in 1994 What began as just a warm place where abused and neglected children could come for a meal has or 35 children
Some of the chuldren are orphans, and others are from poor families on
the farms around Boksburg.
lams and Boscor who left the profession because of ill health. Four years ago she was dx$\sigma$

Angel of mercy: Thabisile Msezane in the orphanage backyard classrooms. PHOTOGRAPHS: SIDDIQUE DAVIDS
dren to take care of She says she was toying with the idea of starting an ncome-generating day-care centre. boy living in the corridors of a shopping centre in town. "He was not going to school His parents could not afford to send him ...I thought Id better take him in. By the time I got a whole group of these chlldren. And
 Msezane had to move her own family out of the house when at got too crowded - she rented the house next door "Tokyo [Sexwale] used to
rent this house once," she grins

The classroom was donated by the Canadıan embassy, and in it Msezane gives literacy lessons to underprivileged women from the area on weekends. During the week, the 10 - to 15 -year-olds use it, while the

costs, sometimes teaching extra classes in Johannesburg. Msezane initially used her own home to establish a secure world for these malnourished bodies and munds. Now, the modest three-bedroomed house has been taken over | E |
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| 0 | houses eight or 10 children. In the back yard, two plastıc buildings and wooden shed serve as classrooms.

Since then, the centre has grown m small steps, relymg heavily on do-
nations and contributions from the nations and contributions from the house to give her R50 or R100, and local supermarkets donate bread. "We don't have a standing fund. The money sometimes comes from other people, but mostly it's my own
money," Msezane says. She does money," Msezane says. She does
part-time work to meet the running





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commissioner of child welfare than 7 years, apart from their par
 from the prohibition against receivof the Child Care Act to exempt
members of the extended family
 out undermining the parents' re out undermining the parents' re Stav-28/11197








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 the National Party, Freedom Front кq pasoddo sem pue sejon ONF 80 The bill makes provision for the
payment of the grant to be made to

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APARTHEID LAWS SCRAPPED

month to extend support to almost three million African children, reports JOVIAL RANTAO, Parliamentary Bureau.

THE welfare ple will be cut thinner but spread farther now that Parliament has approved a nonracial social grant for the poorest.

Welfare and Population Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi piloted the Welfare Laws Amendment Bill through the National Assembly. It will now be referred to the provinces.

When the bill becomes law, children aged up to six will get R100 a month, down from the present R135 for children under 18 , which is to be phased out over three years.

Following a public outcry and and the subsequent intervention of the welfare portfolio committee, the new grant is an improvement on the R75 originally proposed by the government.
Fraser-Moleketi told Parliament the child support grant should benefit three million children, compared with the present 300000 mostly whites, Indians and coloureds.

The legislation was passed by 203 ANC votes and was opposed by the National Party, Freedom Front and the Democratic Party.

The bill seeks to repeal all social


CHILD SUPPORT: Geraldine FraserMoleketi wants to cover all children.
pension laws of the former TBVC and self-governing territories and extend the Social Assistance Act to all areas.

This was imperative to overcome the inefficiency and fragmentation of the 14 different systems inherited from the past, Fraser-Moleketi said.

Increased uniformity would also limit fraud and corruption.

The bill also provides for the payment of the grants to be made to the primary care-giver of the child without undermining parental responsibility.

It also aims to amend Section 10 of the Child Care Act to exempt members of an extended family of the child from the prohibition against receiving and caring for chuldren younger than seven years - apart from their parents -wlthout the prior consent of a commissioner of child welfare.
"The child support grant programme, together with free primary health care to pregnant women and children under six, will lead to increasing child survival through lower mortality rates and improved child health," Fraser-Moleketi sard.
"The grant is intended to focus on the child and not on the famly. Fiscal constraints are acknowledged and hence the age level is confined to six years The child support grant is one of the several programmes aimed at poverty eradication and relief."
Mr Mike Ellis, DP spokesman on health, called for the abolition of the ministry of sport and the rationalisation of the statutory committees so that more money could be channelled towards the poor.

The DP opposed the bill because it placed too much power in the hands of the minister.


New project: Valery Jaftha and Saphokazi Nitsangani, 6 , admire a poster for the Child Wellare project, Eye on the Children, set up to curb the
ing the breast-feeding mother of his child with a knife, Ms Marais sand the baby or mother could have already
been seriously hurt by the time the been seriously hurt by the time the
police arrived.
Also benefiting are the field workers
 logical changes, and who are no longer "People are actually afraid of me," "People are actually atraid of me,"
field worker Kathleen Solomons
 watching them."

## -

communitres, they were trusted and respected, which was not always the case whth social workers.
"The community members themselves have identified the field work-
ers," she said. workers are permanently present.  and at weekends, when social workers and police are usually too busy to make it to the scene in time."
In one case where In one case where Ms Jaftha inter-
vened when a drunk man was threatenfor child abuse, and safe houses where cies.
The advantages of fighting abuse from within communities are count-
less, says project supervisor Trix
"rrhese people have no degrees, but they have a life experience that is just "They know the communities and often have better ways of dealing with Because the volunteers lived in the
A year ago Valery Jaftha of Ottery would have been too frightened to stand up to a drunk man
threatening the breast-feeding but today she does it without a
Onc Ms Jaftha said, she regarded any aggression not aimed at her as "none of my business"

## TIIENNE HEETEBRLD <br> Staff Reporter

Ms Jaftha is one of the field workers for the Cape Town Child Welfare Society's new "Eye on the Children" project, and has been trained to deal with domestic violence.
"Isolobantwana", or "Eye on the matic new approach to fighting the increasing number of chld abuse and neglect cases in deprived areas of Cape Town
An alarming shortage of resources, combined with the wish to empower communities, has resulted in the new approach, which involves community members themselves becoming volun-
Fifteen Ottery residents and 16 in Khayelitsha's Site Chave been trained and the intention is that they will run pilot projects in their areas indepensupporting them.
If they are succe
If they are successful, it will be
expanded into other areas.
From May to September the new field workers attended classes twice a week to learn how to detect, prevent Having passed the tests that followed, some volunteers are even authorised by courts to immediately remove a child from its home, if this should be
The project involves key teams: a task team that co-ordinates, field work-
ers, who will be the "eyes" watching out

## Child labour 'at 200000 ' <br> Pule Molebeledi 298 <br> $\qquad$ -25 20 liolaz

 THERE were about 200000 children working in SA; about half in the agricultural sector, labour directorgeneral Sipho Pityana said yesterday at the Internatiónal Conference on Child Labour in Oslo.The figures did not include unpaid domestic work or children working in the informal sector, he said.

The Constitution and various legal mechanisms such as the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, protected children from exploitative labour practises. The act prohibited the employment of children under the age of 15, but unfortunately, he said, it contained no enforcement provisions and did not protect children between 15 and 18. Pityana said Parliament was debating a new Basic Conditions of Employment Bill which addressed these weaknesses.

Pityana said SA, which ratified the Convention of Rights of Child in 1995, gave its unconditional support to the initiative for a new convention of child labour to target the immediate suppression of the most hazardous forms of child labour and put in place a timebound programme for its eradication.
"We would support the total prohibition of work by very young children as well as the use of children in prostitution, pornography and the drugs trade."
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# Child prostitution, pornography on increase in SA, says UN report Star 711197 (298) <br> The help of the media has been called in to <br> help eliminate sexual exploitation of children 

## By Marco Grantel <br> New York

AUnited Nations report on child prostitution and pornography has identified South Africa as an area of "special concern".

And the report has also warned of the growing dangers of the Internet in child sex exploitation.

The report by special rapporteur Ofelia Calcetas-Santos said child prostitution was increasing in all major African cities but specifically highlighted South Africa's major cities: "In South Africa, particularly in big cities like Cape Town, Durban and Johnnesburg, child prostitution appears to be a growing problem linked to the increasing number of street children who have left their homes for economic and social rasons or as a result of the breaking down of families and traditional values."

Calcetas-Santos' 29 page report contains shocking information of child trade, abuse, exploitation and pros-
titution around the
 globe and issued a clear warning about the danger of the Internet.

The report says the Internet is contributing to a growth in child pornograph and prostitution and warns that the information superhighway is being used by paedophiles to contact each other to exchange information relating to their perversions and to find victims.
"The virtually inexhaustible categories of information which the Internet can provide include innovative and simplified means of sexual exploitation," Calcetas-Santos says in her réport.

She added that the lack of accountability made policing the net almost
impossible: "No single entity, academic or governmental, corporate or non-profit, administers the Internet. There is no central point at which all the information is stored or from which it is disseminated and it would not be technically feasible for any one entity to control all of the information conveyed on the Internet."

She said advances in technology had made the creation and distribution of child pornography "easier, cheaper and more difficult to detect".
"It has developed into a multimillion dollar industry which can be run from within the exploiter's home."

The danger of the web was summarised in a case mentioned in the report of a 12 -year-old Australian boy who committed suicide after discovering that photographs of his sexual abuse by an older man had been posted on the Internet.

Other concerns around the world incrude the continued abduction and enslavemont of children for military or labour parposes in some African countries, the marriage for financial gain by parents of daughters as young as 11 in the Central African Republic, "widespread" trafficking in child prostitutes in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka (where the report estimates there are more than 2000 child prostitutes) and Taiwan ( 50000 child prostitutes estimated).

Calcetas-Santos called on the media to help eliminate the sexual exploitaton of children through education and awareness programmes.
"The media are powerful tools of mass communication nationally and internationally and their potential to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation should be explored thoroughly" - Star Foreign Service
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report to the UN Committee.

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grammes for juvenile offenders is a certainly

 effective intersectoral juvenile justice system





## Accusations fly in wake of speaker's axing

## Pule Molebeledi

 earlier this year, it said.Provincial National Party leader Inus Aucamp said Chabaku was a "victim" of a radical element
which had put enormous pressure on her, making her job nearly impossible to perform. Aucamp said the axing was symptomatic of the tensions within the ANC caucus.

Describing the development as a "tragic story", Aucamp said despite the accusations of incompetence, nobody came forward to help Chabaku do her job well.

He said Chabaku was above average. "She has the ability, but wasnever helped."

It is believed, however, that unsound working relations among provincial ANC members in the legislature, lack of capacity and "old age", were some of the reasons behind Chabaku's axing.

ANC spokesman Gregory Nthatisi said the decision that led to the sacking of the speaker was made by the provincial executive committee at the request of the ANC caucus in the legislature.

Sources sald the caucus complained that Chabaku lacked capacity and was not well versed with the procedures and processes of running the legislature. The sources said Chabaku had fallen asleep during legislature sessions.

- Chabaku was not available for comment yesterday.

Her secretary said she might comment next week.
ment next week: 197
SD 14 Comment: Page 15


STELLENBOSCH - Adv. Francine-Ann du Plessis, a partner in the accounting firm of Loubser Du Plessis Inc., based in Stellenbosch, has just returned from the 1997 IA International European \& African Regional Meeting heid from 18-21 October 1997.
IA International, one of the 25 largest international accounting affiliations, is a network of 135 independent accounting firms located in 68 countries. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, IA International was founded in 1978 and is recognised by the United Nations Department of Transnational Corporations and the AICPA.
Adv. Du Plessis attended three days of intensive semınars covering such topics as International Tax, Exchange Control and Foreign Investments, and ISO 9000 Quality Management Systems.
Attendees at this meeting included representation from the four regions within IA international. This allowed interaction between partners from the Asia/Pacific Region, European \& Africa Region, the Latin American \& Caribbean Region and the North American Region.
"These meetings are essential for our Member Firms. interaction with other IA members not only enables us to provide our clients with comprehensive international services, but also to draw on the varying expertise available from firms in the Association," an excited Adv. Du Plessis concludes.
-Santcil \& Sattchi Recruttment advertising 58404

## Maintenance laws will get tougher

## Taryn Lamberti <br> 

 WELFARE Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moreteti hus welcomed new draft legislation published by the justice department yesterday which is aimed at reforming the maintenance system and giving magistrates new powers in handling maintenance defaulters.

The new maintenance bill was published for comment by magistrates, maintenance officers and members of the public before it is passed by Parliament.

Fraser-Moleketi said the bill would lead to "greater efficiency" in the private main grant system. The reason many beneficiaries had not received maintenance payments in the past had been because of inefficiency in the system. She said she "absolutely applauded" the new bill.

Deputy Justice Minister Manto TshabalalaMsimang welcomed the bill, saying it was long overdue. "At present they cannot make a maintenance order against someone who does not turn up in court and cannot order the money to be deducted from his wages until he has been convicted of not paying maintenance,"Tshabalala-Msimang said.

The bill proposes that courts be allowed to grant maintenance orders in the absence of defaulters and that deductions be made directly from their wages. Courts would be able to make defaulters pay by stop order or by debit order.

A set of general principles and guidelines would be established to assist magistrates and maintenance officers in assessing the appropriate levels of maintenance and specialised staff would be employed to locate defaulters and serve court documents on them.

The SA Law Commission, which examined the maintenance system in August last year, would monitor implementation of the new system.

The bill was approved by cabinet and would be introduced in Parliament as soon as possible, said a statement released yesterday.

The justice department hoped it would be passed early in the next parliamentary session.

## Law to get tough with dads who don't pay up

## By Anso Thom .

Errant fathers who dodge maintenance payments for their:', children will have nowhere to hide when the Maintenance Bill, which allows the courts to compel absentee dads to cough up, is passed by Parliament next year.
"This is going to free up the state welfare budget as people who, out of frustration, resorted to state maintenance will now seek out private maintenance grants," said Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.
"Kids whose fathers can pay will now be forced to. There will be more effective tracing and more effective follow-up."

Asked how many children this would affect, the minister replied: "It would run into very large numbers."

The bill has been approved by the Cabinet and will be introduced in Parliament as soon as possible. The Department of Justice was hopeful the bill would be passed early in the $\$$
next session of Parliament. 9 the correct levels of mainte Deputy Justice Minister Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang said reform of the maintenance system was long overdue.
"At the moment the law itself ties the hands of maintenance courts. They cannot make an order against someone who does not turn up in court, and cannot order the money to be deducted from his wages

## Fathers

can't be
dodgers
until he has been convicted for failing to pay maintenance," she said.

The bill will also allow courts to make the liable parent pay maintenance by stop order or debit order
Other clauses in the bill deal with general principles and guidelines to:

- Assist magistrates and maintenance officers in assessing
nance
Improving the enforcement of maintenance orders.
■ Appointing specialised staff to locate and serve respondents with court documents. - Improving the quality of the legislation itself, to make it easier to read and understand.

The consultation document, published by the Department of Justice, presented two options for the way maintenance orders should be enforced: - Keeping the current system of using criminal prosecution to enforce maintenance orders, while tightening up the procedure to ensure that more is done to recover unpaid maintenance once a respondent has been convicted of failing to pay maintenance.
■ Keeping criminal prosecutions as a fall-back, while enforcing maintenance orders through civil courts with the emphasis squarely on getting the respondent to pay maintenance which has not been paid.

## REFORM LONG OVERDUE

# No longer easy to dor dodge maintenance <br> - Improve the quality of the 

JOHANNESBURG: The long arm of the law, considerably beefed up, will soon be used to hunt down non-custodian parents who shirk responsibility for sustaining offspring.

ERRANT fathers who dodge child maintenance payments dwill have nowhere to hide when the Maintenance Bill, which allows courts to compel absentee dads to cough up, is passed by Parliament next year.
"This is going to free up the state welfare budget as people who out of frustration, resorted to state maintenance will now seek out private maintenance grants," said Welfare Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi.
"Kids, whose fathers can pay, will now be forced to pay. There will be more effective tracing and follow-up in the case of divorce," said Fraser-Moleketi.

Asked how many children this would affect, she said: "It would rum into very large numbers."

In the Cape alone - where the only recent research has been conducted - there were 13613 maintenance cases between January 1995 and April last year alone.

Cabinet has approved the bill, and it will be introduced in Parliament "as soon as possible". The Department of Justice was hopeful the bill would be passed early in the next session of Parliament.

Deputy Justice Minister Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang said yesterday reform of the maintenance system was long overdue
"At the moment the law itself ties the hands of maintenance


CRACKDOWN: Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi
courts. They cannot make a maintenance order against someone who does not turn up in court, and cannot order the money to be deducted from wages until (the person) has been convicted for failing to pay maintenance," she said.

The bill will also allow courts to make the liable parent pay maintenance by stop order or debit order.

Other clauses in the bill deal with general principles and guidelines to:

- Assist magistrates and maintenance officers in assessing the correct levels of maintenance.
- Improve the enforcement of maintenance orders.
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- Keeping criminal prosecutions as a fall-back, while enforcing maintenance orders through civil courts with the emphasis squarely on getting the respondent to pay maintenance which may be in arrears.

Researcher at the Community Agency for Social Enquiry, Ms Debbie Budlender said instead of both parents paying 50\% each towards the needs of a child, as at present, payments in terms of the bill would depend on income.
"A man earning more would be paying more," said Budlender, adding that the proportional split was not really fair. "The woman is not being paid for the fact that her earning opportunities are restricted because she has the child. It is a case of unpaid labour," she said.

Budlender said according to the law the man had to first support himself. But it was at the magistrate's discretion to decide whether he needed a TV or car. - Own Correspondent


changes aimed at transforming the welfare system and maximising the protection of children will be urgently expedited, Welfare Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi said yesterday.

Reacting to a Sunday Times article headlined "Read"this and weep, Ministein", in which Johannesburg High Court judge Percy Blieden is quoted as saying that Fraser-Moleketi muist share some of the blame for the death of a three-year-old boy tortured by his mother and stepfather, the minister said the headline could not have been more correct.

Sandra and Machiel de Beer were sentenced to 15 years in prison for murdering the three-year-old Eddie Pienaar.

The toddler died from a blow to his head three months after he was removed from the care of his grandparents and placed with his mother by social workers from Gauteng's welfare and population deveolpment department and the Christelike Maatskaplike Raad of the Dutch Reformed Church - a state-subsidised welfare body.

Passing sentence last week, Blieden said the country's welfare system "failed this boy. Each and every one, including the social workers who 'just did not'do their jobs properly, should accept équal responsibility for his death".
"The judge ordered that a copy of his judg. ment be sent to FraserMoleketi to study.
"I do indeed weep for Eddie and for the many other children whom our system continues to fail each day". Fraser-Moleketi said. She would obtain a copy of the judgment for close study.
She said that the child and youth care systemiwas now based on a set of principles set down by thè UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Divorce Act. The court was not Children's Act. Marriage Act and

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workshop organised by the Workers

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 By Nthabi Moreosele
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# SA workers set for long march over child labour 

## Sactwu plans Cape-to-Kenya protest <br> THABO MABASO

Business Reporter
Members of the SA Clothing and Textile Workers Union (Sactwu) will march thousands of kilometres from Cape Town to Nairobi next year during a worldwide campaign against the employment of under-age children.
The campaign is being organised and cosponsored by the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation (ITGLWF), of which Sactwu is an affiliate. Marches will also take place in Asıa, Latin America and North America around the same time.

The Cape Townisin Nairobi march is expected to last three months. Marchers will leave
on March 21 and expect to arrive in Nairobi by May 1

All those involved will then converge in Geneva at the end of May to demonstrate outside an International Labour Organisatron convention on child labour.

Sactwu national education officer André Kriel said the union had not yet decided how many people would go on the long walk.
"It will not be hundreds of people," he said.

Rallies and other activities would be held in countries that the marchers were going to pass through, to highlight the problems associated with chuld labour

The ITGLWF, which wants the mmumum age of employment to be 18 years, estimates that there are more than 200 million chil-
dren working around the world. They are mostly found in Asian countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, working in makeshift factories that manufacture items ranging from soccer balls to expensive carpets. Some earn as little as R60 a month.

However, the problem is not confined to the Asian contment. A South African newspaper reported last week that in the Northern Province farmers were employing young Mozambican refugees, some no more than 10 years old, in their plantations and were paying them about R100 a month.
Department of Labour director-general Supho Pityana told an international confer ence on child labour in Norway last month that there were close to 200000 children


Hundreds of awaiting-trial children as young as 10 are being abandoned in our overcrowded prisons, where some have been forced to sleep in toilets to protect them from adult prisoners.

A furious Correctional Services Minister, Sipo Mzimela, said this week the horrific plight of these children was continuing and their numbers were growing "in leaps and bounds".

In May there were 245 await-- ing-trial children held in prisons atround the country. Yet there are now 1,253 unsentenced children under 17 years old being held.

Almost half of these children are in prisons across Gauteng. Lebelo Maloka, a spokesman for the province's 'Department of Welfare and Population Development, said the numbers "tend to vary" each month, but he understood they usually average out at about 500 .

An angry Mzimela said: "No one really speaks for them. You have yet to convince me it is necessary to put an 11-year-old in prison."

He said these juveniles were the responsibility of the Department of Welfare, which was to blame for the crisis. "Plain and simple, they don't care. Children don't vote. We don't have to worry about them in 1999."
trial indefinitely for minor offences, and many of them are being thrown into prisón illegally Amendments to prison legislation currently allows for the detention of awaiting-trial juveniles between the ages of 14 and 18 who are suspected of serious crimes.
4-Mzimela said he had held talks this week with the minister responsible, Geraldine FraserMoleketi, to discuss the problem.
"We talked about the issue and discussed how something has to be done by May. What that something is, heaven knows," he said.

The legislation prescribes that all the children must be removed from prison by May next year, Mzimela said. "They are Welfare's responsibility because they are children, yet Welfare keeps ciaiming they don't have enough places to house them. But they have plenty of places."

Fraser-Moleketi said it was unfortunate such "strong allegations" were coming from Mzimela, when he and his department formed part of the InterMinisterial Committee on Young People at Risk (IMC).
The IMC, chaired by FraserMoleketi, was established by the Cabinet to manage the process of crisis intervention and support, and to design the trans-
formation of the child and youthcare system.
She said the unco-ordinated release and transfer of about 800 children awaiting trial on May 81995 had exacerbated the long-standing crisis in the system.
"In attempting to solve these problems it became clear that piecemeal solutions were neither possible nor appropriate, and that a new vision for effectively serving young people and families was required.
"Prisons are not meant for children', whether awaiting trial or not," The committee, since inception, has made progress in the transformation of the child and youth-care system in the country," Fraser-Moleketi claimed. i

However, Mzimela said that at Nelstroom prison in Northern Province he had found unsentenced children sleeping in toilets. This inhumane arrangement had been made to try to separate them from the adults. he said.
"These children are brought to us by the police. I tell the prison authorities to tell the police that there is no room. I mean, if you go to a hotel and there is no room, you turn people away. If it is full, it is full. We simply can't keep any young children under these conditions."

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At Nelstroom prison, Mzimela intervened immediately and new sleeping quarters were found. "I told them they had to either release them or find another place to put them. They found another place."

What had really "sickened" Mzimela "was the existence of a vacant place of safety, which falls under the Welfare Department, around the corner from Nelstroom prison.

Last week he intervened when he was informe there was a child of 11 awaiting trial in Bloemfontein

"I gave immediate instructions to the area manager to find the parents of the boy and take him home. They did so within an hour because I told them to." at

At Pollsmoor prison in the Western Cape - -where there are no school programmes - there were 42 unsentenced boys aged only 14 among 203 awaiting trial children. Three prisoners have been murdered there during the past week, highlighting the high level of violence in the prison.

Fraser-Moleketi said in October 1995 that the brief of the IMC had been extended to the designing and facilitating of secure care for children awaiting trial, and in May 1996 undertook an investigation into state residential care for young people.

## Public outcry

When, in a Saturday Star article in August last year, Mzimela highlighted the problem of unsentenced children being held in prisons, a public outcry followed. Yet the situation had continued to deteriorate, he said. "It was one of the first things that the president said in Parliament: 'Let us rid our prisons of children.' Yet the numbers have grown in leaps and bounds."
The unsentenced children were being held, in prisons in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng, Mrimela said. At Durban-Westville there were two or three aged just 10.

On May 41995 Mandela signed a proclamation declaring that awaiting-trial juveniles may no longer be kept in jails. Around 620 unsentenced juveniles were released to places of safety or back into their communities if no appropriate accommodation could be found.

But the public backlash against rampant crime by juveniles after the signing of the proclamation pushed the Government to consider amendments.

The moves to amend section 29 of the Correctional Services Act - which prohibits the holding of juveniles in prisons regardless of the circumstances-unleashed a storm of protest from Mzimela

However, the move was widely welcomed by fruss trated politicians, child-care workers and the police as burglaries, street muggings by gangs of youths and cari break-ins soared.

Police claimed they had a major headache with juveniles escaping from places of safety, only to commit further offences. A private member's bill, proposed hy former chairman of the parliamentary portolio committee on correctional services Carl Niehaus, to allow for the detention in prison of awaiting-trial juveniles suspected of serious crimes, was also fiercely contested by Mzimela

The bill was approved by the portfolio committee in March last year and an extension was given until May next year.
"The case of awaiting-trial juveniles has just got worse. The police pick them up and dump them, and claim they can't find the parents or guardians, when in fact they don't make the effort to locate the people responsible for them. I was forced by the legislation to take them," Mrimela said.

# Children left in adult prisons (298) 20k <br> Fraser-Moleketi, was established by 

 the Cabinet to manage the process of crisis intervention and support, and design the transformation of the child and youth care system.Ms"Fraser-Moleketi said the uncoordinated release and transfer of about 800 children awaiting trial on May 8, 1995 exacerbated the crisis in the child and youth care system.
"In attempting to solve these problems it became clear that piecemeal solutions were neither possible nor appropriate and that a new vision and system for effectively serving young people and families was required." she said.
"Prisons are not meant for children, whether awaiting trial or not. The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Young People at Risk, since inception, has made progress in the transformation of the child and youth care system in the country," said Ms Fras-er-Moleketi.
However, at Nelstroom Prıson in Northern Province, Dr Mzımela found there were unsentenced children sleeping in toilets This inhumane arrangement had been made to separate them from adults, he said.
"These children are brought to us by the police. I tell the prison authorlties to tell the police there is no room. We cannot keep children under these conditions."

At Nelstroom Prison, Dr Mzimela intervened and new sleeping quarters were found for the children.

Claims were made by some prison authorities there was not enough space to separate the children from the adults awaiting trial; he said.
"In some cases that is genuine but in other cases they just make up stories," he said

At Pollsmoor Prison, where there are no school programmes for the children, there are 42 unsentenced boys who are only 14 -years-old. There are now 203 awating trial children being held at Pollsmoor.

Ms Fraser-Moleketi said in May 1996 the IMC was requested by the Cabinet to undertake an investigation into state residential care facilities for young people, she said On May 4 1995, Mr Mandela signed a proclamation declaring that awaiting trial juveniles may no longer be kept in jails But the public backlash against rampant crime by juvenile criminals after the signing of the proclamation pushed the Government to consider amendments.
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One of the many male marchers, who took to the streets of Pretoria at the weekend to protest against abuse of women and children, carries a coffin as a sign of his stand on

\section*{abuse. A fellow marcher joins in song as he beats his drum in celebration of the march.

\section*{PIC: VELI NHLAPO

## PIC: VELI NHLAPO <br> Pretoria march

 draws only 5 , 00000CLOSE to three thousand men from all walks of life took to the streets of Pretoria on Saturday to join the historic Men's March aganst violence against women and children

The march, from Church Square to the Union Buildings, was the first of its kind in South Africa

It was aimed at breaking the sllence that surrounds the issue of abuse and came two days before the International Day for Violence Against Women tomorrow.

Initially expected to draw about 20000 men, the march was poorly attended by a crowd of about 5000 , some of whom were women and children.

Defending the participation of women in the march, executive director of the NGO Coalition and one of the organisers Mr Kumi Nardoo sard that the march did not have the same concept as that of the Million Men March in the United States.
together.
"Women are here at the Union Buildings to receive the marchers and show their support," sard Naidoo.

He satd that although the furnout was poor, he was happy that the main objective of the march was acheved.
"Our concept was to break the silence of abuse of both women and children and we have managed to do just that through reports by the media," said a proud Naidoo.

Addressing the marchers, President Nelson Mandela said the occasion was both a joyous and a sad one
"It causes us all great pain that citizens of a free country should need to march in protest against this kind of violence.
"We fervently hope that such marches will not continue to be necessary, that the time will soon come when no single South African man shall behave to a woman like a beast to its prey.'

## Child abuse on the rise in South Africa

MORE chuldren were beng abused in South Africa than ever before, the SA Law Commission said yestcrday.
Joan van Niekerk, charrwoman of the commission's committee on sexual offences against chuldren. sald in Pretona the number. of child abuse reports was increasing by about 30 percenta year
,Van Niekerk said the committee was in the process of compiling a discussion paper on laws dealing with abusêd children since existung legisldtion was seriously flawed.
"Even some professionals who work with abused children have no faith in the judicial system."

Many children felt that the judicial process, which included medical examinations and court appearances, was worse than the abuse they had experienced.
-Van Niekerk said that there was a need forr courts to be made more "child friendly": $y_{z}$

Also, the people responsible for implementing envisaged nêw legislation would have to be traned if the legislation was to be effective.

These included members of the police and the departments of Justice, Correctional Services and Welfare

## New system needed

Ann Skelton, chairwoman of the commussion's juvenule justice committee, sad 1153 children were awaiting trial in prisons, while more than 1000 were serving prison sentences.
"There is an urgent need for a new system," she said.

Institutions to serve as alternatives to prison had to be built and should be served by trained personnel.

Skelton said the juvente justice committee was busy compiling a discussion paper on the subject and would hold a number of workshops to get mput from the communty and from children - Sapa
'Child-abuse
reports úp by
$30 \%$ a year' 298 )
More children were being abused in South Africa than - ever before, the SA Law Commission said yesterday.

Joan van Niekerk, chairman of the commission's committee : on sexual offences against children, said in Pretoria the number of child-abuse reports being received was unprecedented, and was increas ing by about $30 \%$ per year.
"The state of child abuse in this country is worse than it has ever been,", Yan,Niekerk said. 8 Iar: 26 ) $1 / 47$

She added that the committee was in the process of compiling a discussion paper on laws dealing with abused children since existing legislation was seriously flawed.
"Even some professionals who work with abused children have no faith in the judicial system."

- Ann Skelton, chairman of the commission's juvenile justice committee, said 1153 children wére" awaiting trial in prisons,', while more than 1000 were serving prisön sentences. Professor Belinda van Heerden, chairman of the committee responsibie for reviewing the Child Care Act, said children's rights were being violated on a daily basis.
'Van Heerden added that currently more than 24 different pieces of legislation con-: cerning children existed. Many were not even compatiblé with'one another.
"It, is a fragmented sys-" tem,"she said.

Her committee was working towards creating a children's code which would encompass all existing legislation and also religious and customary laws. ${ }^{\prime}$
"The code should be completed by the end of 2000 , and was aimed at protecting children's rights. - Sapa

















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## HDV YGOVET



## Youth summit backs national service <br> (R2R) De Ran lill three-day national youth summit in Midrand voiced support for national service for young people. <br> National Youth Commission chairwoman Mahlengi Bhengu said at the end of the summit yesterday that the principle would be included in the draft national youth policy to be presented to President Mandela before the end of the year. <br> She said the 72-page draft policy, entitled "Youth Policy 2000", explained the national youth service as programmes to involve the youth in national reconstruction and development. <br> "It also aims to provide accredited work and training experiences to young people," Ms Bhengu said. <br> The draft was based on submissions made during the NYC's national consultative process of 42 <br> youth hearings, nine provincial summits and special workshops between June and November. <br> Key roles in the implementation of the programme were identified for the labour, education, welfare and health departments as well as the commission itself. <br> "We are confident that the draft is an accurate reflections of the hopes and needs of the youth," said Ms Bhengu. - Sapa

NYC 'had a good year'

GIVF N som of the anti-National Youth Commission sentiments expressed during the year and more particularly, sustained celticism of the NYC over salaries, many observers could be forgiven for assuming that the NYC would be decidedly less than happy in its assessment of 1997

The NYC salary issue seemed to provoke hysterical responses and as to lack of delivery with regard to services, we have no mandate to provide services anyway

The public risks missing just how important 1997 has been in advancing the interests of the South African youth

In a year in which national youth organisatons came together for the first time around the issue of developing South Africa's firstever national youth policy, the South African Youth Council (SAYC) was launched as an umbrella body for the country's national youth organisations

It is regrettable that our most prominent memory may be the fact that some young South African had the temerity to accept a political posting without eschewing the salary attached to it

The NYC's own review of the year centres mainly on its legal mandates and the relevant criteria by which the public ought to regularly demand an account.

Any fair assessment would conclude that we have made credible progress despite a tough formative year.

With the successful completion of the secon National Youth Summit, which agreed on the hey elements of South Africa's first national youth policy, it is appropriate to reflect on 1997 to assure the public that the NYC remains well on track

In this regard, it is worth restating the mandates of the NYC since the criteria by which we are often expediently measured sometimes has no relation to what the law requires of us.

The essence of the 1996 National Youth Commission Act, overwhelmingly approved by Parliament, requires the NYC to

- Coordinate and develop an integrated national youth policy,
- Develop an integrated youth development plan that utilises available resources and expervise,
- Develop principles, guidelines and reconmendations by which to coordinate the amplementation of the national youth policy,
- Implement measures to redress imphalances of the past relating to disadvantage of the youth;
- Promote a uniformity of approach by all organs of the state regarding youth matters:
- Liaise closely with organisations similar to the NYC in order to foster common policies


## Despite criticisms that the National Youth Commission failed to deliver, Mahlengi

## Bhengu argues that it succeeded..

and practices,

- Coordinate the activities of youth-related provincial government institutions in relation to the national youth policy, and
- Develop recommendations relating to any other matters affecting youth

The NYC's report to President Nelson Mandela hoghhghts the achievement of a nomben of work targets arising from these mandates Most prominent among these are.

- Organising the National Youth Summit, independently hailed as a historic event, bringing together as it did over 200 delegates from youth and youth-interest organisations to chart the road towards South Africa's first national youth policy,
- Planning and implementing a comprehenside national youth consultation process in support of the national youth policy, incorporating nine provincial summits and 42 youth hearings within a space of five months;
- Developing the first draft of the National Youth Policy based on this public process,
- Establishing for the first time the Interdepartmental Committee on Youth Affairs, which will not only serve as the springboard for the implementation of the final youth policy, but will also serve to promote uniformity of approach on youth strategies to avoid duplicaion through a cost-sharing rationalisation of these programmes,
- Initiating a series of issues-based specialinst "sectoral" summits (in the areas of economic participation; health; social conflict, juvenile justice, education, communication and technology, environment and tourism) in support of the youth policy,
- Conceptually developing (in partnership with Telkom and others) the high-tech YouthLine Information Services Project. provisionally set for launch in June 1998;
- Initiating and developing the concept of a national youth service programme for possible implementation before the turn of the century,
- Conducting high-level international liaison and research to ensure South Africa's accordance with international agreements, particularly the United Nations World Plan of Action for Youth and the Commonwealth Youth Programme:

Organising and convening the second National Youth Summit in the last consultative instance of the policy development process, and
(3) Establishing important bilateral support
relationships within the framework of the Al Gorc-Thabo Mbekı agreement, which has resulted in the provision of strong United States support networks for both the NYC and the development of South African youth.

Obviously our overriding task this year has been to initiate and manage the national process of consultation among youth and youth organstations in support of the youth policy

Despite our self-imposed year-end timetable for this process, we have thankfully also managed to proceed with regard to the other projects detailed in the report

Of course, if one is not prone to credit extensave planning and consultation processes as work, then the NYC could perhaps well be viewed as having had the miserable year our detractors have clammed

The bottom line is that despite meagre overatonal support, the NYC's active work record is impressive.

A key moment was the recognition of this effort by the powerful SAYC

We believe that the broad agreement between the NYC and the SAYC in areas of planning, management and delivery of youth development initiatives will prove to be an invaluable platform from which youth issues will be brought into the broader transformation process

Despite expectations in some quarters that the organisation would adopt a critical dispositon with regard to the NYC, the SAYC's acknowledgement of mutual and collective social responsibility regarding youth developmont was refreshing.

Rather than being an easy target or the panacea for all youth ills, we were acknowledged as a partner on issues around which all reasonable South Africans should have little problem uniting.

These are the attitudes that will keep our society moving forward despite the nay-sayers These are the altitudes that continue to give: strength to the NYC

Findly, the NYC's principled commitment toperational transparency over the year is beysdispute We have serviced every request for information without hesitation or defensiveness.

With the planning and consultation phase- drawing to a close, our mandates are clear our commitment to accountability absolute.
(The writer is the National Vote. Commission chairperson).










 $A^{\text {colourful poster on the }}$ Mandela Children's Fund, which has distributed over R16
million in the last two years. CYNTHIA VONGAI reports. CHILDREN IN NEED are being given hope by the Nelson

## IOJ ISOOq Ysej



## WAPE TIMES






## Plan to open schools to delinquents <br>  By ELLIOTT SYLVESTER <br> townships, will gradually te in- <br> not wish to be lamed, satid disabled learners were currently <br> - But severad teachers, ex-

Children guilty of crimes ranging from murder to assault could soon be learning and playing alongside pupils in ordinary state schools across the country.

Next term, schools in Gauteng might have to start preparing to receive the new pupils

A green paper to be debated in Parliament early next year proposes tha, reformatory inmates, as well as children in places of safety and industrial schools, be integrated into the mainstream schooling system in an effort to normalise their education.

In terms of the new policy, called "inclusion" by the national Education Department, even children convicted of serious crimes would be considered candidates because "their past crimes should not affect their chances at education", a source in the department said.

This means parents who disagree with the system will not be able to oppose it, because it is a constitutional matter.

In Gauteng, physically disabled children, as well as those in places of safety and industrial schools, and "children at risk" in
tegrated into both primary and secondary schools. Gauteng, however, is the only province that has no reformatories.

In the rest of the country, the inmates of reformatories run by the Department of Correctional Services will be evaluated for admission on the basis of their ability to adapt and progress in society.

The only other criterion for admission is that the children do not have any serious learning disabilities.

Gauteng education department spokesman Evelyn Bramdeow says the policy was born out of the new constitution, which guarantees the right of all children to a proper education.

She said schools could begin preparing for the "inclusion" policy as early as next month

The "inclusion" poliey was drafted by the National Commission on Special Needs in Education and Training. Although scheduled to be implemented nationwide, the special needs of each province would be taken into account and the policy adapted to each of them.

An official in the Gauteng Education Department, who did
being educated in institutions comprised solely of other disabled students. This posed problems when they left that environment and had to socialise with able-bodied people as well as the physically impaired,

She said disabled people had to live in society with both types of people, but the education system had isolated them. She felt the policy would address this problem.

She said Gauteng was at the forefront of this "groundbreaking approach" to education, which would place physically, visually and aurally impaired pupils in public schools.

South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) national education officer Aubrey Matlole sees "inclusion" as having a dual advantage, not only for the disabled, but also for pupils in mainstream education.
"Inclusion will change the psychology of learners and make them realise that disabled people can compete with them on certain levels."

Matlole said teachers were in favour of the system, provided their jobs were not threatened.
pressed concern for their pupils' safety and educational progress if the plan is implemented. Although no definite structure has been established, these teachers believe that children with criminal histories will cause further disruption in already overcrowded classrooms.

The head of a Gauteng place of safety, who did not wish to be identified because of the tentative nature of the policy, said bluntly: "Inclusion will not work. The community has always opposed our trying to register our children at the schools in the area, and I don't see how it will be successful now."

He said that although these children might be able to learn alongside normal pupils, they still had behavioural problems, which could cause huge difficulties in classrooms.

Budgets have not been allocated yet, but Bramdeow says psychologists, councillors and psychotherapists would, at great cost, have to be added to school staff to set the correct guidance structure in place. In some cases, total reconstruction of schools would have to take place, which could be very costly.


# 'Crisis' as young rapists, <br> <br> murderers are released <br> <br> murderers are released <br> YOUNG CRIMINALS have been released from a reform school that apparently misinterpreted an education department instruction. Education Writer TROYE LUND reports. <br> CONVICTED juveniles at Porter Reform School call it the lucky "stroothle" (straw) <br> and places of safety in November this year of a move to "unblock" them to make way for children <br> Boy breaks into club three times in one year 

- a card they recelve as a pass for the Christmas holdays.

But this year the "strooltjles" had no return date on them

The misinterpretation of an instruction by the Western Cape Education Department (WCFD) has led to rapists and murderers ranging from 14 to 20 years old being released for good

All inmates, except for those 25 who arnved within the past three weeks, went home on Friday

A psychologist at the school, Mr Billy Gioest, sard "This is nothing short of a crisis. Some of these boys are hard-core criminals - rapists and murderers. They have been released into communities with no support structures. They will be a -danger to themselves and to the community."

He was speaking at a press conference yesterday called by the South African Democratic Teachers Union and the National Health Workers Union.

According to psychologists and teachers at Porter, the education department told principals at retorm schools, schools of industry
awating trial in prison and for children in need of the programmes run at the institutions.

To move as many juveniles out of the system as possible, they said they had been given specific criteria to consider when deciding which juveniles to release, Porter staff and the unions sad

These were

- Boys from other provinces
- Boys over 18 years of age.
- Boys who had relatively good home environments to go to.
- Boys who would have been released before March.

A teacher at Porter, Mr Lawrence Hoepner, said: "These categories are in line with the interministerial committee's (IMC) document formulated after an investigation of residential care facilties for juveniles.
"It is an excellent document aimed at transforming the system, but it makes it clear that structures have to be in place in communites to recelve boys that are sent home. I his is not the case. Ihe boys we sent home are not coming back and will go straight back to crime

FATIMÁ SCHROEDER

JASON Smith, aged 16, has been in and out of jail and a reformatory for a string of burglaries, and has been charged with sodomising two boys. Two weeks ago he was one of 240 inmates released from the Porter Reform School - but within days he was back.

Jason (not his real name) was released on November 30 from the Tokai school. The next day, he broke into the Pines Ten Pin

One boy, who was released, has already committed another crime "

A teacher in Porter's psychology department, Ms Charmaine McQueen, said: "We sent through release forms for all the boys, they are not coming back."

However, the WCED sald it had not instructed Porter or any other school to release inmates for good.

The other five reform schools in the Western Cape sald that they had not released their inmates permanently as the release criteria had

DESPAIR: Profect Go offers the promise of a better future for this reform school boy. According to a govern-


Bowling Club in Parow for the third time this year

The first time, in May, he was held at Parow police stàtion for nine days and released under his mother's supervision. Two months later he committed the same crime and was held at Pollsmoor Prison for two months, until a vacancy was found for him at the reformatory.

Released again, he broke into the club the next day. He's now back at the reformatory.
only been verbally communicated.
Inmates at these schools had been sent home for the holidays only The schools said most inmates did return, only about $15 \%$ absconded.

IMC spokesperson, Ms Leslie du Tort, sald Porter had made a grave mistake if they had let all the boys go. Although the idea was to "unblock" the system there was no intention or instruction to "willy nilly" send juvemiles from these institutions home. tion conducted by-an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC).

Although the cabinet instructed education and welfare departments to implement the changes recommended by the IMC immediately, it has now decided that not enough has been done.

As a result an initiative called Project $G o$ has been putinto motion as an urgent drive to ensure that the transformation of child and youth care systems proceed as quickly as possible.

Because the Western Cape has more than $60 \%$ of the country's juvenile residential care facilities and because children from all corners of the country are sent to these institutions, it is the hub of Project Go's, national campaign.

IMC and Project Go spokesperson,

> Most children in thés institutions are being kept there for longer than they should be.

OT11| $12 / q / 7$
Ms Leslie du Toit said: "The system has been in crisis for a long time and although remarkable strides have been made in some schools the education and welfare departments have been dragging their heels about transform-1 ing the institutions."

Because the IMC found that most children in these institutions were being kept there for longer than they should be, the aim of Project Go , is '.to "unblock" the system $*$ and to ensure children $\because$ move through it quickly. $\begin{gathered}\text { Project }{ }^{\prime} G o^{\prime} \text { 's aims }\end{gathered}$ Project'Go's aims assessment tand referial system so that children do not go to institìtions when they can await trial at home and so they are placed in appropriate care for an appropriate time. The emphasis is on moving from statutory intervention to prevention and early intervention.

- To review every child in the system with a view to placing them back in communities with support systems.
- To improve the training of all
staff at these institutions.
"It is not about more money, it is about doing the job better and making the system work for the benefit of the children," said DuToit.



[^0]:    Public register mooted to expose paedophiles
    Wyídham Hartley
     arack down farther on paédophiles endodhild molesters by approxing the creation of a public"reg ister of those convicted of offences.

    This emerged during a news briefing yesterday when Welfare Minister Gerflaine FraserMoleketi isaid that the creation of Enchryegisters was a growing international practice

    She baid Sweden's récent international conferonce on commercial exploitation of fitidren had endorsed a"resolution callifg for the creation of public registers of paedophiles, ", wersa

    Fraser-Molelketi wás réleasing the cheport of an investigation by aninterministerial committee into young people at risk, which identifed shocking "defects in the institutional care of yoin in people

    Asked whether any cases of sexdalabuse had been uncovered in state institutionischayged with child care, she said there had been mondents, but they were not widespread Simple physical abuse was far more common, she said:

    Fraser-Moleketi said there was sotime doubt about whether a register of paedophiles could be made publicin terms of the constitutionts.

    It was possible that the right to privacy provisions in the constitution could be wiolated by a public register.

    There was a possibility, however, ", othat a state register of paedophiles and child molesters, access to which could begranted to employersm the child care sector to check on whether or not prospective employees had a record of abuse, would béconstitutionally acceptable,

    Apart from proyiding information to those" in the child care sector, the main purpose of such a register would be to keep track of paedophiles.

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[^5]:    Tuvenile violence increases

    ## LINDIZ VAN ZILLA

    THE criminal justice system's battle with juvenile offenders is highlighted in a police document detailing shocking statistics of juvenule crime in the Western Cape.

    It reveals that 12483 minors were arrested last year.

    The police document follows extensive research into juvenile crime. A database was started in 1995.

    The 1996 figures are marginally down from the previous year, when 12691 juveniles were arrested, a $1,6 \%$ decrease.

    However, violent offences committed by juveniles have increased, with 256 arrested for murder, 115 for attempted murder, 400 for rape, 105 for armed robbery, 760 for robbery, 600 for serious assault and 19 for firearm-related offences.

    Of the 12483 juveniles arrested, 1834 were between the ages of 7-13, while 10649 were aged between 14-17.

    Yesterday, police spokesman Senior Superintendent John Sterrenberg expressed police concern at the alarming figures and called for a "concerted all-round effort to address juvenile crime"

    Another disturbing statistic to emerge from the document is the large number of juveniles absconding from insecure places of safety.

    Of 1152 juveniles, 454 absconded from

    | Juveniles arrested in 1996: | 12483 |
    | :--- | ---: |
    | Aged 7-13: | 1834 |
    | Aged 14-17: | 10649 |


    | Murder | 256 |
    | :--- | ---: |
    | Attempted murder | 115 |
    | Rape | 406 |
    | Armed robbery | 105 |
    | Robbery | 760 |
    | Serious assault | 600 |
    | Housebreaking | 2960 |
    | Theft | 1583 |
    | Cartheft | 547 |
    | Theft from motor vehicle | 889 |
    | Possession of dangerous weapons | 65 |
    | Possession of unlicensed firearms | 214 |
    | Arson | 27 |
    | Indecent assault | 31 |
    | Sodomy | 34 |
    | Drunkenness | 75 |
    | Possession of dagga | 373 |
    | Possession of Mandrax | 51 |

    facilities such as Bonnytoun and Houses Rosendal, Vredelus, Lindelanı and Outenıqua last year.

    Of the juveniles who were either released before appearing in court, or after their first appearance, 1472 were released into their

    A further 4153 were released into the custody of their parents by the courts, 1508 received free bail, 947 were sent to places of custody, 622 were referred to the Department of Correctional Services, 163 to dormitories and 2132 to police cells.

    Superintendent Niels Nilsson, of provincial commissioner Mr Leon Wessels' office, said yesterday the police would closely monitor juvenile crrme for the next few years and would develop plans to address the problem.

    He admitted that the police had great difficulty in dealing with juvenile crime because many juvenile offenders were hardened criminals, who often absconded from places of safety

    He sard the police had been involved in drawing up a provincial plan of action, which included input from various state departments and non-governmental organisations.

    Sterrenberg sard one of the aspects which perturbed the police was that in many instances juveniles were used by adults to perpetrate crime.

    He blamed this on a lack of secure family values, and said there was an urgent need to inculcate proper values in the family circle.

    He questioned how much of a positive role was played in raising children by religious and youth leaders, educationists and welfare organisations.

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