Social Security - General

1996

Aug. - Dec
Nats ‘to draw up plan to eliminate SA poverty’

Tim Cohen

NP LEADER FW de Klerk yesterday scorned the ANC’s management of the RDP, saying the NP would launch an initiative to eradicate poverty.

Addressing the opening of the NP’s federal congress in Cape Town last night, De Klerk said the NP was deeply concerned about the RDP because vast amounts allocated were not spent and a new administrative set-up was established just to be discarded the next day.

Attempting to strike a new chord as an opposition party, de Klerk said many millions went down the “gravy drain”.

He said the RDP was floundering and the ANC had lured millions of voters into voting for them on the basis of the RDP.

“And now that they are in power, they are failing to manage it as a comprehensive and cohesive anti-poverty action plan”.

The NP had consequently decided to launch a new initiative aimed at alleviating the plight of the poor. “We will immediately start working on an alternative, comprehensive, meaningful and workable anti-poverty strategy.”

The plan would be compiled in conjunction with experts and with community-based organisations. In about nine months’ time, the party would hold a national anti-poverty conference with a view to broadening agreement on the strategy and to plan the way forward.

De Klerk did not mention possible alliances with other parties, but said “the old historical divisions along ethnic and racial lines is a dead-end street in our new non-racial society”.

The NP was under no illusions as to the difficulty and the complexity of this task, but if it did not succeed “SA would be doomed to continuous deep ethnic divisions, tensions and the risk of becoming a one-party state”.

He said SA was “slipping” and was fighting the lack of sufficient new investment, a rising number of immigrants and a fragile rand.

He said it was tragic that the rand had struck an all-time low against the pound, saying “no one would consider some admirable efforts from President Nelson Mandela, the ANC was ‘beginning to lose its grip’.”

Sapa reports that an NP policy document released yesterday said the party had built more houses in its last year of government than the ANC had built to date.

The document, which will be debated at the party’s federal congress, said the ANC was continuing to base its housing policy on party political criteria, to the detriment of KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape.

It called for an increase in the R15 000 government housing subsidy, and the establishment of personal home loans for people earning R1 500 to R2 500 a month.

On security policy, the document said the death penalty should be reintroduced for murder, rape and the worst cases of armed robbery.

The document said consideration should also be given to placing the onus on a person convicted of killing a police officer to testify why he or she should not be hanged.

“A nation that did not value and protect the lives of its police officers did not deserve law and order. The maximum penalty for hijackings, taxi violence, sex offences and sale of stolen property should be increased.”

Five NP delegates died and four were seriously injured on Wednesday when the minibus in which they were travelling to the congress overturned between Verwoerdburg and Bethulie in the Free State, police said.
Stance Towards SA

To Retain the Broader

US aids has no reason

With the global economic climate

SIMON ARERI IN WASHINGTON

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Lottery to yield R5-bn

By Gerry Reilly

THE national lottery, due to be launched later next year or early in 1998, will generate up to R5 billion in ticket sales, much of which will be used to support RDP projects and charitable organisations.

The national lottery bill is scheduled to go through Parliament during the coming session. The bill will, among other things, provide for the appointment of a National Lottery Board.

According to sources in the Department of Trade and Industry, a "highly conservative" estimate of revenue that is going to be generated by lotteries has been placed at R2 billion. The private sector projections are twice as high than DTT's.

The now defunct Lottery and Gaming Board recommended that 50 percent of the gross income should go to prize money with 45 percent shared between the RDP fund and 20 charitable and sporting organisations. Five percent will be earmarked for cultural, art and heritage projects.

Economist Tony Twine says: "The lottery will be a relatively painless way of channelling funds from the public to support government development plans and other worthy causes."

Twine says there is a "very slight" possibility, if the British experience is anything to go by, of an outbreak of "lottery disease" where excessive amounts are invested by "addicts" in lottery tickets.

But for the vast majority of South Africans, the lotteries will be a harmless, affordable flutter and fun.

Prize money, according to the Katz Commission, will not be taxed.

Earlier in the year, the National Tender Board called for tenders for operators' licences. Twelve applications for the licence are now being processed by the board.

Consultants are to be appointed soon to assist with the preparation of the infrastructure.

Their task will take between a month and a year.

The draft bill also provides for smaller lotteries to be controlled by provincial governments. These will be mainly for specific social causes such as social welfare.
International agencies give SA financial help

By Joshua Raboroko

INTERNATIONAL aid agencies, including the United Nations, are pumping millions of rand into South African banks to support the drive to provide home loans to the poor, particularly in the low-cost housing market.

This was confirmed by the director-general of housing Billy Cobbett.

He said the Government was to intervene indirectly in the low-cost housing market by creating the capacity at provincial and local level to help the poor build homes.

The Government would deploy the capacity to assist the poorest of the poor with the help of the UN. Details of the grants will be announced later.

Sources have also disclosed that a number of Western governments, including the United States, Britain, France and Germany—all members of the UN—have pledged to make some funds available to assist in the provision of low-cost houses.

Financial institutions such as First National Bank and Nedcor Group are believed to have received money from overseas sources for this purpose.

USAID urban development officer Caroleine Dei confirmed to Sowetan Business that millions of rand have been granted to banks for this purpose.

The repayment of such loans was negotiated by the parties. However, she would not disclose amounts involved.

Nedcor appears to have started using the money.

A joint venture between the institution, the Mzinga community and Mogase in the provision of more than 2 000 low-cost houses in the Northern Province.

The project was unveiled last month. Cobbett acknowledged that the Government subsidy scheme— for people earning less than R3 500 a month—was not enough for the purchase of land, paying for services and building homes.

Partnerships between the communities and the private sector were important.
Vagrant population, out of control

The Argus, Wednesday, August 7, 1996
US Peace Corps volunteers are on way with help for SA's poor

WASHINGTON. - The United States Peace Corps will send volunteers to South Africa next year - the first time in its 35 year history.

"It will be the first time that our members will be working in South Africa. Because of apartheid rule, we could not send anyone there. Now is the time," said Peace Corps spokesman Brendan Daly.

The first 30 volunteers will be in South Africa in January next year and another 20 in October 1997.

Mr Daly said the first group will be stationed in Mpumalanga and the Northern Province where they will help rural communities in education, health, nutrition, agriculture, environment and small business development.

South Africa will become the 132nd country where the Peace Corps is represented. The first in Africa was Ghana in 1961. There are presently 7,000 volunteers serving in 63 countries all over the world, including more than 2,400 of them in 31 African countries.

Franklin Sonn, South Africa's ambassador to the US, said his country was looking forward to the arrival of the volunteers next year.

"The various services and skills that they will bring to bear in helping South Africa's poorest communities are much needed and much appreciated."
THE Development Bank of Southern Africa was expected to announce a record level of disbursements for development projects, which could top R1,4bn (R1,1bn) for the year ended March, analysts said yesterday.

The bank was due to report its year-end results tomorrow, with new commitments to local authorities, regional service councils, joint service boards and public utilities expected to boost disbursements.

However, one analyst said that the lack of provincial borrowing powers and inadequate financial and managerial capacity at local government level could have had an adverse effect on bank lending.

Major bank clients included provincial and local governments; and the analyst said there had been a reduction in applications for financing last year. This was largely due to the restructuring taking place at these levels.

Analysts said there was uncertainty about what the effect of the Community Bank being placed under curatorship would have on the results. The Development Bank is understood to have contributed about R110m to Community Bank's initial capital of R200m, of which R130m had been paid out by the funders to date.

The expected improved results came in the face of the major restructuring exercise under way to streamline the bank, and to ensure it focused more on financing infrastructure.

Development Bank chairman Wiseman Nkuhlu said unfinished policy formation by the finance ministry had retarded the transformation — unless this took place rapidly, staff and other stakeholders would lose confidence in the process.

Development Bank CEO Ian Goldman has set up a task force to make recommendations about the bank’s structural transformations.


The Minister of Education

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Minister of Education, in accordance with the provisions of the
Ministry's General Regulations on the National Professional
Education Programme, hereby issues the following Instructions
and Guidelines for the implementation of the Programme.

Instructions

1. The Programme's objectives are to improve the quality of
education and training, and to increase the employability of
students.

2. The Programme's structure comprises the following stages:
(a) Orientation
(b) Core Modules
(c) Elective Modules
(d) Practice

3. The Programme is open to all students who meet the
minimum entry requirements.

4. The Programme is offered in partnership with industry and
employers to ensure relevance to the job market.

Guidelines

1. The Programme's curriculum is designed to cover a broad
range of subjects relevant to the industry.

2. The Programme's assessment methods include tests,
évaluations, and practical exercises.

3. Students are required to complete a minimum of 150
contact hours per module.

4. The Programme's duration is 2 years.

5. The Programme's graduates are eligible for employment in
corresponding positions.

The Ministry of Education

July 1999

Implementation of the Programme

The Programme is implemented on a pilot basis in 10 institutions,
with the following schedule:

- Orientation: September
- Core Modules: October to December
- Elective Modules: January to March
- Practice: April to June

The Programme's evaluation will be conducted at the end of
the academic year, and any necessary adjustments will be made
for the following year.

The Ministry of Education

July 1999
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**Total:** 3500 4500 6000 7500

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**Note:** The above table represents the budget allocations for the year 1993. The actual figures may vary due to unforeseen circumstances.

**Source:** Ministry of Finance, Government of XYZ

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**Diagram:**

1. The diagram illustrates the distribution of funds across different sectors.
2. The largest portion is allocated to Education, followed by Health, Housing, and Environment.
3. The goal is to ensure equitable distribution to benefit all regions.

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**Legend:**

- **Education:** Funding for educational institutions and programs.
- **Health:** Funding for healthcare services and facilities.
- **Housing:** Funding for housing projects and initiatives.
- **Environment:** Funding for environmental conservation and projects.

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**Table Notes:**

- The figures are subject to change based on the latest fiscal year's data.
- The table is updated bi-annually to reflect the current fiscal status.
- The ministry reserves the right to adjust allocations based on national economic conditions.
State dithers on Boesak

Susan Russell

SEVEN months after receiving a report on alleged financial irregularities by Allan Boesak and his defunct Foundation for Peace and Justice, Cape attorney-general Frank Khan has still not decided if he is going to prosecute anyone.

Cape deputy attorney-general JC Gerber said yesterday that it would still be some months before a decision was made.

Boesak was obliged to withdraw as ambassador-designate to the UN in Geneva after Danish funders alleged that millions of rand donated for the benefit of apartheid victims had been misappropriated by Boesak and other foundation employees for their personal use.

A 72-page report of an Office for Serious Economic Offences investigation into the matter was handed to Khan as well as to Justice Minister Dullah Omar in January this year.

Business
TONIGHT

on SABC 3 at 10pm
Your first look at tomorrow's
Business Day
NEWS WORTH KNOWING
Hoskins rescued by NRK
Life among the humans
1961 in Shuttered City
DBSA hands out record amount

By James Jordan

JOHANNESBURG - The state-owned Development Bank of Southern Africa disbursed record grants and non-reimbursable advances to development projects this year, increasing its total by 17 percent compared with R2.1 billion last year.

The bank said yesterday that in its new role as an infrastructure development bank, it no longer funded projects directly from the government's kitty but now used its own resources.

A further R2.9 billion was committed to projects outside its agreements with the private sector, thereby reaching a total of R3.9 billion for new projects.

A total of 40 percent of the bank's money was channelled to tourism-related projects.

Major tourism projects supported by the bank included the KwaZulu-Natal roadside tourism development programme, the rehabilitation of the Eastern Cape tourism projects, and the rehabilitation and renovation of Mbombela Stadium.

The bank's chief executive, John Moloi, said the development of tourism was the main thrust in the bank's operation, especially in the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and North West, which had the highest concentration of tourists.

Moloi said the bank was committed to ensuring that the tourism sector was not left behind in the country's economic transformation.

The bank said it would continue to invest in projects that would contribute to the country's economic growth and development.

Moloi said the bank was also committed to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the tourism sector.

He said the bank had a special programme for SMEs, which included funding, training, and support services.

Moloi said the bank was also committed to providing long-term funding to tourism projects, which would help the sector to meet the challenges posed by climate change.
Development Bank gives RDP boost

The Development Bank of Southern Africa gave the RDP a major boost during the year ended March, releasing more than R1,32bn (R1,14bn) into the market with a strong focus on the provision of infrastructure.

The bank's newer role of mobilising private sector investment and lending also progressed, securing co-financing of R770,5m from the private sector for development projects. This was over and above a 26% increase in approved commitments of R1,08bn.

Bank CEO Ian Goldin said the bank succeeded in maintaining development momentum during a time when the state-owned organisation was undergoing a major internal transformation process.

Goldin said there remained institutional and capacity problems, particularly at the local government level, which continued to impede the delivery of development projects and could curtail them in the longer term.

A reduction in government contributions to the bank, an increase in the provision for loan losses and the costs of forward cover on foreign borrowings contributed to the net surplus dropping 30% to R13,8m. Higher domestic borrowings contributed to the net surplus dropping 30% to R13,8m. Higher domestic borrowings of R276m (nil), along with foreign borrowings of R319m (R38m), saw the interest bill rise 22.5% to R314m.

Bank chairman Wiseman Nkuhlu said there was broad agreement on a new mandate which would see the bank being restructured to focus largely on infrastructure finance. Legislation to support this mandate would be tabled this year.

He expected internal transformation to move ahead more rapidly. In the external environment, local authorities and provinces were likely to be the main borrowers for infrastructure.

Goldin said the bank would continue to focus on and assist with the provision of infrastructure finance. It was advising on the Olympic Bid.

He said the bank would be encouraging greater private sector investment in projects and corridors in the Southern African Development Community region, while committing its expertise and resources to boosting development in the region.

Infrastructure projects the bank was involved in during the review period included the R1,2bn Cato Manor development, the R800m Olfants River water project and the R12m KwaZulu-Natal roads upgrading project.
Society must mobilise—Naidoo

Renee Grawitzky

The organisational capacity of unions and community organisations had been severely hampered since the advance to democracy and had failed to organise and develop policies to effectively carry out their daily functions, Nedlac's executive director Jayendra Naidoo said yesterday.

Addressing a conference at Stellenbosch University on the role of civil society in consolidating democracy, Naidoo said: "The advance to democracy has also robbed civil society of a substantial number of experienced leaders who are now ensconced in Parliament, government, various institutions and elsewhere."

He warned that societies with a weakly organised civil society did not consolidate democratic gains. It led to various types of dictatorships, and a loss of democratic rights.

Naidoo said business interests, trade unions, the media, consumer groups and local community organisation held considerable sway, resources and expertise. Government decisions could easily be impeded by such interest groups, he said.

"However, should the spheres of influence of civil society groups be mobilised in co-operation with government, it could greatly add to practicality and sustainability of government decisions and improve the prospects of a speedy and successful implementation of decisions and policies," he said.

This influence and co-operation was best untapped by having strong civil society organisations. This was especially crucial in the area of social and economic policy engagement.

Nedlac, Naidoo said, was a "fairly powerful form of institution for social dialogue", but however required parties to obtain formal mandates for their membership. Ultimately, he said, the "form of participation available to each constituency is related to their strength and contribution."
Carrying up to fund change

SUNDAY TIMES BUSINESS TIMES, AUGUST 18, 1996
CHILD SUPPORT: Youngsters at the Johannesburg Child Welfare Educare Centre in Alexandra lend their weight to the protest by social workers on the steps of Johannesburg City Hall this week.

Welfare services face exodus of disillusioned workers and facility closures as budgets and subsidies slashed

By JACQUI REEVES

Students studying to become social workers do not have a lot to look forward to once they graduate.

The degree that takes them four years to complete could put them in line for a job in the private sector earning about R3 000 a month.

If they are lucky they will find themselves employed by the state, earning between R3 000 and R3 500 a month before the taxman takes his bite.

This week, the issue of salaries, budgets and the slashing of state subsidies was high on the agenda of the Social Services Mobilisation Committee, with protesters showing their frustration on the steps of Johannesburg City Hall.

The national budget for social services is R1.2-billion. This budget, spread across the nine provinces, facilitates and services everything from abandoned, abused and neglected children, to homes for the aged, services for the deaf and disabled, and youth development.

Gauteng's department of social welfare also caters for people suffering from drug and alcohol dependency, former offenders and people infected with HIV.

The department, under the watchful eye of MEC Ignatius Jacobs, has many plans to develop and rebuild the province's social services, but from a national perspective the problems are large.

Poor salaries and the emotionally draining nature of the work are contributing to an ever-increasing number of social workers dropping out of their field and turning to more lucrative employment.

In a memorandum to Gauteng Premier Tokyo Sexwale, the Social Service and Development Forum called on the Government to recognise the serious nature of the problem.

"A system of financing for welfare which was designed by the previous government to cater mainly for the needs of 4 million whites - and which was inadequate for them - is now being stretched to cover a population of more than 40 million," a report says.

Workers and politicians hoping to increase the social services budget have a tough battle on their hands. The effects of further subsidy cuts could be disastrous.

The Johannesburg Child Welfare Educare Centre in Alexandra stands to become one of the casualties in those budget cuts.

A spokesman for the organisation says budget constraints have already forced Child Welfare to end or severely cut services, and that the quality of services offered is also affected.

"Our pre-school centres keep children off the streets, allow their parents to go out to work, and prepare children for their primary education. Child Welfare runs many of these pre-schools, and the service is essential, but quite honestly we are beginning to wonder whether we will be able to keep the schools open for much longer," she says.

Another group demanding financial aid to ward off closure is the African Self-help Association. The Braamfontein-based organisation also cares for pre-school children. Teachers say they can no longer afford to help the community.

"We see ourselves as professionals. We have teaching diplomas and offer children skills to prepare them for primary school. Yet we are not even paid a living wage," one teacher says.

Among the protesters this week, hundreds of stories predicting the closure of social services could be heard.

Jacobs promised to take the memorandum to the premier's office and to "respond holistically", but where the Government will find the additional funds to save the stricken social welfare ship remains uncertain.
Severance deals in bank reshaping

SEVERAL top executives at the Development Bank of SA are negotiating voluntary severance packages as part of the para-statal’s transformation.

Regional communications divisional manager Sandle Madolo confirmed at the weekend that talks were under way as “part of the transformation initiative taking place at the bank”.

He declined to identify which executives were involved, but the focus is understood to include the bank’s executive committee — which sits just below the CEO in the bank’s management chain — and other top management.

The discussions follow expressions of unhappiness among some employees arising out of what was perceived as the slow pace of the bank’s internal transformation.

The transformation involves focusing the bank on infrastructure finance and reshaping management.

Chairman Wiseman Nkuhlu said in the bank’s annual report, released last week, that plans concerning the organisation’s structure and permanent executive management appointments

Continued on Page 2

Bank

Continued from Page 1

would “progress rapidly” following CEO Ian Goldin’s appointment in April.

“Major retrenchments are not envisaged,” Nkuhlu said, “but a considerable degree of restructuring and re-skilling of staff is likely to be necessary in view of the revised mandate of the organisation.”

Goldin conceded in the report that considerable unhappiness had existed due to a perception that decision-making was concentrated in the hands of a few people. The bank’s staff was

centrated numerically at the professional and technical levels rather than at the lower occupational levels.

“Consequently, a vast pool of knowledge and experience had in the past effectively remained untapped in transformational design and decision making,” he said.

Goldin said that, as a result, a new participative approach was formulated towards the end of last year, which placed all transformation issues on a public platform to allow staff to express their views on them.

A task force to synthesise the transformation work had been established, and its recommendations should start being implemented by next month.
RDP projects of about R2bn still not off ground

Greta Steyn

RDP projects of about R2bn provided for in this year's Budget still had to provide business plans before they could get their cash, co-ordinator of programme management services Roy Page-Shipp said yesterday.

He said his division, which now fell in the finance department after the closure of the RDP office, was looking at all outstanding business plans. "We will inform people that we are still waiting," he said.

The finance department has set a December 17 deadline for the submission of business plans. Departments and provinces that miss the deadline will have to forgive the finance, and the funds will be used elsewhere. The longer the delay, the less likely that actual spending will take place this fiscal year.

Page-Shipp said about R750m in municipal infrastructure projects still required business plans. Another big spending item was the R1bn set aside for dealing with the backlog in classrooms. He expected the latter to be ready soon, but said it would be some time before the spending would show up in government's accounts.

A business plan was also required for about R265m allocated for the development of a national spatial development planning framework. A couple of other projects, for which small amounts had been allocated for each (less than R1m) were also still not yet ready to receive cash.

The state expenditure department has said it will cut back on projects that fail to get off the ground as a way to reach government's ambitious deficit targets.

However, Page-Shipp was confident that there would be enough time until mid-December to get business plans passed, so that there was no reason yet to believe that the full R4,11bn allocated for this fiscal year would not be committed.

He said initial difficulties in drawing up business plans appeared to have been overcome. There had been a hue and cry about expenditure not taking place, but we have insisted on well planned spending.

"We are at last gaining momentum," he said.

The state expenditure department was looking also at finance which had already been committed but had not yet been spent.
Controlling the expression of a gene at an early stage, the transcription factors bind to the DNA and activate the transcription of the gene. This process is known as gene expression regulation. The expression of a gene can be controlled at various levels, including transcription, translation, and post-translational modification. The regulation of gene expression is essential for cellular function and is a fundamental process in all organisms. In eukaryotic cells, the process is complex and involves several mechanisms, including the binding of transcription factors to regulatory elements, the recruitment of RNA polymerase, and the formation of transcription initiation complexes. These processes are crucial for the regulation of gene expression and are essential for the proper functioning of the cell.
RDP fund levies anger businesses

By TOM HOOD
ST.(CM) 25/08/96

BUSINESS firms are angry that money they are forced to pay into a special RDP fund is not being spent on development, and about 10 000 firms — 10 percent of Cape businesses — are not paying up.

A report from the Auditor-General this week disclosed that millions of rand of levy income were being used instead to finance operating budgets and inefficiencies.

"Businesses will be taxed to the tune of R50-million this year by Regional Service Council levies, which take 0.2 percent for their turnovers and wage bills."

However, the Cape Metropolitan Council this week quoted a report from the World Bank which said the current level of RSC levies was too low and should be raised to three percent. The bank believed that in some urban areas this revenue would lessen the need to raise other taxes to upgrade facilities in poor communities.

The CMC's executive committee has asked the estimates group to consider whether the levies should stay at their present levels or be increased. But any hike will meet opposition from the Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"We believe we are already "overbored" in the Cape Town area and business pays the highest property tax in the country," said deputy director Colin Boyes.

"It is vital the authorities recognise that in a highly competitive world this is not the time to raise taxes. To attract business to an area there has to be an investment environment. Taxation is a crucial factor."

Jan 1996
Urban overload: Creative solutions needed to solve the crisis in our cities

The world’s greatest environmental problems are exacerbated by the high density and activity of city life, but attempts can be made to address this with creative development. GLENDA DANIELS reports.

The urban environmental crisis will continue to be one of the most pressing problems facing humanity in the 21st century as the trend towards city living proceeds at an alarming rate. According to a recent United Nations report, cities today play a significant role in development. They continue to attract migrants from rural areas because they enable people to advance socio-economically. Cities offer significant economies of scale in the provision of jobs, housing and services and are important centres of productivity and social development.

However, the report adds that the stress of this rapid urban population is overwhelming and sometimes up to 80 percent of people in urban areas live below the poverty line. Most of the world’s greatest environmental threats to air quality, water quality and availability, waste disposal and energy consumption are exacerbated by the high density and activity of urban life.

At present, half the globe’s population lives in cities. By 2030, two-thirds of the world’s people will live in urban areas. At least 600 million urban dwellers currently live in environments that threaten not only their health but their lives, almost 50 percent of whom are children,” says the UN, which held a City Summit, convened by its Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in Istanbul, Turkey.

The World Health Organisation (WHO), last year four million children under the age of five died from acute respiratory diseases in developing countries.

Many are struck by air pollution in poorly ventilated huts where cow dung and other agricultural wastes, as well as wood, are used for heating and cooking. Stress from polluted air in the home, says the WHO, is compounded in the urban environment; air quality in all 20 of the world’s largest cities already falls below WHO standards; lead levels in urban air, primarily produced by car exhausts, are dangerously high, contributing to the lowering of children’s IQ levels by as much as four percent.

The conference encouraged governments and local authorities to invest in partnerships with urban dwellers to improve management of cities. In this way, there will be opportunities for citizens to participate in local decision-making and the possibility of innovative solutions. Governments alone cannot provide for the needs of these populations.

They should involve all interested parties, from householders and community-based organisations through to the private sector and local government.

This would enable housing markets to work more efficiently and to guarantee equality of women and men security of tenure, access to land and credit and protection from arbitraty eviction. Reducing poverty and creating jobs is a key. Large economic strategies, more participatory urban planning approaches that take stock of local skills, technologies and materials will be needed to generate new and better-paying job opportunities in cities and towns.

Environmental concerns have to be incorporated with planning. For example, it is the urban poor who are the most affected by environmental degradation and poverty.

Increasing an awareness of gender issues is crucial because, more cities than not, women take the full burden of responsibilities when their living standards and those of their children are low.

Awareness can be spread as nations bear of "best practices" happening in some countries. For example, in Cairo, Egypt, the informal sector group of garbage collectors, known as zabaleen, and local contractors or waste, transformed into the private Environmental Protection Company (EPC). EPC now has the contract for waste collection in several parts of the city. The waste administrator the system, collect household rubbish and supervise service delivery. The zabaleen, many of whom might otherwise be homeless and unemployed, collect and transport waste.

In Pakistan, the Orangi Pilot Project illustrates the role of collaboration between non-governmental organisations and the community in developing infrastructure. In the unauthorized Orangi settlement, the roughly one million inhabitants built their own homes with no public provision for sanitation.

This demonstrates the need for local residents to be involved more fully in planning their community. Partnerships are working effectively in developing countries. In 1970, Chitwan, a small town in the US and faced economic and industrial decline. But, by 1993, Chitwan met the federal air health quality standards.

It achieved this transformation through partnerships to improve infrastructure, provide affordable housing, promote economic development and job creation, curtail waste, educate the workforce and green the city.

South Africa is no exception when it comes to these urban trends. Johannesburg design consultant Ian du Toit says the influx of people into cities is happening at a rapid rate but he is not pessimistic because he feels that South African design will accommodate the influx of people.

"South Africa has the opportunity to investigate possibilities and solutions. It will come up with solutions the rest of the world will be interested in." Mr Du Toit predicts that over the next five years the CBD will be substantially enhanced and redeveloped at night, and existing areas will become less office oriented.

He says we should stop import foreign designers and make use of local talent instead. In this way we can find workable solutions to the influx of people to large urban centres and attempt to make cities vibrant and dynamic.
Putting South Africans on-line

(297) CT 27/8/96

It has been suggested that the closure of the RDP office was a signal from the Government that less emphasis should be placed on reconstruction and greater emphasis should be placed on growth. But Naidoo emphatically denies this, pointing out that the RDP and economic growth were, and still are, key government goals.

In his department, the modernisation of South Africa’s telecommunications sector was vital for business, just as in five years it would double the number of telephones in South Africa from four million to eight million.

This, he adds, would provide "rural telephony" and achieve the department’s "universal service obligations". Tele-medicine would enable rural clinics to link up directly with centres of excellence and expertise in the metropolitan areas.

Naidoo argues that what the RDP office did was to provide a planning framework for the transformation of South Africa’s national plans for municipal and rural infrastructure, establishing that R11.7-billion was needed to provide basic services.

These RDP urban/rural strategies had been incorporated into departmental budgets. In this way, the RDP set the agenda for the Government.

He did, however, concede that the closure of the RDP office had taken media attention from the Government’s reconstruction programme. Naidoo said: "I don’t think we are talking enough."

Turning a profit on the RDP

FEDLIFE’s Sekhoba portfolio is directed at involvement in key RDP developments— and provides risk-related returns.

Fedlife said: "The Sekhoba fund affords investors a channel for contributing to development without sacrificing returns. There are two basic tenants driving Sekhoba. Firstly, the portfolio will include investments which directly or indirectly support development goals without sacrificing returns. Secondly, all investments undertaken by the portfolio must yield acceptable risk-related returns, in line with Fedlife’s responsibilities towards its clients."

It said the one-year record of the fund had seen good performance and gross return to June 30 this year was "an attractive 25.4%".

This compares favourably with inflation of 6.9% and an average return from insurance companies and investment houses of 28.7% over the same period.

Fedlife said: "The company should be at least 51% black-owned. This is to ensure that it is a black empowerment vehicle. The processes must also be in place for empowerment to continue after ownership has been established. Property investments which support the RDP can also be included."

Sekhoba was a financing vehicle, not a delivery mechanism and funds were placed in both listed and unlisted investments, with the backbone of the portfolio in fixed-interest securities.

At present, it has invested in Eskom Electrification Participation Notes, New Housing Company, Cash Bank, Rand Water Board and the South African Housing Trust.
New council faces the challenge of Cape RDP programmes

At the first meeting of the democratically elected Cape Metropolitan Council this year, the council decided to allocate R437-million of its R1,3-billion budget for the 1996/7 financial year to the RDP.

This underlines its position as key player in RDP delivery in the Cape metropolitan area.

At that first meeting of the council on July 3, it elected an RDP and Economic Development Standing Committee to facilitate its implementation of the RDP and to assist the six municipalities in the metropolitan area in their implementation of the RDP.

Through this committee, the CMC intends facilitating the development of poor communities in the area.


The R58-million was allocated to the former black local authorities within the Cape Metropolitan Area that had received similar aid in the past and the R101-million was a one-off allocation as additional operating budget aid to municipalities to address their operating budget shortfalls and extra expenditure involved in the local government transition process.

The strategic management plans were aimed at restoring engineering services and administration in black local authority areas to initiate improvements in the living conditions of over 60 000 people in Ikapa, Crossroads, Mtunzini, Lwandle and Khayelitsha.

The RDP fund provided 18 capital grants totalling R31-million in the 1995/6 financial year and provided grants to housing projects, cleansing campaigns, community health and training centre and the provision of water infrastructure. A further R45-million had been provided for RDP projects in the 1996/7 financial year.

The CMC also provides 10% of the funding for the ISLP, the only presidential lead project in the Western Cape. It provides for bulk and link services and will eventually provide 32 000 households with better living conditions and shelter. Over a period of six years, the CMC will have provided R120-million to the ISLP.

Putting South Africans on-line

It has been suggested that the closure of the RDP office was a signal from the Government that less priority should be placed on reconstruction and greater emphasis should be placed on growth.

In his department, the modernization of South Africa's telecommunications sector was vitally important for business, but at the same time it would double the number of telephones in South Africa from four million to eight million in five years.

THE RURAL TELEPHONE

"rural telephony" and achieve the department's "universal service obligations".

The closure of the RDP office has forced a number of government departments to rearrange their policies and priorities by bringing the RDP to the core of their activities.

He also said the RDP office had always been a short-term project to reposition government budgets and activities so that the needs of the poor could be addressed — and that, by and large, this goal was achieved.

This compares favourably with inflation of 6.9% and an average return from insurance companies and investment houses of 28.7% over the same period.

Peddle said: "The Sechaba fund affords investors a channel for contributing to development without sacrificing returns.

"There are two basic tenants driving Sechaba. Firstly, the portfolio will include investments which directly or indirectly support any of the key RDP programmes of housing, electrification, water and sanitation, transport infrastructure and telecommunications.

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Oasis faces protests by union over dismissed workers

NORMAN JOSEPH
Staff Reporter

THE National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union (Nehawu) may take the Oasis organisation that cares for physically and mentally disabled children, to the department of manpower's conciliation board over the dismissal of 11 workers.

The workers were sacked by the Oasis management, apparently for joining Nehawu.

The Ravensmead branch of the South African National Civics Organisation (Sanco) came out in strong support of Nehawu this week.

In a statement, Sanco secretary Jack Feni said that the organisation would ask for an urgent meeting this week with the trustees responsible for the Ravensmead Oasis branch.

If the meeting could not be organised, "various mass protests" would take place.

Recently several meetings between Nehawu and the Oasis management about the dismissal of 11 Ravensmead care workers, ended in deadlock.

Many unsuccessful protest actions had been held at the Oasis head office in Claremont and at the Ravensmead branch.

A Nehawu spokesman said the union would shortly release full details of the action they planned to take.

Oasis spokesman Gail Bester said recently that the organisation's management had information that Nehawu would campaign against them.
Taiwan promises to put billions into SA

TAIPEI — Taiwan said yesterday its business sector would pour billions of dollars into investments and aid to SA.

Reacting to President Nelson Mandela's announcement yesterday that SA would maintain diplomatic ties with Taiwan, the island's state media said Taiwan would build a ¥3.5bn petrochemical complex in SA.

Tunghee Group chairman Chet Youshe was part of a business delegation visiting SA, was interested in building the complex as a joint venture, it said.

The media said Taiwanese Vice-Premier Hsu Li-tong was expected to sign the contract to build the complex during his current visit to SA. It was claimed that thousands of jobs would be created by the venture. Executives from several major Taiwanese petrochemical firms, including state-run C-Tex, were also reported to have met with SA officials.

Continued on Page 2

Taiwan

Continued from Page 1

The Broadcasting Corporation of China did not say how much gold Taiwan wanted to buy from SA, or when the imports would start.

To save its diplomatic ties with Pretoria, Taiwan has set up the goal of boosting bilateral trade by 10% — from the current 5% — annually in the next three years.

The Central Trust of China — a government-run financial institution in charge of gold imports — wants to buy SA gold bars and coins.

Currently Taiwan imports gold from Switzerland, Australia and Canada. — Sapa-DPA.

Chinese Petroleum Corp and Tuntex Distinct Corp, are accompanying Hsu on his visit.

Taiwan state radio also quoted Taos Mac-sheng, director of the Central Trust of China, as saying Taiwan would start importing gold from SA to boost bilateral trade. Taos is accompanying Hsu on his visit to SA. Officials are to sign purchase contracts for coal, gold, gold and copper during the trip.
RDP forums
CT 28/8/96
get approval

The protracted dispute over the recognition of RDP forums in the Western Cape has been resolved, the MEC for Economic Affairs and Rural Development, Mr. Chris Nissen, announced last night.

The provincial cabinet has approved the accreditation process for the forums, he said in a statement.

Nissen said the formal recognition of the forums regulated their relationship with local authorities.

"Communities need not wait for anyone to implement the RDP in their area. The ball is in their court," he said — Staff Reporter
DEPRESSION is one of the least understood disabilities because it is

GOOD INTENTIONS NOT ENOUGH

Deal People need place in the sun

NEWS
Top charity ‘regains credibility’

Johannesburg: Operation Hunger has overcome credibility problems it suffered last year when fraud involving about R1 million was uncovered, the charity’s officials said yesterday.

Addressing the charity’s 13th annual meeting here, Operation Hunger chairman Mr Pirowshawn Carnay said the charity’s credibility was re-established with donors and the government through the openness in which the whole matter had been handled.

Four Operation Hunger employees, including one from head office, were dismissed last year following an internal disciplinary hearing into fraud in the Free State programme.

“There has been a hesitation from some parties to work with us,” Carnay said.

However, Operation Hunger aimed to allay fears by releasing reports and inviting concerned donors to inspect field work.

In addition, internal financial controls were increased, the financial system computerised and an accounting manager appointed, he said.

Operation Hunger experienced a drop of almost R5m in income to R9.8m for the 1995/6 financial year.

Operation Hunger national co-ordinator Mr Philip Davids said a criminal investigation into the fraud had been finalised and prosecution was pending. Donor confidence appeared to have increased, with a “marked increase” this year in public and corporate donations.

— Sapa
Govt adopts a new approach to feeding poor

(297)

Speaking at the 13th AGM, Dada said the current nutrition department under the Ministry of Health, had been at crossroads for the past two years.

"We have been at a crossroads," he said. "The budget for the nutrition department was cut by 20%." He added that the department had been hit by a series of crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic and a drought that had affected many areas.

However, he said the government was taking steps to improve the situation. "We have been working with partners to ensure that the nutrition department can continue to serve its citizens," he said.

Dada also said the government had been working with the private sector to improve the delivery of nutrition programs.

"We are working with companies to ensure that the necessary supplies are available," he said. "This will help us to reach more people and ensure that they get the necessary nutrition."
Development bank seeks funds for recapitalisation

SA may raise its AfDB stake

By Sean Feely
FINANCIAL SERVICES EDITOR

Johannesburg — The African Development Bank (AfDB) plans to increase its capital base, which will create an opportunity for South Africa, its newest member, to increase its stake in the continent's development loan agency.

Omar Kabbaj, the president of the institution, which is based in the Ivory Coast, said in Johannesburg yesterday that an ad hoc committee would meet at the start of next year to discuss the timing and sourcing of funds to raise the bank's capital base from $24 billion.

"This would be an occasion for South Africa to adjust its share in the bank," said Kabbaj, "who has met Trevor Manuel, the finance minister, and representatives of the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the South African Chamber of Business on his trip to the country this week.

South Africa formally joined the bank in December last year after being excluded because of the previous all-white government. It took a 1 percent stake in the AfDB.

That disappointed some countries that expected South Africa, as the largest economy on the continent, at least to match the largest stake, which is held by Nigeria. Nigeria is the second-largest African economy and contributed 10 percent of the bank's capital.

"Some of the board members expressed regret South Africa didn't take a higher share given its weight in the African and world economies," Kabbaj said.

However, South Africa will become the first African country to help finance the bank's concessional African Development Fund. It has promised to contribute a still-to-be-decided amount towards the fund's $3 billion replenishment.

The AfDB, which has premier credit ratings from global rating agencies, needs to raise its capital base to protect its creditworthiness. It has cancelled loans worth $2 billion because some of its member countries could not repay their loans and also because it wanted to have adequate reserves to lend new money.

Kabbaj became the AfDB's president last September. He said he expected the bank's yearly meeting next May to approve a general capital increase. Non-African member states of the AfDB, known as non-regionals, are keen to lift their stake in the bank from 33 percent through participation in the general capital increase.

They want a bigger say on how money is disbursed, after an independent auditing firm's report last year found considerable financial mismanagement at the bank.

Nigeria has opposed an increase in the non-regionals' interest in the bank, saying it should remain an institution owned by Africa.

Kabbaj, who has tightened the bank's credit policies and introduced widespread reforms, said the non-regionals, mostly developed industrial nations such as the US, Germany and Japan, were likely to be allowed to increase their stake to between 33 percent and 49 percent.
When the RDP office closed on March 28, the fund came under the jurisdiction of the Finance Ministry. It is now the responsibility of Deputy Minister Gill Marcus, who asked for the audit to establish how much of the money has been used.

This is being done by State Expenditure, under chief director of planning Gerrie du Preez.

"We have gathered information from the various spending agencies," says Du Preez, "and are now evaluating it. If there are problems, we'll find them when we start the reconciliation with the information from the RDP office. Savings from the 1996-1997 allocation will only become evident after December 17."

Marcus's reservation about the fund, when the programme was operating, was that allowing the line departments to top up their budgets by dipping into the pool skewed the budgeting process.

Under the new system, departments have until December 17 to submit business plans for projects. Anything that has not been spent or earmarked for projects already under way by that date will be returned to the Exchequer.

When the RDP office dissolved, Finance also inherited the International Development Co-operation function and supervision of the SA International Development Forum.

This means that when excess funds have been reabsorbed into the Exchequer, there will still be monies for the RDP based in the Finance Ministry but these will be solely foreign grant money, an example being the recent R0.5bn EU grant. People will still be able to apply for foreign grant money for special projects.

Says RDP Monitor editor Gavin Lewis: "A further wildcard is what will happen to the RDP's remaining supervisory body - Max Sisulu's portfolio committee. The committee has said it will re-examine its role and come up with a proposal in December for how it will operate in future."

Its problem is that, under the new RDP system, much more power has been devolved to the provincial authorities. It may be that a new way can be structured - a more decentralised approach - in which case some of the structures may be reorganised. This might bring them into some co-ordinating system.

Sisulu says: "We think there can be a future role for the committee, though not in its current form, as the RDP line ministry no longer exists. If the committee continues, the role will have to be slightly broader than it is now."

"Whether or not the committee is dissolved, there is a need for an integrated and coherent strategy that cuts across all line ministries. Individual departments cannot deliver the RDP on their own."

"For example, the committee holds public hearings on government's programme for the disabled. This cuts across several line ministries because disability involves health and welfare. But now we think it's also a human rights problem because we need to integrate the disabled into society and improve their quality of life."

"This can't be done by a single line ministry; it needs a comprehensive approach. In this respect, I believe some kind of central oversight role needs to be played by parliament."

ECONOMY & FINANCE 43
Technology versus development

Aspasia Karas community needs to link information to social networking

South Africa's youth

The technology is not the issue; the issue is the use of it. The digital divide is not because of the lack of technology, but because of the lack of access. In order to bridge this gap, it is crucial to focus on the infrastructure and the availability of resources. The government needs to invest in the necessary infrastructure to ensure that everyone has equal access to technology. This includes not only the provision of internet connectivity but also the training and support needed to use it effectively.

The economic environment is also a significant factor. In a rapidly changing world, businesses need to adapt and innovate. This requires a skilled workforce that can keep up with the latest technologies. The education system needs to be restructured to provide the necessary skills and knowledge. By doing so, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed in the digital age.

In conclusion, technology is a powerful tool, but it is not a magic solution. It requires the right environment and infrastructure to be effective. By focusing on these areas, we can ensure that everyone has access to technology and can participate in the digital economy.

References:


**Danish-SA joint venture**

By Josias Charle

The Danish government has approved a business development programme to promote trade links between South African and Danish companies.

More than R5 million has been allocated for this project through the Danish Agency for Development of Trade and Industry.

The National Productivity Institute and the Black Management Forum will coordinate the programme in South Africa.

NPI senior marketing consultant Grey van der Hoff says the objective of the development programme is to foster trade links and business between the two countries.

"South African managers will be exposed to management and technology developments in Danish companies and joint ventures will be initiated between South African and Danish companies.

**Selected managers**

"This could improve the international competitiveness of local business and will provide practical and theoretical training to selected managers in Denmark and in our country," says Van der Hoff.

"Danish companies work closely with seats of learning, the technological institutes and the various research and development centres founded with government support."

Van der Hoff says Denmark is one of the countries providing the biggest share of its gross domestic product for development assistance.

At least 30 South African companies have been selected to participate in the project with 30 matching Danish companies.

The R5 million which the DADTI has approved for the project will cover travelling and accommodation expenses for participants as well as training in South Africa and Denmark.

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**Expanding to rural areas**

By Shadrack Mashalaba

AFRICAN Bank says it will embark on a strategy of rural expansion as part of its repositioning plan.

Speaking at the official re-launch of the bank in Johannesburg on Wednesday night, managing director Colin Franks said the long term viability of the bank would depend on its adaptability.

Although the bank predominantly focuses on its target markets in the black community, it will not exclude itself from the mainstream economic and financial business sectors of the economy.

"Part of our strategy is to expand into the Northern and Western Cape where we have not been represented in the past," said Franks.

He added that the bank’s capital adequacy is at R120 million which far exceeds the 8 percent requirement by the Reserve Bank.

The new shareholders of African Bank are Natal Building Society with 38 percent, New Africa Investments Limited and Metropolitan Life with 21 percent each, the Government with 15 percent and 5 percent spread among individual black shareholders.

Currently the bank has 30 branches spread across the country and it recently obtained an A3 rating from the European Credit Rating Agency IBCA. It has obtained fidelity cover from Lloyds of London after a thorough review of the bank’s procedures and controls.
He just gave me money!

Steenkamp's wife testifies

Allan Boesak's former bookkeeper faces an inquiry into his insolvent estate.

LENORE OLIVER
Staff Reporter

The Belleville Magistrate's Court has heard that Freddie Steenkamp, former bookkeeper at Allan Boesak's disgraced Foundation for Peace and Justice, deposited thousands of rand into his wife's personal bank account while he was working for the controversial foundation.

The court is holding an inquiry into Steenkamp's insolvent estate, following the alleged misappropriation of more than R750 000 from the foundation.

He was finally sequestrated in March last year after an application brought by the foundation.

His assets were also sold by public auction last year.

The former bookkeeper blew the whistle on financial irregularities at the foundation when questioned by lawyers, preparing a report for Scandinavian donors Danchurch Aid.

Yesterday the court ruled that Steenkamp's evidence be heard in camera.

This is because of a possibility that a criminal case could be brought to court and any evidence could incriminate him in such a case.

But his wife, Amanda Steenkamp, told the court her husband often gave her money when she needed it.

"If I need money, he would give it to me," Mrs Steenkamp said.

"They were not gifts, he just gave me the money," she said.

Attorney Basheer Waglay questioned Mrs Steenkamp about her bank statements between June 1984 and June 1995.

Mr Waglay pointed out to Mrs Steenkamp that on one occasion she had received more than R6 500 in one month.

"He just gave me the money," she answered.

Mrs Steenkamp said at that time Mr Steenkamp was buying and selling cars and that, on average he sold one car a month.

The now-defunct foundation attracted foreign donations to fund projects for the underprivileged.

Former South African ambassador-designate to the United Nations, Dr Boesak, who headed the organisation, has denied accusations by Danchurch Aid that "he enriched himself substantially" using money donated to the foundation.

The matter continues.
A haven for the destitute, but
funding for shelters hits a brick wall

By JACQUI REEVES

The demise of Johannesburg's inner-city shelter projects, which are aimed at helping destitute people off the streets, was narrowly averted at a meeting between the National Housing Board and Gauteng's housing board yesterday.

The national board has decided to set up a task team to manage the funds that were approved in principle at the meeting.

The R17-million needed for the 1996 programme appeared to be 'on rocky ground' earlier this week, jeopardising the project stirred by the Greater Johannesburg Transitional Metropolitan Council in partnership with a number of non-governmental organisations.

The possible refusal of the funds by the national board was based on the argument that the housing of homeless people is the Department of Welfare's responsibility. Although welfare housing is a local government responsibility, the department isn't in a position to set aside funds for destitute adults, focusing only on children, the disabled and the aged.

Recent subsidy cuts in the Department of Welfare's budget have left it unable to carry the large capital costs of purchasing and refurbishing buildings for the city's homeless, making projects like the shelters a financial impossibility.

The first of these shelters - the old Perskor building in Pageview - will open its doors next month, offering the area's homeless a place to spend the right.

Single people will sleep four in a room, with families catered for in larger units. Bathrooms, kitchens and laundry facilities will be available, and residents will share an entertainment area.

Project leader Connie van Daarsveld says the shelter will not only start serving the community once it becomes operational, but is already helping Pageview locals. "When we awarded the contracts, it was with the understanding that contractors would have to employ the local community. More than 80% of the workers in this project are the very squatters who will benefit from the shelter."

The council plans to house 6 000 people within the next three years - 2 000 a year. Lindsay Brenner, chairman of the housing, urbanisation and environmental management committee, says, however, that the housing is not permanent.

"We are not setting up hostels here. The shelters are transitional housing, and aim to be developmental," she says. "At the shelters we will provide employment and skills programmes that will help to reintegrate them into their communities."

Residents around the shelter are generally pleased with the project.

"Allegations that the shelters clash with national housing plans have been denied by the council, who say this service is only for the destitute."

"Because they are literally penniless, these people won't even stand a chance of getting a 'serviced' site. Shelters are not the answer to Gauteng's housing problems, but they will help those living out on the streets," Brenner says.
R600m wanted out of trust's R130m purse
World Bank loans could run dry

In a controversial move, the project design and implementation have been altered, and the project has been delayed. Villagers have complained that the project is not benefiting them, and they are being forced to leave their homes. The World Bank has acknowledged that the loans may run dry, and the project may be abandoned.

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Teachers hold RDP official hostage

Ashley Smith

AN official from Cape Town's reconstruction and development programme office was held hostage for four hours by teachers who blamed him for an RDP scheme at a Langa school that went wrong.

They say blunders led to pools of water collecting at the Moshesh Primary School, resulting in a flu epidemic among pupils.

The official, a Mr. Barker who refused to give his first name, was released yesterday on the arrival of his superior, a Mr. Piedt, who would also not provide his first name.

The teachers said they were unhappy with the work done by a building contractor hired by the RDP office to carry out improvements, including work on the school's water drainage system.

"This was to be done by bringing truckloads of sand to the school to raise the level of the soil," said school principal Benedicta Ngalwa.

The RDP office paid him R22 800, Mrs. Ngalwa said.

She said huge pools of water formed when it rained. "During the day, the pupils play in the water and many of them are now absent from school because they are sick.

"Mr. Barker claims that (the contractor) brought 28 truckloads of sand to the school, but we saw only about two or three loads being delivered."

Yesterday's hostage drama started at 9am and lasted almost four hours. Teachers told Mr. Barker he could not leave until he told them why he had paid the contractor.

They also accused him of approving the job without consulting the Langa RDP committee.

After the arrival of Mr. Piedt, a senior official from the RDP office in Cape Town, the teachers let Mr. Barker free.

Mr. Piedt said his department would investigate the claims.
DISABLED children should be able to go to "regular" government schools where they would grow up to feel part of the community and get a good education without major expense to the state.

SA Federal Council on Disability representative Mrs Michelle Velknop made this request to the parliamentary Standing Committee on Education yesterday when she presented the organisation's submission at the final public hearings on the Schools Bill.

"The question should be: how do we develop a system of regular education that is sufficiently flexible to respond to the needs of a wide diversity of pupils?", she said.

One MP raised the issue that public school teachers might not be properly trained to teach disabled children but Mrs Washella Sait, the national co-ordinator of the Disabled Children's Action Group, said there were many teachers in special schools who were not "specially trained".

Sait said disabled pupils were being unfairly treated because a principal in a regular school tended to see the wheelchair before he saw the child in it.

The chairperson of the standing committee, Dr Blade Nzimande, said the way disabled people had been treated by the government was a "serious indictment on our party" (the ANC).

"We must not use the excuse that there are no resources -- this matter must take priority.,"

In another submission to the committee, the Christian group known as the Brethren asked that their children be allowed to leave a class or abandon learning material which was offensive to their conscience or the religious beliefs of their parents.

They asked the committee to make it clear how a pupil could get an exemption from attending class.

Some MPs were concerned that Brethren children might miss out by cutting themselves off from technology, but several committee members said afterwards they respected the Brethren's religion and the quiet, clear way they put their request across.
Op Hunger coffers down by R5-m

Despite a suspected scam, financial obligations will be met, says chairman

BY MELANIE-ABIN FEIRS

Operation Hunger’s donor income has dropped by R5-million since last year, following revelations of an alleged multimillion-rand scam involving the charity’s funds and employees.

During the 19th annual general meeting of the organisation, held at the Wits Club last week, Operation Hunger’s financial reports revealed donor income had been reduced from R14,1-million in 1995 to R9,8-million this year.

A substantial drop in foreign funding, limited Government funding of feeding programmes and indecision by donors whether to back non-governmental organisations or the Government’s Reconstruction and Development Programme had also contributed to the loss of income.

Despite this drop, however, Operation Hunger chairman Philip Shaw Camay said confidence had been restored in the organisation, which would be able to meet its financial obligations this year.

Camay believes that the loss in donor funds was also a result of the organisation’s move from a relief agency to a development organisation.

“Relief was a short-term panacea to hunger. We have to look at a longer term solution to the problem,” he said.

Operation Hunger fell into disrepute when food worth R5-million meant for the poor in the Free State was allegedly diverted and sold in a scam which was operated for two years, from 1993.

Fundraising director Lisa Kirkpatrick said charges of fraud had been brought against former executive director Sipho Mashini and all Free State employees involved in the alleged fraud.

The entire staff at the organisation’s office in the Free State was fired and the offices have not been reopened. “We need to see the matter closed before we can establish our reputation there,” Kirkpatrick said.

“The matter was turned over to the police, and the attorney-general informed us that all documentation has been completed.”
Legislation to give disabled a chance to work
Boesak probe paperwork piles up

CHRIS BATEMAN

TALK of a "stack of evidence" involving alleged misuse of millions of rand in foreign anti-apartheid funding by former UN ambassador designate Dr Allan Boesak and his staff at the defunct Foundation for Peace and Justice, proved all too true yesterday.

A check on progress at the attorney-general's office revealed that the paperwork — including that by the Office for Serious Economic Offences (OSEO) — now forms a pile at least 1.9 metres high.

Deputy attorney-general Mr J C Gerber said the evidence so far, excluding the 72-page report handed to his office in January by OSEO, made up "more than 70, seven-centimetre-thick lever arch files".

A decision on whether to prosecute Dr Boesak or any of his co-staffers over the alleged financial irregularities would "hopefully" be made by the end of the year, Gerber said.

Boesak, a former Western Cape Economic Affairs MEC, withdrew as ambassador-designate to the UN in Geneva after Danish funders claimed millions of rand of donations for apartheid victims had been misspent, printed by either him or other staffers.

Gerber denied rumours that there had been political pressure on his office.

Boesak and his television-producer wife Elna are living in Los Angeles. He is lecturing in theology and writing journalism.
The government's programme to provide sanitation has come under fire for perpetuating apartheid disparities, writes Eddie Koch.

SANITATION Woes: The government's Municipal Infrastructure Investment Framework falls far short of the RDP's promise to address sanitation disparities.

The NIEP and the government's Urban Development Strategy, both unveiled late last year, state that the scheme is based on various economic realities. The strategy aims to ensure that consumers pay for their municipal services so that government coffers are not drained by the heavy costs of providing water, sewage and electricity to the poor.

In its new urban upgrading strategy, the scheme is based on an approach that the National Institute for Economic Policy (NIEP) currently being devised by the government, and which combines an on-budget programme to provide basic sanitation services to all residents. The programme would cost the government at least 20% of the urban population.

This model predicts that 25% of households will earn between R600 and R1 700 a month, making it feasible to supply "adequate" services in the form of a "bath" to 90% of all homes, as well as prepaid electricity. However, the model is based on an estimated 25% of the population who are expected to earn more than R1 000 a month. The model does not take into account the costs of sewerage, which will be borne by the government. The model is based on a new form of post-apartheid sanitation, a line that will be driven across the country's cities by the flow of the sewerage pipes, could be even worse than expected, given that the number of families with an income of less than R600 a month is likely to be greater than 20% of the urban population in 10 years' time.

Eddie Koch writes that the "bath" services contemplated by government are not merely emergency services in public toilets or portable units in no-man's-land settlements that are without water or hygienic facilities at present but are more fundamentally, permanent development policy.
State urged to beef up anti-poverty policies *(297)*

The government will have to beef up its anti-poverty strategy as the economy slows, warns Gavin Lewis of the University of the Western Cape’s Centre for Southern African Studies.

In the RDP Monitor, he says voices are being raised by unions and political groups that with high levels of unemployment, an anti-poverty strategy “should receive as much attention as belt-tightening.”

Even if the government meets its 6 percent annual growth target by the year 2000, Dr Lewis warns, unemployment and poverty levels will remain high by international standards.

“This is a fact that will not go away.

“Political pressures to reduce past racial inequalities and present poverty will increase, especially in a democracy. Perceptions of foreign investors are important—but so too are perceptions of voters. “As the dust settles, the new arrangements for the RDP are emerging with greater clarity,” says Dr Lewis.

“The focus is shifting away from Deputy President Thabo Mbeki’s office to Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus, a highly regarded and capable person.”

But, he says, “the RDP has always been plagued by the problem of delivery, and this remains true”. “Tighter financial controls over the RDP are to be welcomed, but its profile will have to grow.”

AKR 7/9/96
Destitute go hungry: food shipped to shops & sold

By DERRICK LUTHAYI

POLICE investigations into one of the biggest white-collar crime cases involving blacks, which defrauded Free State’s Operation Hunger branch, out of more than R5 million, have been concluded.

The matter is now in the hands of the Witswatersrand attorney-general who this week confirmed that a warrant of arrest had been issued for one person based on the information contained in the police dockets.

Food worth millions of rand earmarked for needy rural communities was sold to the owner of a Free State chain store known as “Mr Big”.

The disclosure of the massive fraudulent activities came after Operation Hunger’s executive director, Vincent Mpho Mashinini and Free State regional manager Anthony Mfila, were suspended – after the discovery that food meant for the destitute in the province never reached them.

Mashinini has since been dismissed.

According to City Press investigations, it was discovered “Mr Big” was part of a syndicate which stole Operation Hunger supplies by various devious methods, including the use of nonexistent charity organisations.

In the scam, Operation Hunger’s Bloemfontein office would place orders with head office in Johannesburg for food supplies for needy.

Supplies were sent to a Bloemfontein warehouse and invoiced out to various bogus charity organisations but were later transferred to commercial stores.

The leak came through a driver employed by Operation Hunger to make these deliveries, who said he delivered them to what appeared to be distribution points, which included houses, halls and tin huts.

Anthony Mfila as regional manager was responsible for the placing and delivery of the orders, but at times Mfila delegated some of his duties to his subordinates.
Govt departments share reconstruction and development workload
New thinking needed in the civil service – Truth.

RDP administrators too cautious

*New thinking needed in the civil service – Truth.**

We have not yet realized that...
ic Plan will undermine RDP objectives,
Sowetan

Taking care of the handicapped

For the love of her daughter she had

\( \text{Sowetan 1/2 1996} \)

By Gwass Moleko
CAPE TOWN — A special investigation of fraud and corruption in the Western Cape social security system has uncovered more than 1 100 irregular payouts totalling about R480 000 a month at Worcester’s welfare office.

Forensic accountant Tim Steele, who heads the inquiry, said yesterday it was the “largest success” at a welfare payout point since he and his team started investigating fraud and corruption in the province’s social security system in April. The probe was commissioned by Western Cape health and social services MEC Ebrahim Rasool and social services chief director Virginia Petersen.

Steele was confident of similar successes at other welfare offices in the province. “I am quite sure that Worcester is not unique,” he said.

At the Worcester office, the unit had in the past two weeks uncovered 960 short-term disability grants awarded in 1993/94 which should have been cancelled and 148 irregular pension payouts. Each grant was worth about R430 a month. The probe was not yet complete, Steele said. His unit had been alerted about the Worcester office by the high number of complaints it received via a welfare toll-free line, and the fact that it had the “biggest processing backlog” in the province.

Investigators, helped by office staff, discovered there had been a “process breakdown” in taking short-term disability grants — normally valid only for six or 12 months — off the system, dating back to May 1994.

Steele said his team was evaluating each file with a view to cancelling the grants. Some might be extended on provision of medical certificates.

The 148 fraudulent pension payouts identified included maintenance grants, he said.

Cases in which criminal intent was identified would be handed to police. Steele said the welfare department would try to recover all unauthorised payments, but this would be difficult.

“We are more concerned for the future — getting these people off the system,” he said.
Fast Company won't provide jobs service

Women in Laundry Project

Washday Blues? Not for

News
Conference to focus on non-government bodies

Nomaweda Mthiwa

THE national non-governmental organisation coalition conference, which opened in Johannesburg yesterday, would focus on strengthening relations between government and non-governmental bodies, coalition president Rama Ramashia said.

The coalition — an organisation representing provincial and sectoral non-governmental bodies — was founded in August last year. Delegates are African and overseas non-governmental organisation representatives, including international experts on non-profit organisation law.

On the agenda will be discussions on the Development Resource Centre-proposed non-governmental organisation Bill. Organisations were given the task of going through the Bill and coming up with documents to be discussed at the conference.

Ramashia said there was a need to “unpack the notion of a partnership between us and government.”

He said the organisations were wary of being taken advantage of by the government because of their historical relationship. On the question of government poaching leaders from the organisations, Ramashia said it was inevitable that government would do so. It meant, however, that these bodies should “develop another form of leadership.”

He said although the organisations suffered financially because donors had re-directed funds to government, funding would not be dealt with this week. Instead, the conference would deal with legislation governing the organisations because that was more crucial to their operations, and it was legislation that determined funding policy.
Employers urged to redepoly disabled

By Abdul Millazi
Labour Reporter

Employers should find ways of redepolying disabled workers instead of dismissing them to cut down on the current high costs of disability claims payout.

This is the view of Southern Life deputy general manager Don Brown.

Brown, who heads the risk management consultancy of the employee benefits division, says employers need to adopt a new mindset of service retention rather than termination on disability.

The new Labour Relations Act also poses a major challenge to employers on the issue by placing the onus on them to investigate and consider various alternatives before dismissing workers on the grounds of disability.

"This undoubtedly leads to questioning the increased costs that could result from having to comply with the Act, as well as failure to comply. Initially costs will be incurred in the process of investigating," says Brown.

Employers do not as yet pay enough attention in seeking ways to accommodate disabled employees.

"The onus of responsibility of the employer is even greater where the disability has arisen out of a work place incident."

Since the beginning of the 1990s insurers have suffered losses amounting to more than R500 million due to massive disability claims.

High premiums

He says this has resulted in employers having to pay high premiums for their group insurance schemes to cover their employees.

This could have been avoided had employers not opted to dismiss workers.

"The embrace of the Labour Relations Act (LRA) principles, coupled with active disability management strategies, can manage long-term costs of disability (currently estimated at two percent of the payroll) down to one percent."

Brown says active disability management means that people are kept active at work.
Women and children first in flagship welfare plan

By Priscilla Singh

It is a long, dusty, meandering dirt road to Veselegone, a sprawling village in Bochum in Northern Province. But it is no longer a forgotten place, not since the Department of Welfare put it on the map as the first recipient of a national programme for unemployed women with children under five.

To try to redress the wrongs of the past, the department is embarking on various projects, one of which is a flagship programme for unemployed women with children under five.

The scheme was launched in the Northern Province last month.

The flagship programme is a national strategy, implementing approaches stated in the draft white paper for social welfare and aiming to provide unemployed women and their young children with an opportunity to break out of their situations of hardship and poverty.

More than 3,000 villagers travelled on donkey carts, horseback and on foot to the launch last month.

It was attended by Minister of Welfare and Population Development, Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, and dignitaries from the national office and the Northern Province legislature.

This event is a major milestone in the history of the national Department of Welfare, where a new emphasis in welfare planning and services is on prevention and development.

Fraser-Moleketi said the biggest challenge facing the Government is the extent to which it can impact positively on reducing poverty and unemployment.

Poverty in South Africa is linked with high unemployment, hunger, malnutrition, and the lack of access to basic services and poverty is synonymous with suffering, Fraser-Moleketi said.

"It is stated that 6 million people are unemployed and 10 million families live below the poverty line. Women and children are more likely to find themselves in situations of extreme poverty."

Statistics show 67% of households headed by women are poor, and most of them are in rural areas.

Giving an opportunity to break out of cycle of poverty

As working mothers, women’s daily lives will change

In addition, 75.2% of all children in South Africa live in rural communities and are likely to be exposed to poverty.

The poor living conditions the statistics depict are a major source of concern, Fraser-Moleketi said, and the legacy of the past severely marginalised women and children.

"It was therefore a logical act for the Government to commit itself inter alia to the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child."

With these facts in mind, the departmental committee for developmental social services, a high level committee comprising the heads of welfare of the national department and the provincial departments, decided jointly to embark on the flagship programme," Fraser-Moleketi explained.

"Specific objectives of the flagship programme include increasing educational and training opportunities for women to enable them to provide for the basic needs of their families."

The Northern Province was the first to submit its business plan for the Babinachuene women’s multi-purpose project.

The MEC for welfare and health in the province, Joe Paaha, together with other official and community leaders fulfilled the prerequisites for the programme which included targeting a locality where limited opportunities existed, identifying women who had to be the poorest of the poor, among other requirements.

This was formulated into a business plan and was approved by Fraser-Moleketi.

The department is committed to funding the project 100% for the 1996/7 financial year. Funding of 75% of the project expenditure will apply to the 1997/8 financial year and 50% to the 1998/9 financial year.

"The minister said other provinces will be following in the footsteps of the Northern Province within the next three months. "Specific national and provincial governmental departments, as well as formal welfare and informal NGOs, were invited to participate in the execution of the programme."

Fraser-Moleketi said the vision for the project was that it should be self-sustaining after three years.

She added that the project is an agricultural one which will produce fresh vegetables. This was welcomed and most appropriate.

The need analysis indicated that children under five years in the Bochum community are vulnerable to malnutrition, kwashiorkor, diarrhoea, scabies and respiratory problems due to the poverty cycle.

Besides the employment opportunities, which will be offered, the area as a whole will also benefit as the first market will be the provincial hospitals situated in the Northern Province.

Fraser-Moleketi also said that as working mothers, the lives of the women will change and their daily routine will change once they join the Babinachuene women’s multipurpose project.

The project is going to ask an adjustment in the lives of the mothers, who will in some cases be taking on a new routine for the first time in their lives outside the home," she concluded.
Drastic cuts in welfare grants

An estimated 100 000 single parents face drastic cuts in their state maintenance payments if a grant policy recommended in a commission report is accepted.

The controversial proposal to phase out, over five years, existing grants for parents over and replace them with significantly reduced benefits only for children under nine is made in the Lund Commission report, to be handed to Welfare Minister Ms Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi in Parliament today.

In another move to jettison the maintenance system, which the commission described as being in “disarray”, Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar announced yesterday that he was considering legislation compelling companies to deduct maintenance payments from fathers’ earnings.

His department was now also employing “tracing agents” to track down fathers who had “disappeared” to avoid paying.

The inadequate administration of maintenance payments has been a long-standing source of frustration among mothers seeking financial support for their children from fathers who fairly easily have been able to exploit the ineffectiveness of the law.

The Lund Commission was given six months to come up with a drastically new and affordable system of state maintenance grants which, given the strict fiscal constraints imposed on departments by the government, would be able to provide for thousands of African women and children who had been excluded.

Thousands of Western Cape single parents and children will be hard hit by the proposals, which will effectively slash their monthly maintenance benefits by hundreds of rands.

Under the existing system, a woman is eligible for a grant if she has been unsuccessful in getting support from her partner or the father of the child or if she has been widowed or deserted.

However, in terms of the proposed changes — which focus mainly on providing assistance for children — mothers will eventually no longer receive any benefits.

The Lund Commission recommendations, which are expected to affect at least 300 000 children, also include plans to reduce the benefits payable to children.

“A mother of two children with a grant receives about R700 a month. However, should the commission’s recommendations be implemented, she would eventually lose her R430-a-month benefit and end up getting only a R70 grant for each child.”

Another of the controversial measures is a proposal to reduce the maximum age of eligibility for the benefits for children from 18 years to nine years.

The problem the government faced in extending existing benefits to thousands of women and children in poorer and rural areas was that it would cost up to R20 billion to fund the maintenance grant system if all the women who were eligible applied.

STATE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS

Drastic measures proposed by Lund Commission:

- Phasing out the R430 state maintenance grant for mothers.
- Reducing benefits for children from R430 to R70.
- Reducing the ceiling age of eligibility for children from 18 to nine years.
- Reducing dependence on the state.
- Making errant fathers pay up.
- An estimated 100 000 mothers and 300 000 children could be affected.

The commission states that the “magnitude of the number of South Africans excluded in the past” meant that it was forced fundamentally to rethink the system of child and family support.

It also acknowledges that the recommendations, if accepted, will have “dire economic and social consequences” for many people benefiting under the present system.

In outlining the advances of the proposed changes, the commission says the shift in emphasis increases the number of children in poorer households who will benefit and, will be “decisively redistributive” towards black people and rural areas.
Non-governmental bodies discuss problems at seminar

Nomavenda Mathiane

TRANSPARENCY and accountability were some of the concerns raised at a non-governmental organisation conference in Johannesburg yesterday.

The four-day conference is being hosted by the Development Resource Centre/Mwengo, a non-governmental organisation development centre, and the National Nongovernmental Organisation Coalition.

Setting the tone for the conference, Mwengo director Zera Mhgori outlined some of the major problems and concerns affecting such organisations in Africa.

He focused on the capacity or lack of it — for these organisations to perform their functions, their sustainability, considering their dependence on external funding, their relationship with governments, particularly governments undergoing structural adjustment programmes, and their status in a democracy — whether they should be governed by legislation or accountable only to themselves and their funders.

Delegates argued that as long as such organisations received funds from government, there was need for legislation to make them accountable.

The question of an emerging strong civil society resulting in the weakening of the state was also debated at length.

Consensus was that a strong state would be empowered by a vibrant and dynamic civil society.

The capacity of non-governmental organisations to be government watchdogs was also raised. Delegates questioned this possibility as long as the organisations were funded by government. "That would be like biting the hand that feeds you," said one.

Karla Simon of the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law based in the US spoke on the legal aspects of non-governmental organisations. Although her paper was well received, she came under fire for mentioning that her centre was working with the World Bank in formulating policy for such organisations.

Delegates demanded to know what the World Bank interest was in non-governmental organisations, if not to perpetuate a dependency syndrome.

7
Loss of allowances, big cuts in child grants urged

Wellfare shock for single parents

New
Social workers mount protest

CT 19/19

A small group of social workers camped outside the city’s Provincial Administration building last night, in an attempt to highlight the plight of cash-strapped Western Cape welfare organisations.

Earlier this year Peninsula welfare organisations were hard hit by a R27 million cut in the welfare budget. Social workers have been battling to make do with shoe-string budgets and several organisations have had to re-structure staff to make ends meet.

Last night about 20 people from various organisations camped on the steps of the Provincial Administration building in Wale Street, holding placards pleading for state assistance.

A spokesman for the group, Child Welfare head Mr Alan Jackson said essential services such as child abuse prevention and foster care, would be most severely affected by the cutbacks.

He said there would be 30 000 AIDS orphans in Cape Town by the year 2005, and properly subsidised state welfare organisations were essential to avoid a catastrophe.

Social worker, Mrs Gall Shaprio called the cutbacks "pathetic".

The group are planning a similar "skim" tonight. - Staff Writer.
Single mothers and children face grant cut

If changes are accepted, many who did not receive maintenance will be able to receive reduced benefits

By Patrick Bolger
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 broader South African population.

Lund’s report warned that there would be “negative consequences”.

“Women presently receiving the state maintenance grant, especially those in their 40s and 50s 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-billion 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”.

We'll never workers take to streets
The building firms were expected to exceed the $2 billion mark this year, but due to delays and complications, the actual output is only around $1.1 billion. 

This year, the building industry was expected to be hit by a recession, but the government has not been able to provide the necessary support. The sector is struggling, and many firms are facing financial difficulties. 

The report also highlights the need for better planning and coordination to ensure the smooth operation of the building industry. The government is urged to take necessary steps to support the sector.
The Western Cape Provincial Administration told RDP forums throughout the Cape Town metropolitan area yesterday that just one forum will be accredited in each municipality.

At a metropolitan RDP information session yesterday, the Rev Chris Nissen, MEC for Economic Affairs and the RDP, said with pride that this province was leading the country in implementing the RDP.

But he warned that provincial funds for the RDP were drying up and in future the forums would have to try to concentrate on "re-prioritising" local government capital expenditure. Private sector finance for joint-venture projects with local authorities would also be encouraged.

Dr Harold Westo, of the provincial RDP office, said accreditation would be a formality once a single forum for each municipality had been formed.

Yet the forums had to comply with guidelines requiring them to be democratic, non-racial, non-sexist and non-party-political bodies. Participation in an RDP forum was voluntary and unpaid. Forums were expected to pack considerable political clout, because municipalities were likely to attach a lot of weight to their input.

Individual participation was not allowed.

The guidelines also allowed for lower-level RDP forums, one for each ward.
Relief agencies feel pinch
and for vagrants,
state tardy with
State of the
Agencies
CEP 25/6/96
Development bank scraps 55 senior management jobs

Robyn Chalmers

THE Development Bank of Southern Africa has axed 55 of its 75 senior management posts in a major restructuring of its business.

The transformation is in line with the bank's focus on financing infrastructure and will lead to a greater emphasis on the Southern African Development Community and on clients regarded by commercial markets to have unacceptable risk profiles.

CE Ian Goldin said the reshaping revolved around a flat management structure with the introduction of new business units. The existing hierarchy will lose a layer of 55 managers.

About 70% of the management positions created in the reshaping had been filled by affirmative action candidates — doubling such representation in top management.

"The new structure is far more empowering to staff in that it has decentralised authority (to make it) closer to the client," Goldin said.

"Business units have been established which will operate according to agreed strategic and business plans."

There was a broad commitment from government to ensure the bank had sufficient capital, grant capital and reserves on call so it could maintain a focus on higher-risk clients.

A new interest rate policy which would match the cost of funds, the development needs and riskiness of borrowers would be phased in from October 1. The bank would offer a full spectrum of interest rates on floating and fixed terms.

"The key to the transformation of the bank is the revision of its financial policies and internal organisation to respond to the development needs of the southern African region," Goldin said. The bank would support infrastructure development in three categories — economic, institutional and socially orientated infrastructure.

The main focus would be on water and sanitation, electricity and energy, roads and other transport, telecommunications and other information infrastructure.

In areas other than finance, the bank would liaise with development finance institutions. It would step in where these institutions were not yet functional, such as Khula on small, medium-sized and micro-sized enterprises, and on the Land Bank's role in rural finance.

Goldin said the bank would collaborate with the public and private sectors, but would not compete with or substitute for the private sector or other public sector sources of finance.

A sophisticated conflict resolution strategy had been put in place and the decision to reduce the number of managers had been accepted by those involved, he said.
ANC plans to deal with performance of the RDP

CAPE TOWN — The ANC in the Western Cape resolved at the weekend to tackle implementation of the RDP in the province and to convene a meeting of national, provincial and local leaders in January to plan a two-year programme of delivery to local communities.

This would be followed by local development meetings in February, the regional provincial executive committee decided at a meeting to formulate strategies for consolidating the ANC in the province.

ANC information chief Cameron Dugmore said the party believed the NP provincial government was too bound up in its anti-central government rhetoric and too tied to protecting minority privilege to address the delivery needs of the marginalised.

Although the NP was in control in the province, the ANC intended to seize the initiative to ensure speedy delivery of services to marginalised communities and to maintain the momentum of transformation, he said.

A key initiative would be to prepare councillors for the adoption of local government budgets to ensure these reflected the needs of the RDP.

The ANC provincial executive committee also established a special housing team to investigate the housing subsidy and expedite housing delivery.

Cross-subsidisation and ways of producing better houses would be examined.

The executive committee also resolved to fight the appointment of former National Intelligence Service director Neil Barnard as provincial administrative director and to ensure that he did not take up his post on December 1.

It would also push for the appointment of provincial government representatives on the Provincial Development Council which is being launched today.

Dugmore said that the ANC opposed planning MEC Lampie Field's decision to appoint non-government members to represent government on the council.
Bosak probe nears completion

DECEMBER 12, 1995

INVESTIGATED: DR. ALAN BOSEK

lenses and twist acrylic lenses
propel them down the corridor
saw a blue oval, a counterfeit
what is the role of the
in the alleged misuse of

Dr. Alan Bosak's new definition
Continued from page 45

AGAINST FISCAL REALITIES

The White Paper for Social Welfare has come under fire for failing to explain how government will balance its commitment to maintain existing welfare services while extending benefits to the vast indigent population within a five-year period.

It is unnerving that the budgetary implications of the White Paper — scheduled to be presented to parliament this session as a potential blueprint for welfare reform — have not yet been assessed.

Prominent welfare nongovernmental organisations that have traditionally served white communities fear that existing services will collapse if government cuts their subsidies in order to redistribute funds to disadvantaged communities.

The White Paper dashes any expectations of a State-funded safety net. The State is to be a provider of last resort to the disadvantaged, destitute and the frail who cannot afford 24-hour care.

It notes that old age homes are used largely by the white population which is ageing rapidly. It thus finds the emphasis on institutional care for this group “unrealistic” and “unaffordable.”

Old age homes should provide only for the frail whose numbers should be restricted to 2% of people who are over 65 years of age.

This implies that homes which cannot afford to upgrade into frail care centres will lose their subsidies. Those that are no longer financially profitable will be forced to close and some old people could, as a result, become homeless.

The White Paper suggests a shift away from putting people in institutions towards community-based care, with the family functioning as “the core support system.”

In other words, all but the frail should be taken care of by their families.

During the five-year transition period, the Welfare Ministry “is committed to the continuity of existing services whilst at the same time re-orientating such services towards developmental approaches.”

SA Council for the Aged executive director Syd Eckley told parliament’s portfolio committee on welfare last week that unless the welfare budget is increased substantially, the new policy would fail.

He said it was highly unlikely that there could be any fundamental improvement in the lot of millions of disadvantaged citizens within a budget which attempted to maintain existing services and introduce a shift to developmental social welfare.

Dawie Theron of the Dutch Reformed Church feels that government has set itself an impossible task. He said five years was too short a period and that services were already under threat. The State’s contribution to the church’s budget has dropped to about 40% from 65% two years ago.

National Party MP and welfare spokesman Patrick McKenzie, a former minister, argues for the creation of a special task team, including Finance Department representatives, to calculate whether it is affordable to implement the White Paper in five years.

He says: “The beautiful White Paper is actually going to amount to absolutely nothing because the Department of Finance has drawn up next year’s budget without any reference to the document.”

The Welfare Department will have to reduce expenditure considerably and this will inevitably involve cutting much of the funding which it has traditionally granted to a number of nongovernmental organisations.

Welfare & Population Development Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi does not expect a real cutback in next year’s budget which, at R14bn, is the third largest in government.

Though she envisages a possible cut in the top slice, Fraser-Moleketi says that there will not be a cut in the social services component. On the contrary, she is hoping for a R500m increase in this segment, which makes up a total of 88% of the budget.

However, she admits that “if you look at the needs we have to meet, we do have a problem. We need a much bigger budget but we have to confront fiscal realities.”
New way of funding RDP

By Waghled Misbach
Political Reporter

NO MONEY has been given directly to non-governmental organisations from the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) since its office closed in March.

This was because various Government departments now handled the RDP money and its allocation.

Finance Minister, Mr. Trevor Manuel, told Parliament yesterday that all funding for RDP projects had gone directly to national and provincial departments.

However, before the March closure, the Government had given R50 million to the Transitional National Development Trust (TNDT), a joint venture run by the Langlois Trust and the Independent Development Trust.

The TNDT has already received more than 400 applications for assistance, of which 159 have been assessed and 211 projects are already approved.

The Welfare Department, for example, is linked to 10 000 NGOs which it gives funding to.
Forums 'could be sidelined'

CHRIS BATeman
POLITICAL WRITER

Not a single RDP Forum has yet been officially accredited in the Western Cape — and RDP chief director Dr Kamy Chetty warned yesterday that forums that still saw themselves as a fourth tier of government would simply remain "out in the cold".

Chetty said she expected about half of the province's 170 RDP forums to be accredited by the end of the month when the provinces' special RDP Cabinet Committee sits to consider forum responses to special evaluation forms which were sent to local authorities and forums early last month.

"If forums want to be accredited they need to be complementing their local authorities and not working in opposition to them," she warned.

The process of setting up RDP forums began at least 18 months ago and has been beset with political in-fighting between the NP and the ANC as they struggled for control of the vital structures.

Scores of forums saw themselves as funding conduits or as having more than just advisory powers in relation to municipalities — something government was at pains to correct.

Chetty said that with the exception of some 10 forums, deals had now been struck and principles worked out as to how the new community bodies would operate.

"What it means is that there's now a voice for community needs and priorities, in consultation with local government," she said.

She denied that the delay in accreditation had slowed down delivery of development, saying that a cabinet ruling was obtained that as long as RDP forums were seen to be "following the broad process", they could be used.

Local authorities and forums had so far submitted 57 projects to her office, mainly job-creation schemes such as brick-making, carpentry, upholstery and sewing.

Basic needs up to R300 000 per project — such as storm water drainage, health, education and social services — were also being catered for.

Forums will form the backbone of the newly launched Provincial Development Council through representation on Regional Development Councils and Cape Metropolitan structures.

Six forums have so far applied for accreditation, and Chetty said all 170 should be officially in place by February next year. The Western Cape was "way ahead" of other provinces.
Mbeki to discuss implementation of EU aid to SA

John Dhu

60 12/11/96

The presidential visit to SA this week will see President Thabo Mbeki and the European Community (EC) sign a new protocol that formalizes collaboration in areas such as trade, investment, education, health and the environment. The agreement was announced at the EC summit in Brussels where Mbeki and EC President Jacques Delors signed the protocol.

The agreement is expected to be signed during Mbeki's visit to Brussels next week, following discussions with EC officials. The protocol is aimed at promoting closer economic and political ties between SA and the EU.

The agreement will also see the establishment of a joint consultative committee, which will meet regularly to discuss issues of mutual interest. The committee will be comprised of representatives from both SA and the EU.

The protocol is seen as a significant step in the development of a comprehensive partnership between SA and the EU. It is expected to pave the way for further cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, education, health and the environment.

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Robyn Chalmers

ALMOST R40m was spent on schemes falling under the Katorus presidential project in August and September, bringing the total amount to R147.4m since its launch in October 1994.

A status report on the project showed business plans worth R427.6m were approved by the end of August, out of the total R645.1m allocated by the RDP to the project over a five-year period.

The project, one of the largest such schemes, is being implemented in Thokoza, Vosloorus and Kadlechong on the East Rand by a range of organisations including national and provincial government, local authorities and non-governmental organisations.

The report said the largest amount of funding had been approved for engineering services at R212.1m, with R81.9m of this spent by the end of August. A total of 135 projects were being implemented of which 50 had been completed and another 51 were in progress.

"Contractors reported a reduction in the level of serious crime in August, but there were still several armed hold-ups. A worrying tendency has been the acceptance of poor quality workmanship, and delays in applying corrective measures. Remedial action is being taken," the report said.

Project services include water and sewerage reticulation, rehabilitation and upgrading, refuse removal, upgrading of roads and transport, rehabilitation of street lighting and providing training for emerging contractors.

The local governments of Alberton, Germiston and Boksburg have agreed to implement a co-ordinated strategy based on the Masakhane campaign which aims to improve service payment levels by Katorus residents to 90% by December next year.

The report said steady progress continued to be made on the repair of houses damaged through political violence, with 1,686 claims having been received. However, it expressed concern over the slow rate at which houses were being handed over to their rightful owners.

"A firm political decision to address the question of illegal occupation is urgently needed," it said.

On the subject of security, it said the flying squad received 907 crime calls in September, with 65 dockets opened and 22 arrests made.

The majority of cases involved housebreaking, the recovery of stolen vehicles, the possession of illegal fire arms and shooting incidents.

Installation of infrastructure at 19 satellite police stations was progressing well as was the setting up of an emergency communication system, it said.
Where to from here, is the topic during NGO Week in December

ESAHI DE KOK
Business Report

Funding of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the changing role of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), economic growth and development strategy in the Western Province and the future role of NGOs are among the issues to be discussed during Provincial NGO Week early next month.

Willem du Toit, chairperson of the Western Cape NGO Coalition, said in an interview that the week from December 2 to 6 would be crucial in terms of finding answers to what the future held for NGOs and smaller Community-based Organisations (CBOs).

"Will we become consultants and contractors for Government? Or can we redefine our position, both with Government and communities, so that we play a meaningful role, but also stay independent, lobbying around public issues?"

Mr Du Toit says NGOs have to take stock of who they are, what they can deliver and where they stand.

An underlying issue of Provincial NGO Week, he says, is the proposed establishment of a national development agency to act as a grant-making body, taking over from the RDP office and the Transitional National Development Trust in terms of sustainable funding of NGOs and CBOs.

"We are hoping to get public debate going on issues such as the involvement of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the possible impact this could have on a national level – particularly as the Department of Trade and Industry is considering taking up loans from these institutions."

Efforts to move away from the RDP as a programme to the RDP as a set of principles would also come under the spotlight, he said.

"The idea will be to ask questions around what this will mean for organisations."

Mr Du Toit says he hopes the week will stimulate debate between stakeholders such as labour, community organisations, civic, the Black Management Forum and emerging black business groupings about provincial economic growth and development.

"We are hoping to also get a position on this from the province and have invited speakers from the local

ministry," Mr Du Toit said.

The development debate and agenda, according to Mr Du Toit, has been swallowed by RDP promises which have not been kept.

"We now have the kind of economic strategy that excludes, to a large extent, the micro role players in terms of development. We are trying to get the focus back on people and the development process, as well as the organisations that play supportive roles."

"We believe NGOs – in the broad sense of the word – will be instrumental, particularly in intermediary roles when it comes to development programmes or supporting the development processes in communities."

NGOs have, he says, gone through major crises in the past few months.

As a result of the RDP, most international funders have adopted a "wait and see" attitude. And those who have been prepared to allocate funding have done so through the RDP, which NGOs have found difficult to access, Mr Du Toit says.

The Transitional National Development Trust has had applications for emergency funding wall in excess of its budget of about R126 million, but has only been able to pay out about R12 million, he says.

Provincial NGO week takes place in Cape Town from December 2 to 6. For a programme and more information, contact Willem du Toit on (021) 696 6479 or Amelia Jones on (021) 24 3344 or Rebecca Mgwigwi of the Western Cape NGO Coalition on (021) 69 2357.
EU places ceiling on lending to Saar until 2000
New ministry to boost rural areas urged

CLIVE SAWYER
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ARG 15/11/96

A parliamentary committee says a government ministry for development in rural areas should be considered.

The National Assembly committee on public works made the recommendation after an eight-day study tour of Singapore and Malaysia.

In its report tabled in Parliament, the committee said the purpose of the tour was to benefit from the experience of the two countries in tackling job creation and sustainable development. It found that Singapore had achieved near-full employment and was able to import foreign labour.

The committee credited these successes to a low crime rate, a feeling of national unity, virtual absence of strikes for almost 20 years because of the partnership between government, business and labour, and the strategy of "corporatisation" to stimulate growth and development.

It praised Malaysia as a democratic country and said: "It was difficult not to notice the unique spirit of national unity and openness manifested everywhere."

In Malaysia, measures included a scheme where government properties were leased to the private sector with the lessee responsible for all aspects of planning and development, but entitled to all profits from the projects for 15 years. After this, the property and developments reverted to the state.

Projects like road construction and water reticulation were privatised to get a speedy and efficient service.

MPs were allocated money to initiate development projects in their constituencies. Public works programmes were implemented without hindrance from traditional leaders, who were respected and recognised.

The committee said it was realised in Malaysia that there could be no peaceful co-existence among the races without economic justice.

"Malaysia had a ministry of rural development to uplift the quality of life of rural people. The committee said South Africa should consider having a similar ministry."
‘Sick’ pay points setup exposed

BISHO — Eastern Cape police were in cahoots with welfare department staff to steal as much money as they could before pay points were privatised, health and welfare MEC Trudy Thomas told the legislature yesterday.

After listening to a debate on a report by the standing committee on health and welfare, which detailed appalling conditions at pay points throughout the province, Thomas agreed it was a true reflection of a “very sick system”.

“The problem is that instead of letting the system die, we had to nurse it while putting in place the new system,” Thomas said.

She said police and pension staff were in collusion in a “total onslaught”, because they knew their easy source of money was about to be cut off.

Thomas said the incidents should not surprise the province, as the department was a “soft target for criminals and counter-revolutionaries” who hoped to prove the ANC could not govern the province.

“We’ve been promised army protection and helicopters, but have not received it,” she said.

Evidence of police involvement include witnesses reporting a policeman tampering with a safe, a police car lagging 2km behind the pay vehicle it was supposed to have protected, and the case of the missing policeman who was supposed to have guarded the R2.5m stolen from the health department. He never turned up for duty and has not been seen since.

Thomas said the department had reported clerks who received average salaries but owned luxury houses and fleets of luxury cars, but “not a single arrest or conviction has been made”.

“These are all simple cases which competent and motivated police could crack.”

Despite tip offs and obvious patterns of criminal activity, police lost docket and information.

“We pay more than 600 000 beneficiaries, but our job is to administer. We cannot act as a banker,” Thomas said.

She maintained that had privatisation taken place on schedule, all would have been well.

In the report presented to the legislature by committee chairman Nomax Njul, the following security lapses were noted:

□ The East London office has no money strong room;
□ Cheques in Elliotdale are transported in a cardboard box; and
□ There is no security at Dimbaza pay point near King William’s Town.

Ere 20/11/96
Below-the-belt scam uncovered

By NICK GRUBB

Grabouw - Several paymasters have been using their penises to fake fingerprints. Political parties had monitored pay on fake social security payment vouchers, but points to unmask fraudulent claims. Among the below-the-belt money scam was one where the scam was the sale by tuberculosis victims of infected spumum to people anxious to stand committee, which reported to the legislature, that got the disease to qualify for state grants.

Eastern Cape legislature yesterday, Nearywa said pay-point security had to be tightened and the identification system Care Network spokesperson Betty Nearywa decentralised to minimise corruption. - Ema
Welfare introduces changes in grants system

BY PRISCILLA SINGH

Changes in the Department of Welfare's social grant payments system are the payment of grants will have to present their ID documents only.

Among the changes are the payment of grants will have to present their ID documents only.

The new Social Assistance Act requires that those who lose their letter of authority should ensure that the beneficiary who are granted grants for the disabled, they will now be paid at the Post Office.

The new system came into being when the welfare department has already amalgamated the former House of Representatives, Delegates and the National welfare services and the payment vouchers.

Assembly and the former welfare commissioner Marianne van der Merwe says existing beneficiaries in the ID book, the two years ago, the ID number or ID number may still use the Post Office will not be able to pay the beneficiary.

The new department is amending the grants booklet to pay the beneficiary.

Published: 18/11/1996
Focus on rights of disabled

STAFF WRITER

AN international legal conference on the rights of the disabled — especially children — is to be held at Parliament and hosted by the Community Law Centre and University of the Western Cape.

Spokeswoman Ms Susan de Villiers said the conference, to be held today and tomorrow is the first of its kind in South Africa and would be a forum for discussion of legal and other measures necessary to ensure that the requirements of the constitution, in terms of the disabled, were met.

De Villiers said the conference coincided with the drafting of policy, by the Deputy President's office, on this issue.

Speakers are to include experts on disabilities and issues affecting disabled children.
Nisec's response to claims of fraud to be considered today

CHRIS BATERMAN

A DECISION on whether Nisec will keep or lose its R240 million five-year contract to pay the Western Cape's 290,000 pension and welfare recipients may come today when the local Tender Board convenes to consider the company's response to fraud claims.

This follows the Supreme Court's refusal (with costs) Nisec's application for an extension to a March next year to reply to far-reaching claims of fraud and negligence put before the Tender Board by Mr Jeremy Gauntlett, SC, (for the province).

Nisec is earning an average of R3,7m a month for paying out 42,000 welfare recipients - with the Post Office paying out the remaining 248,000 recipients for Nisec on an agency basis. The Western Cape pays out R1,8m more a month than it would if the Post Office was not locked into acting as an agent for Nisec - doing the same job it had in the past.

Nisec claims its fingerprint comparison technology (being used on the 42,000 recipients) is now among the best in the world - but the Welfare Department says Nisec misrepresented its capabilities and committed fraud in originally securing the lucrative tender.

Senior former welfare officials, now under investigation, exaggerated and misrepresented Nisec's capabilities before resigning to join Nisec, Gauntlett claims.

Papers before the court included a letter by Mr Danie Bischoff, of CPI (Pty) Ltd, dated June 8, 1995, telling Nisec regional chief, Mr Alec Cilliers: "...we sit on a time bomb with technology which does not do what it is supposed to do, which we have to continuously use and tell everyone what a success it is".

Bischoff adds: "Remember if we are caught out at this stage, we can forget about any other business in any other provinces and the Western Cape operation could just as well close its doors."

An Office for Serious Economic Offences probe of Nisec early this year led to raids of the Port Elizabeth premises of former Nisec director Mr Michau Huisamen and two homes of Health and Welfare Minister Mr Abe Williams - and to Williams' resignation within hours of being taken.

Late last night speculation arose that the Tender Board may defer a decision for two weeks to pre-empt further Nisec "challenges" on grounds of insufficient time to prepare a reply.

Huisamen has issued defamation summons of R3m against five newspaper editors; their managers and Welfare MEC Mr Elraam Rasool.
Another Revolution Needed

Model for Other Countries

November 14, 1996
Press to be excluded from Nisec hearing

CHRIS BATEMAN
CT 20/9

THE Western Cape Tender Board will decide behind closed doors whether Nisec keeps or loses its R240 million, five-year contract to pay the province's 290 000 welfare recipients and pensioners. Its chairman, Mr Barry van der Vyver, ruled yesterday.

He was responding to a Cape Times request to attend hearings at which Nisec is expected to reply to allegations of fraud and negligence - including that its employees misrepresented tender documents.

Van der Vyver said his board's "consensus" was that "the press can unfortunately not be allowed to attend meetings due to the confidential nature of the discussions".

The board had discussed Nisec "briefly" yesterday but decided to grant them an extension of reply until November 29 when a decision was "again unlikely".

"We must first go through all the documents." He expected a decision before Christmas.

Van der Vyver's ruling follows the Supreme Court dismissal (with costs) of Nisec's application for an extension till March next year to respond to the Welfare Department's fraud allegations.

Nisec is earning an average of R3.7m a month for paying out 42 000 welfare recipients - with the Post Office paying out the remaining 248 000 payees on an agency basis. The Western Cape pays out R1.8m more a month than it would if the Post Office was not acting as Nisec's agent.
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reconciliation Fund</th>
<th>Departmental Expenditure (million)</th>
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<tr>
<td>1976-77</td>
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<td>1978-79</td>
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Note: The figures are rounded to the nearest million.
The Ministry of Finance

Section 1

The purpose of the Ministry of Education is to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of policies and programs related to education in the country. The Ministry is responsible for formulating educational policies, providing resources, and ensuring the quality of education delivered in schools. It also plays a role in the development and implementation of educational programs and initiatives.

Section 2

The Ministry of Education works in close collaboration with other government departments to ensure that the education sector receives adequate funding and support. It is also responsible for monitoring and evaluating the performance of schools and educational institutions.

Section 3

The Ministry of Education is responsible for ensuring that all students have access to quality education, regardless of their background or location. It aims to create an inclusive education system that prepares students for future careers and leadership roles.

Section 4

The Ministry of Education is committed to providing equal opportunities for all students, including those with disabilities. It works with schools and communities to develop inclusive practices and strategies that support the educational needs of all students.

Section 5

The Ministry of Education emphasizes the importance of continuous professional development for teachers and other educational staff. It provides training and resources to help educators stay up-to-date with the latest teaching methods and educational technologies.

Section 6

The Ministry of Education is committed to strengthening partnerships with other sectors, such as health and social services, to ensure that students receive comprehensive support. It also collaborates with international organizations to exchange best practices and access new educational technologies.

Section 7

The Ministry of Education recognizes the role of families and communities in supporting students' learning. It works to engage parents and caregivers in the education process and encourages them to participate in their children's educational journey.

Section 8

The Ministry of Education is committed to improving educational outcomes through research and innovation. It supports the development of new educational tools and strategies to address the evolving needs of the education sector.

Section 9

The Ministry of Education acknowledges the importance of partnerships with the private sector to expand access to quality education. It encourages collaboration between schools and businesses to create opportunities for students and to enhance the relevance of the education system to the workforce.

Section 10

The Ministry of Education is committed to ensuring that all students have access to quality education, regardless of their background or location. It aims to create an inclusive education system that prepares students for future careers and leadership roles.
Rasool seeks to nix Nisec pension deal

CHRIS BATEMAN
CT 4/10/96

The Western Cape government is set to ask the provincial Tender Board to cancel its five-year R149-million welfare payout contract with Nisec — casting doubt on the way the tender was granted and questioning Nisec's compliance — and setting the scene for a lengthy legal battle.

Last night, Health and Welfare MEC Mr Ibrahim Rasool said the crux of the matter lay in the awarding of the tender. Its terms and whether Nisec — a Denel subsidiary — was complying.

An Office for Serious Economic Offences (OSEO) probe of Nisec early this year led to raids at the Port Elizabeth premises of former Nisec director Mr Michael Huleman and two homes of Health and Welfare Minister Mr Abe Williams — and to Williams' subsequent resignation.

Williams resigned within hours of being raided, admitting he received money but claiming it was unrelated to the hugely lucrative tender.

Nisec's automated mobile pension and grant payout system — designed by the Armstrong-born Denel — has been in operation, mainly in the black Western Cape townships, for two years.

Rasool, keen to rehabilitate the apartheid-ravaged welfare system, signed tender papers within two months of taking office, only to see 17 of his top welfare officials "jump ship" to join Nisec, demoting the province of its entire social security middle management.

On September 19 last year, 3D ID, a rival for the payout tender, was liquidated after losing a court battle against Nisec. It wanted an unduction to halt the contract, pending a review of tender procedures.

In October last year, Rasool asked the legislature's finance committee to probe allegations of fraud and the Nisec tender victory, and "cut to the bone".

The committee appointed a team of forensic auditors whose report was handed to OSEO.

Several former CPA officials were then either charged or disciplined.

Rasool said that a legal memorandum drawn up by the state attorney's office and advocates Mr Jeremy Gauntlett SC and Mr Ashton Schippers, and handed to Finance MEC Mr Kobus Meiring and himself yesterday left him "no alternative but to ask the Tender Board to cancel the contract".
SA may lose out on World Bank contracts

Nicola Jenvey

DURBAN — SA businesses are ignoring the opportunity of winning extensive World Bank contracts and face losing out to international companies aware of the bidding process, Development Bank Association MD Nick Ludlow said at the weekend.

Ludlow said the bank had awarded $2.7bn (R2.3bn) in contracts to sub-Saharan Africa in the year to June, including those to Mozambique for infrastructural reconstruction and development, with another $1.6bn approved for further developments in the region.

However, since SA entered the bidding process in 1993, local companies and subsidiaries of multinationals had won only $509m worth of contracts, predominantly in equipment sales. Every $1 earned from a contract was worth $2 in future business and replacement equipment.

Ludlow believed that SA large and medium sized organisations had "tremendous opportunities" for winning contracts being awarded throughout sub-Saharan Africa, provided they have sufficient information on how the contracts are awarded.

Association in African Development GM Bryce Biggs said the political arena would possibly allow for World Bank contracts into SA to be awarded within 18 months.

However, should local companies not have the necessary bidding experience, the business would be lost to local subsidiaries of multinationals such as Shell SA, BP and Siemens rather than to locally listed companies and medium sized consultancies.

Although infrastructural contracts could amount to $100bn, Ludlow said there were smaller contracts, such as consultancy and development reconstruction, ranging between $50 000 and $250 000.

"There is a misconception that bidding for World Bank contracts involves government bureaucracy yet these tenders are the least risky and easiest to bid for, provided the company plays by the rules," he said.

Biggs said the potential existed for the African Development Bank to loan SA $400m over the first five years of membership. Considering that the World Bank accounted for 70% of international loans with the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and Inter-American Bank accepting the remainder, potential loans to SA were significant.
Foreign minister discloses extent of secret funding at signing of R23-1 m development agreement

Swedish aid for struggle totaled R1.8-bn
RDP fund races to R1bn mark
CT(PRESS) 9/10/96
MARC HASENPRESS

Cape Town — FutureGrowth, Southern Life's RDP fund, confounded the sceptics by pushing its managed assets past the R1 billion mark in the year to September 30, reaching that level six months ahead of schedule.

Michael Leeman, the co-ordinator of FutureGrowth, said yesterday that the target date for the R1 billion milestone had been set for next March. He predicted that managed assets could exceed R2 billion by next year.

"The growth of FutureGrowth to its current size puts us in a position to further diversify our risk and means that we are able to handle larger RDP projects. We have identified no less than R500 million in new projects that could be funded by FutureGrowth over the next six months," he said.

"People have been negative on black empowerment initiatives, but our growth in managed assets shows that FutureGrowth is worthy of consideration," he added.

Leeman said all the fund's portfolios exceeded their investment targets. The equity fund was the star performer, with a gross return of 69.4 percent in the year to September 30. The equity fund specialises in black economic empowerment initiatives. Its latest ventures have included deals for trade unions with the Super Group (Motolink) and Saflife.

Leeman attributed the fund's strong performance to the significant weighting in "black-chip" stocks like Real Africa Investments and Corporate Africa.

FutureGrowth's recently launched property fund enjoyed a satisfactory maiden quarter with a three-month return of 5.5 percent. It also announced its first important new development, a R25 million shopping complex in Motherwell near Port Elizabeth.
R1-bn a year lost to welfare chaos

Fraud probe launched

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT (297) ARG 9/10/96

Fraud, corruption and inefficiency in the Department of Welfare and Population Development result in more than R1-billion vanishing from its budget every year.

The Ministry of Welfare and Population Development said the "leakage", which is almost 10 percent of its annual R14.3-billion budget, could be higher this year. A task team was investigating the fraud.

The department's budget is equal to 9.8 percent of the Government's total spending this year.

The "leakage" seemed to have been occurring for an "unknown number of years" in three main areas of social security, said spokesman Danie du Plessis.

"Many of the 2.8 million people receiving grants no longer qualified, but the department did not have the administrative capacity to sort out the problem," Mr Du Plessis said.

Many beneficiaries are also registered in more than once province and on more than one of the 14 separate welfare payrolls, which are to be integrated soon.

The department also said officials had been paying pensions to themselves after the legitimate beneficiaries had died.

Employees in the country's biggest pension office in Jeppe Street, Johannesburg, said the R2-million cash taken to various paypoints on each of 10 days every month went missing regularly.

"Paymasters claim they have been hijacked and had their money stolen," said an employee who asked not to be named.

"Sometimes they say it is well known that most of the time it is organised."
SA defence budget
‘Africa’s biggest’

LONDON — SA still has by far the largest defence budget in Africa, despite having halved it since 1989. The SANDF’s budget this year is $2.9bn, while Nigeria’s — made public for the first time in many years — is the second largest at $835m.

This was stated yesterday by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, which released “The Military Balance 1996/97”, listing the weapon holdings of armed forces in 170 countries.

The publication said SA was the most dominant military power in Africa, and commented: “The government is too concerned with resolving its internal political and security problems to make any serious contribution to military intervention or peacekeeping in other parts of Africa.” But it singled out the reorganisation of the SADF into the post-apartheid SANDF as “one element of a deeply divided society that has been modestly successful in adjusting to new realities”.

Retaining “career members”, however, was proving difficult for the armed forces, with scores of pilots resigning to join the civil sector and 100 air force aircraft being grounded this year as a result.

Asia — and China in particular — was a growing market for SA defence exports, “The Military Balance” noted.

The “editor” said that sub-Saharan Africa remained the least transparent region in the world as far as reporting its defence expenditure, with none of the countries submitting a return to the annual UN military expenditure questionnaire.

SA’s equipment acquisitions, compiled “from several sources” included: five US Hercules transport planes ordered this year, 60 Pilatus military training planes from Switzerland — ordered last year, with deliveries continuing next year — and 12 SA Rosivalk helicopters, to be delivered up to 2000.

See Page 12
A third of RDP funds spent over three years

Robin Chalmers

29 Oct 16/10/96

Almost R5bn of the R15,2bn allocated to the RDP fund over the three years to March 1997 has been spent to date, with business plans for a range of projects still outstanding, according to the latest independent RDP Monitor.

RDP forums were running in a number of provinces at local level, with the Western Cape alone having about 181 functioning forums identifying RDP projects for local authorities.

The Monitor said figures from the finance and state expenditure departments showed a total of R14,1bn was available over the three years if Overseas Development Aid funds of R800m were taken into account.

An audit of unspent RDP funds has been undertaken by the state expenditure department, and a spokesman said yesterday that preliminary findings were expected soon.

Monitor editor Gavin Lewis said there was a deadline of December 17 for departments to submit outstanding business plans for projects. Thereafter remaining funds would be returned to the treasury to help meet the target of a 4% deficit on the Budget in 1997.

"From then on, while existing RDP projects will continue and may indeed receive expanded funding, the RDP will be funded primarily from departmental budgets. There will, however, be monies available over and above this for the RDP based in the Finance ministry, but these will be derived solely from foreign grant money," he said.
Development boost by Guguletu RDP

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL WRITER

A NEW non-profit development company is to be launched in Guguletu tomorrow afternoon by the local RDP Forum to promote the reconstruction of the area.

The Community Development Corporation, which is being registered as a trust, will be the first of its kind in South Africa.

It establishment follows a visit by two representatives of the RDP forum - chairperson Mr Wilson Sidima and a consultant, Ms June Mkhwanazi - to the US to visit similar projects, including the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation in New York.

Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, who is a member of the Guguletu RDP forum, said yesterday the Bedford corporation had influenced the lives of everyone in that community through housing and business loans, scholarships and other forms of assistance.

"It is an enabling tool. To restore the fabric in our society we need instruments like that."

The CDC directors have been appointed by the 20-person RDP forum, which in turn was elected by the people in different sectors.

"The street committees have fortunately survived in Guguletu and we rely on them."

She said the RDP forum had demonstrated its capability in the public works programme, involving the removal of alien vegetation from Table Mountain.

"We had to take responsibility for state funds and we never lost a cent."

Mlambo-Ngcuka said the RDP board and staff would take on a number of projects, including the rehabilitation of the existing 50 preschools into schools with after-school facilities.

Other projects were the establishment of the Guguletu Local Industrial Park, in which small businesses could be established and supported, the development of the Kiplonnete area as part of the Lansdowne-Wetton corridor and an informal market at NY3.

Mlambo-Ngcuka said the CDC, which would be a structured relationship between the government, the local authorities, business, the community and NGOs, would be formally launched tomorrow afternoon at the Motsele bus depot in Guguletu by the Minister of Public Works, Mr Jeff Radebe.

Exhibitors will be welcome and anyone interested should contact the Guguletu RDP office at 637 0501 or 637 0555 (fax).
age their effective operation in a sympathetic environment and is willing to take active steps to achieve this.

Accordingly, it suggests that tax relief be extended beyond the current definitions to a broad range of development and other unspecified NGOs. The Income Tax Act makes provision only for religious, "educational" and "charitable organisations to obtain tax relief. But the department says many developmental NGOs, even educational organisations, have found it difficult to obtain the necessary certification from the Receiver. This hampers their ability to raise funds.

It recommends that NGOs be exempt from VAT and income tax and be granted tax relief for some income-generating activities. It also suggests greater tax relief to companies making donations to NGOs. "The cost of tax reform, to encourage voluntary work and donor-funding, must be measured against the costs should government be pressured to directly pick up the costs involved," the submission says.

The department feels that, to qualify for tax relief, NGOs should register under a reformulated Fundraising Act, which does not render registration an administrative burden, confers certain rights and benefits and carries certain minimum requirements, such as the lodging of annual financial reports. But it cautions against saddling NGOs with onerous requirements, such as the disclosure of staffing levels, salaries or information on affirmative action policies.

Gordhan says government should expend more energy in finding creative ways to assist the sector rather than regulating it. This position is an about-turn on the one adopted by the NGO Bill, which compelled NGOs to register with a mostly government-appointed commission armed with wide powers to intervene in an NGO's internal affairs. Gordhan's directorate must produce a new NGO Bill next year, but she says that, whatever revised proposal is put forward by the centre, it will be counted as one well-researched submission among many.

It's reassuring to read in the submission that the Welfare Department "is committed to the establishment of a rational, unrestrictive and workable framework for the operation of the NGO sector" and that it considers a vibrant NGO sector an essential prerequisite for the healthy democratic life of SA. NGOs will be sure to hold the department to this position.
"Coloureds suffer after welfare cuts"

CHRIS SATTEMAH

OLD-AGE homes in the coloured community are taking the brunt of welfare subsidy cuts, which range from R175 to R450 per person, the South African Council for the Aged chairman, Mr Syd Folkley, said.

He was responding to a debate in the provincial legislature this week over the shift in funding policy from residential care facilities to community-based facilities.

The shift was towards "assisted living," where elderly folk shared homes and pooled finances, bringing in outside help.

Folkley said coloured old-age homes in the past, like African ones, were always severely under-funded and had built up little or no cash reserves to deal with the crisis.

"They are battling and are being forced to threaten families on the verge of poverty to take in their old relatives or parents or face having them put on the streets," he said.

While he knew of nobody who was evicted on to the street, the financial reality was forcing managements to make the threats to reduce numbers, he said.

"Coloured homes, of which there are 33 in the province and 10 in Afrikaans, were evening staff, lowering standards by giving residents less to eat and cutting down on nursing staff," Folkley said. While elderly women were also particularly hard hit because of their longevity.
Poor often at end of queue for RDP funds, says Chikane

WILLIAM-MERVYN GUMEDZE
STAFF REPORTER

The poor are often the last to benefit from Reconstruction and Development money says Deputy President Thabo Mbeki’s adviser, Frank Chikane.

He was speaking at the biennial conference of the Commonwealth Press Union at the University of the Western Cape.

Mr Chikane said most of the R7.5-billion Reconstruction and Development fund did not benefit the poor. “The greater part of the money is likely to end up with privileged sectors, especially consultants”.

“By the time it arrives at the poor it is only a small fraction of what they are supposed to get,” Mr Chikane said. “The RDP system works against the poor.”

He said the government needed to find ways of making funds more easily accessible to the poor.

He said the government’s spending power was heavily constrained by having to repay a R300-billion debt incurred by the apartheid regime. The government pays over R34-billion a year to cover the debt.

“We are paying for the sins of the past by paying the debt,” he said.

He said the government’s critics had no moral base for their criticism as the government was serious about reconstruction and development.

“They can’t criticise the government at a moral level for reconstruction and development, but they attack it at the level of implementation.”

He said people unfairly criticised the government for slow implementation and delivery by not spending but first setting up the necessary infrastructure.

“If the government just throws money into welfare and social programmes without meticulous planning it is accused of being fiscally irresponsible,” he said.

Mr Chikane said the government could not reprioritise the current budget towards education and welfare spending overnight.

“The budget cannot move from the old to the new overnight. It takes more than five years to take out the old budget,” Mr Chikane said, pleading for understanding and patience.
Slow use of Japanese aid package could affect economic cooperation, Nippon Business Institute study finds. The institute's report, released last week, suggests that Japan's aid to Southeast Asia could be slowed if the region does not improve its infrastructure. The report also notes that the aid package could help to boost regional economies if used effectively. However, the study warns that the aid could have adverse effects if it is not used properly.

The report recommends that Japan should focus on improving infrastructure in the region, particularly in areas such as transportation and telecommunications. It also suggests that Japan should work with other donor countries to ensure that the aid is used effectively and efficiently.

The report's findings come amid growing concerns about the use of foreign aid in Southeast Asia. Critics have questioned whether aid programs are being used to advance donor countries' interests rather than benefit the recipient nations.

Despite these concerns, the report's authors argue that the aid package could have a positive impact on the region if used wisely. They recommend that Japan work closely with recipient countries to ensure that the aid is used effectively and efficiently.
Welfare blueprint published

CAPE TOWN — A welfare policy blueprint, designed to balance the racially skewed apartheid era benefit spread without significantly increasing the welfare budget, was published yesterday.

The 140-page policy white paper confirms the state’s role as a provider of last resort for the destitute, but dashes any notion of a European-style welfare safety net.

There will be no change for the 2.8-million people who depend on subsistence-level grants of various kinds, but the government plans to reduce its contribution to institutional care focused mainly on whites.

Almost 8-million out of the estimated 41-million population live in households dependent on a grant.

Stellenbosch University economist Servaes van den Berg, a welfare ministry consultant, said the proposals could add about R1bn to the current R13.9bn welfare budget over the next five years.

He said the policy paper proposed changes mainly in welfare services, which absorbed only 8% of the welfare budget, and proposed no change to the child, family and pension benefit systems, which absorb 88%.

“The model envisaged ... is not a cost-intensive one. It’s saying deploy, it’s saying reach into the rural areas, but close down institutions.

“We do not see welfare’s overall bite of the national budget increasing significantly. We could even see a marginal decline...”

Van den Berg said SA would have to look again at creating a social security system in the long term, but that it was too soon for a major shake-up of the infrastructure inherited from the previous government.

“We have a system in place that reaches most of the people it should reach — about 80%. When you’ve got a system that works reasonably well, we should not try to change that, he said.” — Reuter.

Naidoo praises new legislation

CAPE TOWN — SA’s new telecommunications legislation compares favourably with that in place in other countries, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Jay Naidoo said, in a document released yesterday ahead of today’s public hearings on the draft Bill.

Naidoo is certain to face criticism in the hearings for changes made to the legislation after broad agreement between stakeholders at the white paper stage.

It was apparently changed shortly before its approval by the Cabinet.

The document said the Telecommunications Bill was compared with provisions in Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Australia, Mexico, Sweden, the UK and the US. It claimed that, compared to them, the level of independence given to the proposed regulating authority is substantial.

It also said that the Bill offers protection to the SA Telecommunications Regulatory Agency from political influence and other forms of conflicts of interest so that it can be in the public interest. It claimed that the agency has established a balance between policy directions being given to the agency by government and it being able to act independently in its regulation of the telecommunications industry.

Public submissions on the Bill will be heard by Parliament’s communications committee today.
Allergic development in a must happen, where Bugan Press. The question is how?
Welfare policy
set to aid poor,
not institutions

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"The model envisaged for social
welfare services is not cost-inten-
sive. It's saying... reach into rural
areas, but close down institutions.

"We don't see welfare's overall
bite of the national budget increas-
ing significantly. We could even
see a marginal decline in the 8.7%
share of the total." — Reiner
Get RDP funds flowing fast, commission urges

CHRIS BATEMAN

The provincial department of Economic Affairs, together with the Reconstruction and Development Programme, should urgently streamline the tedious process of setting up and approving business plans for specially identified projects and get funds flowing, the Red Tape Commission urged yesterday.

Making recommendations in its 17-month review of development in local government, the commission — headed by former constitutional development minister, Mr Chris Heunis — also said centralised control of RDP spending was "stifling" provincial efforts.

The process of setting up business plans for approval was so unwieldy that it often made the allocation and use of existing funding impossible.

Aggravating the situation was a "tortuous" consultation process and the inflated expectations of communities.

Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) deserved to continue playing a leading role in developing national policy, but were being negatively affected by the RDP bureaucracy.

This included confusion over whether funds should be routed through the RDP office, via the RDP Fund, via the proposed national development agency, or should go directly to NGOs.

The local RDP office's efforts to co-ordinate development initiatives were seen as a way of controlling NGOs.

NGOs were more in touch with communities and therefore able to be more creative and effective.

An effort was needed to protect the autonomy of NGOs, to allow them to continue playing a useful role.

The commission also urged that the roles and mandates of local RDP forums, the Regional Development Councils and the Western Cape Development Council, be more explicitly defined.

Many RDP forums incorrectly saw themselves as decision-making bodies instead of consultative forums serving councils.

CUTTING RED TAPE: Chris Heunis
IN BRIEF

Sweden spent $400m on anti-apartheid struggle

SWEDEN supported the anti-apartheid struggle to the tune of $400m, Swedish Foreign Affairs Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallén said yesterday.

Hjelm-Wallén, on her first visit to SA, told a news conference that the extent of the funding was kept secret even from Swedes. "We have for so many years been so close to South Africans in their struggle against apartheid," she said.

"You can also count it in terms of what we have disbursed for the period in which the struggle took place, and that is about $400m. This is a very big sum and in Sweden it was secret — we couldn’t tell even the Swedish public about it. But now we can publicly tell how it was.”

A team of Swedish investigators is in SA to look into allegations by former security policemen that colleagues of theirs were behind the unsolved murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme in 1986.
Breakthrough in Boesak probe – Kahn

LINDSAY BARNES

Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn has disclosed that his office has broken new ground in its wide-ranging probe into Allan Boesak's alleged misappropriation of foreign funding for his defunct Foundation for Peace and Justice.

Mr Kahn said his office was proceeding "as fast as we can in the circumstances" but could not say when the investigation would be complete or what new information had come to light.

"We have taken the investigation further than the Office for Serious Economic Offences," he said. His office has been studying the office's report on its investigation into Dr Boesak, former Western Cape leader of the African National Congress.

Asked whether he would apply for Dr Boesak to be extradited from the United States if he decided to prosecute, Mr Kahn said he would cross that bridge when he came to it.

Dr Boesak left for the US in August last year, saying he would return to South Africa in three months. He came back briefly with his wife Elia in December during the office's investigation but returned to the US and has not been back since. He now has a job in Berkeley, California.

Dr Boesak has denied misusing FPFJ funds, and has blamed his bookkeeper, Freddie Steenkamp, for irregularities.
Agony of the fall - Boesek's days in hell

In those long, dark months I prayed, I cried, I screamed, I fought.

Villem Steenkamp

Allan Boesek, tapped from the pinnacle of power by allegations that he and the Foundation for Peace and Justice, has opened his heart in a book titled "Shadows of Light: Biblical Meditations on a Time of Trial"

In this, he has been appointed as ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva when the controversy at the foundation's financial position was raised over a full investigation was launched into its affairs.

The scandal engulfed him, and Dr Boesek never took a post in Geneva.

However, after years of investigation to find funds donated to his foundation by the Church of Disciples, a Dutch non-profit organisation, found Dr Boesek had not only substantially embezzled himself but debased the name of the foundation.

This finding was widely reported and is the basis of Dr Boesek's legal and legislative inquiries.

However, after years of investigation, the Church of Disciples, believing that the ecclesiastical law had been broken, wanted to return the money.

In his book, Dr Boesek uses Bible verses very carefully to give a very personal view of a time when all things fall apart.

"In December, I was forced to leave my home," Dr Boesek writes. "I was not able to return to it ever. It was a strange time, a time of uncertainty, of questioning, of searching for meaning in a world that had gone to pieces."

"There was an urgency of sensation, half-truths and lies, a venomous destructiveness that then became a reality."

"Those were months of indescribable pain, humiliation and fear. Our faith was tested like never before, and doubts about the meaning of life and death were raised."

"I had to come to terms with the fact that my life was changed forever."

"And here is South Africa's greatest challenge: the greatest temptation. For those who struggle with this point, they will find an insurmountable resistance comes cheap."

"So South Africa, when will one day pay for this?"

The author, Dr Boesek, says that he has been treated with the utmost care and respect at all times.

"I have been conscious of the expectations of the poor, the hungry, the sick, the oppressed and the disfranchised."

"I have been aware of the needs of the world, and how we can help to alleviate suffering and provide hope and help for those who are in need."
‘Ma’ Mbhele: taking in the impaired who the authorities dismissed

Driving towards Ncala Section Katlehong—a town rivalled by the Middle East's West Bank in violence, staid—just a mere three years back, to talk to community worker Rose Mbhele, one is attracted by the relaxed atmosphere and the township kids milling around.

The ambulances, the area exudes, could not make up for the huge community task awaiting Rose Mbhele. The no-frills ‘Ma’ Mbhele, run a remedial centre for mentally retarded children younger than 12 years old.

The centre accepts patients between the ages of 3 and 25 who were dismissed from a local professionally-run school for the mentally disadvantaged, Ebzenile, by the provincial authorities. Their ages disqualified them, for the authorities did not wish to mix them with children younger than 12 years old.

Being the founder member of the school, ‘Ma’ Mbhele said she could not just fold her arms and watch while the children, she had grown to love were left stranded.

“The community asked me to intervene, and my conscience could not disagree,” she said. Hence the establishment of the centre.

‘Ma’ Mbhele’s task is made difficult by lack of human resources and capital to run the school, which was established from scratch.

Her self-imposed duties cover all stages and facets of a mentally retarded person, from establishing proper communication with the patient to encouraging self-confidence.

She also teaches creative practices, such as sewing, picture framing, decorations and bricklaying; to offer the kids an opportunity to produce something rather than being treated as dysfunctional.

Their picture framing decorations, awoke one to fallacies of what is termed “normal society”, which has “capable people whose productivity is cheaper compared to these patients.

But then getting all the work done is not easier as it sounds, said Mbhele. The centre has no other professionally-trained personnel to help her cope.

Being the resilient woman that she is, she has built but often troublesome relationship with the Witwatersrand Health Society, a private sector health consulting body which gives the school on a monthly basis.

Mbhele said that through an understanding between the patients, who have a short clear vision as to what they would like to achieve, and herself, the centre is contracted to Katlehong Hospital’s laboratory to wrap and package their medicine containers.

That alone provides a cash relief for the centre.

Mbhele said the centre survived on patches of donations and self-help entrepreneurial ventures they were engaged in.

The centre also has a number of unemployed people on its part-time staff, who are responsible for urging township residents who have handicapped children locked up in their homes to bring them to the centre,” Mbhele said.

Mbhele contended that all her efforts and her moral obligation could not have been realised, regardless of her commitment to community care, if she was not properly trained in her job.

However, she emphasised that being a trained and practising teacher for more than a decade still did not adequately prepare her for the daunting demands her present calling requires of her.
Handicaps of all types

CREATOR OF SAFE HAVEN

As the numbers increased at Forang, it became apparent that a building of this type was needed. The Christian Fellowship Church in Melbourne donated $100,000 for the building of a new ward for the children of the community. A bank loan was negotiated and the school was named after the Reverend R T Farquharson. The children were then able to attend classes in the school. The educational system for Massa was an integral part of the community. It was a place where the children could learn and grow, and where parents could work and live. The school was also a place where the community could come together and share their experiences.

CITY PRESS

ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR

Leslie's living legend

It's a problem that has troubled the mass media in recent years. How can we ensure that all children, regardless of their background or abilities, have access to an education? Leslie's story is one of hope and inspiration. Despite the challenges he faced, he was able to overcome them and become a leader in his community.

The Boma Education system was invented by Leslie in Tanzania. It is a system that uses traditional methods of teaching and learning to help children develop their skills and knowledge. The system has been successful in improving educational outcomes for children in the region.

The Boma Education system is based on community involvement. The community is involved in all aspects of the education system, from the design of the curriculum to the delivery of the education. The community is also involved in the management of the education system, ensuring that it is meeting the needs of the children.

The Boma Education system has been successful in improving educational outcomes for children in the region. Children who have received a Boma Education are more likely to attend school, and they are more likely to stay in school for longer. They are also more likely to achieve better results in their schoolwork.

The Boma Education system is a model for other countries to follow. It is a system that can be adapted to meet the needs of any community, and it is one that can help to ensure that all children have access to an education.

The Boma Education system is a testament to the power of education. It is a system that has the potential to improve the lives of children around the world.
IDC should broaden its role, says CE-designate

John Dludlu

THE Industrial Development Corporation should broaden its role to previously neglected areas, such as the black community, and participate strongly in cross-border projects to help avert social instability, the parastatal's CE-designate, Khaya Ngqula, believes.

Ngqula — currently Norwich Unit Trusts MD — starts his new job in February. He spelled out his vision for the organisation.

With deputy Jan de Bruyn, at present acting CE, Ngqula hopes to involve the corporation in the development of the black community. "I would like to see the IDC doing what it has done for established business in the black community," he says.

The corporation, which has been accused in the past of being obsessed with mega projects to the detriment of black and small business development, should assist in upgrading local infrastructure and social upliftment.

It could also play a critical role in the economic development of the southern African region, as "SA cannot be an island of prosperity in a sea of poverty ..."

Cross-border projects which the IDC could be involved included the multibillion rand Maputo—Mozambique development corridor and the expansion of the Lesotho highlands water project.

Another challenge for Ngqula, a former IBM and SAB manager, would be to maintain the profitability of the IDC. "The IDC is one of the most successful development organisations in the world; we have to keep on making profits."

On his selection, which came after months of controversy on the recruitment process, he comments: "My appointment — as an outsider — is in itself a transformation," he says.

Prior to his recruitment, Ngqula had not set foot at 19 Fredman Drive, the Sandton headquarters of the IDC.

He plans to lead from the front. "As a former rugby player, I'm a team player. I lead people and manage business. I have no room for babies."

The creation of a deputy CE position, his own suggestion to facilitate the transition, would help him pay more attention to transformation and the corporation. "My fear was taking over a rudderless organisation," he says of De Bruyn's appointment as his deputy.

Ngqula, a sports fanatic, will continue serving on the Mintek board, but will step down as chairman of JC's Lindum Reefs.

The "quantum leap" he took in accepting the IDC job was based on the need to play a greater role in SA development, he says.

Since joining Norwich Unit Trusts in 1993, Ngqula, 40, has seen its client base grow from just more than 5 000 to the present 40 000. Its assets have swelled to about R800m from 1993's R27m.

Ngqula says he aims to launch two funds — a specialist and a balanced fund — and see Norwich Unit Trusts' assets breach the R1bn mark before he leaves his current position to face the new challenges.
New CEO envisions central role in regional economy

IDC chief sets out mission for jobs
New tribunal is the route to accelerate
development

Ingrid Salgado

The Gauteng government became the first province to launch a development tribunal yesterday in an effort to circumvent red tape and fast-track land development applications.

The tribunal, set up in terms of the national Development Facilitation Act, would take at most 120 days to approve development projects in Gauteng, development planning and local government MEC Sicelo Shiceka said.

At present it takes between 18 months and three years to approve a project, Shiceka said this resulted in costly delays for developers and created obstacles to providing rapid land tenure to the poor and disadvantaged, which often led to land invasions.

The tribunal would speed up all forms of land development, including land delivery, housing projects and the establishment of business, companies and factories, he said. Its decisions were based on national RDP principles, provincial policies and Gauteng local authorities' development plans, which would be ready by April next year.

The Act gives wide-ranging powers to the provincial tribunals, such as powers to subpoena anyone — including government departments — to object to or approve a development within 60 to 120 days of the application. It also allows the tribunals to override existing structure plans, such as township schemes.

The tribunal system does not replace existing laws and development procedures, instead running parallel to them. The other provinces are at various stages of gearing up for the new process.

Shiceka said the Gauteng tribunal had already received several applications for housing developments and commercial centres.

He expected the province's gambling operators, when licensed, to be granted approval for their facilities by the tribunal in order to avoid unnecessary delays.

Agriculture and Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom's adviser Joanne Yawitch said that the tribunal's mediation powers would eliminate costly and lengthy land disputes which often lead to court battles.

A mediation panel would ensure consultation and ensure communities had a say in developments around them. The current system was more adversarial and conflict ridden.

The tribunal comprises 40 local and provincial government representatives and another 40 experts in development. Its chairman is Adv. Nononde Mungubai and deputy chairman is Helena Dolny.
Covt identifies IDC as engine for block economic impo
Cut in red tape for development applications

‘Billions and billions’ of rands will finally be put to work for development planning, says MEC Sicelo Shiceka

BY JUSTICE MALALA
Provincial Correspondent

The Gauteng government yesterday unveiled a body designed to cut the red tape from all development applications to ensure that thousands of land, housing and commercial developments are approved more speedily.

‘The launch of the Gauteng Development Tribunal (GDT) in Johannesburg yesterday would mean that applications for development, which normally took 18 months to three years to be approved, would be approved within 120 days, it is claimed.

Launching the tribunal, Gauteng MEC for development planning, and local government Sicelo Shiceka said ‘billions and billions’ of rands in development money would finally be put to work when the tribunal started its work.

The tribunal is established in terms of the Development Facilitation Act, a new law which puts into place a system to speed up the development process in South Africa – and hence delivery of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

The tribunal will consist of 40 experts in development and 40 provincial and local government officials who will be appointed by the Gauteng legislature.

The application process has been designed to be as rapid as possible. For example, the GDT can subpoena anyone, including government departments, to either object or approve a development within 60 to 120 days of the application being made.

The tribunal will be chaired by Advocate Nompumelelo Mzigiabisa and her deputy will be Dr Helena Dolny.'
Too few NGOs in South Africa involved in development
Government to add RDG goals to its Career Program
RDP delays spare government blushes

JAMES LAMONT

Johannesburg — The slow delivery of the RDP has spared the government from severe budgetary pressures which would have arisen towards the end of the century, Andre Roux, an economist with the Development Bank of Southern Africa, said yesterday.

"If the RDP was going to be delivered as it was originally intended, we would be under major fiscal pressure in the next few years," Roux said.

He said lower RDP expenditure on areas such as housing, health and education had allowed the government to reduce the budget deficit.

"In its macroeconomic strategy released in May, the government set itself the target of lowering the budget deficit to 4 percent of GDP.

"The macroeconomic strategy is the foundation of RDP delivery for the simple reason that it will enable us to generate resources that we need. The strategy is a window for the implementation of many of government's social and economic strategies," said Roux, who is also an adviser to the finance ministry.

"But the macroeconomic strategy cannot sustain growth over the long period. It can only do that through the successful implementation of the RDP."

He said sustaining GDP growth rates of 6 percent required a skilled workforce, housing, better infrastructure and good health services.

"But he warned that high nominal increases in wages in the order of 20 percent would derail the growth strategy and erode South Africa's competitive advantage.

"The office of Tsabo Mbeki, the deputy president, said on Monday that the government would include the social goals of the RDP in the growth, employment and redistribution strategy as an extra chapter of its macroeconomic strategy.

"The labour movement has criticised the government's strategy for neglecting social goals which require government spending."

Roux said job creation was the best means of achieving wealth distribution. He said this would allow the government to focus its expenditure on the poorest part of the population.

— Business Watch, Page 18
Former Nisec boss
sues MEC, papers

Linda Ensor 24/10/96

CAPE TOWN — A former boss of Nisec, a subsidiary of Denel which undertook welfare payments for the Western Cape provincial administration, has issued a summons for damages against provincial health MEC Ebrahim Rasool, leading newspapers and newspaper editors.

Michau Malan Huisamen's claims for R500 000 in damages against Rasool in both his private and personal capacities and R2.5m against the newspapers and editors were based on allegations of defamation.

They related to statements and events surrounding the award of a contract to Nisec by the former Cape provincial administration for the payout of pensions and other grants.

The Office for Serious Economic Offences raided the offices of former welfare minister Abe Williams in connection with allegations of fraud surrounding the contract. The office has continued to investigate fraud and other irregularities by staff.

Also summoned as co-defendants were Cape Newspapers Ltd, Independent Newspaper Holdings; Nasionale Pers, Cape Times; editor Moegsien Williams, The Star editor Peter Sullivan, Pretoria News editor Allan Dunn, Die Burger editor Ebbie Demmis and Sowetan editor Aggrey Klaaste.

Rasool said yesterday Huisamen's summons came at a time when the health department, on the advice of senior counsel, had approached the Western Cape provincial tender board to cancel the Nisec contract.

The department based its argument in favour of cancellation on the fact that the state would lose an additional R70m in addition to the R30m already lost from having the contract.

Also, Rasool said, Nisec had "fraudulently represented to the former Cape provincial administration that it possessed computerised fingerprinting hardware and software as specified in the invitation to tender, and that this technology would eliminate social security fraud."
Reduce poverty in SA – Ramaphosa

By Shadrack Mashabana

FOR as long as the vast majority of South Africans remain locked in a daily battle against poverty, the South African economy will remain constrained, New Africa Investment deputy chairman Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday.

Addressing the South African Management Forum in Johannesburg, Ramaphosa said although South Africa was an economic engine for the Sub-Saharan region, its developmental role was being impeded by what it inherited from the past.

"The new South Africa inherited an economy which was flawed and inequitable and addressing these inequalities is not merely a political imperative but an economic imperative. If we resist change, we will fail."

"But if we rise up to challenges, we will be carving up a secured place for South Africa in a world in which we are destined to play a leading role," Ramaphosa said.

The Top Management Forum meeting, which ends today, was organised by Damelin Management School in partnership with American Management Association International.

"While crime is a threat to South Africa, there is a need to root out corruption from the top brass lest we collapse into a pit. In arresting crime, we need to develop entrepreneurial talent," he said.

Change

South Africa was undergoing change which to some extend was causing anxiety, said Ramaphosa, adding that change was necessary and inevitable.

"People who do not have shelter cannot be productive and above all, people who do not have land cannot produce," he said.

Ramaphosa added that the "big bang" approach to the removal of exchange control was not a "mickey mouse" business.

Photo Jan 24/10/96
New agency on development path

Despite numerous setbacks, the TNDT is making steady headway, reports Madeleine Wackernagel

WHEN Eric Molobi, chairman of the Kagiso Trust Investment Company, took on the task of running the Transitional National Development Trust (TNDT), even this veteran of the struggle was not prepared for the battle ahead.

Delays in setting up the trust and frustrations with the decision-making process between its initial submission to the National Development Agency (NDA) commission and the deputy president's office have had to be postponed from end-September. It is now seeking an extension to end-December, in turn delaying its presentation to Parliament until early next year.

"Born out of a need to bridge the gap between the government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), traditionally the conduit for service provision beyond the state's remit, the trust was given a two-year brief, when its role would be taken over by the NDA."

So, armed with - in theory - R50-million in government funds, and another R83-million in aid from the European Union, Molobi set up the trust a year ago, two months after Jay Naidoo, at that time minister without portfolio in the office of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), launched the project.

Molobi's troubles had only just begun. The money was tied up until the middle of this year; the legal deeds relating to the trust got lost between government departments, so he couldn't employ anybody, and to date, he has had 1 046 requests for R1.2-billion worth of funds, way beyond his budget.

Sorting the wheat from the chaff has not been easy, but even so, says Molobi, the trust has made headway.

"It is very time-consuming evaluating projects. Half the applications for money that we receive don't match up to the trust's criteria. But we have to look at them all individually, and evaluate their strengths."

Most important, "my career is on the line if we mess this up! We have to be thorough, and if that means the process takes a bit longer, so be it.

"We also can't bow to political pressure, and indulge certain projects over others."

Molobi expects some overlap between the trust and the NDA as the latter comes to grips with developing a coherent development strategy.

The trust recommends that the NDA continue to draw on the experience of the many structures within the development sector, to broaden and deepen the NDA process. Molobi also believes the NDA should work with the NGO Coalition, representing about 30 000 bodies around the country, the community-based organisations, as well as the National Economic Development and Labour Council, in addressing the policy requirements of the RDP.

Certainly, the trust, despite its limited lifespan and the concomitant frustrations inherent in a temporary structure, has significant lessons to pass on. In particular, Molobi stresses the need for a coherent policy that distinguishes between crisis funding and longer-term development planning.

Extensive workshops will be held from the beginning of next month in all nine provinces to gather views on the ground from all members of civil society, says Boni Makwela, of the NDA commission and RDP office, the idea being to look at the whole area of governance and the relationship between the government and the development sector.

That may entail building on the existing structure or starting from scratch. But whatever the case, the submissions on the NDA are very important, she says, if we are to build a vibrant civil society that is not merely an extension of the civil service, and meets the government's RDP goals.

Thus the debate will concentrate on finding a new role for the NDA, highlighting its legal status, sources of finance and funding priorities in relation to the government.
Dudiza resource centre helps pave the way to a better future

By NTABISENG BAOVENT

Veli Mazibuko is a typ soldier who has translated his slogan “from liberation to reconstruction” into reality.

The years ago he escaped death trying to destroy repressive system. Today, his name apart from lots of battles, has reformed his earlier the reconstruction site community.

Mazibuko (28) was of 20 ANC activists study in Dudiza, Esto Rand, won to block MK guerrilla Maseko’s trap in 1989, Maseko, a Vudzina agencies, gave the East Rand operations body-trapped grenades.

Mazibuko lost two fingers of his right hand. Eightunk rounds of期间 communicating.

As director of the Dudiza Community Development Centre, the former Liberaor is now channelling his efforts through various ongoing upgrading projects under his resource centre.

For six years the area was regarded as a wilderness and was used only as a fibre-reinforced concrete for high illegal visitors. The area has seen litter and new management eight months ago, it has been changed significantly.

Mazibuko believes the resource centre is making a difference a job creation in the township. “We are basically targeting the poorest of the poor. All the people employed in our projects are from the unemployed in the community. They are constantly updated database of building their skills and job experience, ”he says.

The development of community block paved worth R150 000 — “one of the firsts in the country” — says Mazibuko “the first step to hastening the building of roads will be the community-based public works in a deal worth R3.6-million, says Mazibuko.

The informal settlements are the first target of development because, after rains, people in these areas get flooded in and are completely cut off from, and cannot link with, major routes to the township of to town, where most work.

“A main road in Zanzibar will be tarred, and one in Bluegum and three in Mamelodi will be built with paving blocks provided by the Eastern Gauteng Servicing Council to use in its cemeteries.”

Profits from this and other deals will be ploughed back into other community projects.

“Many big companies are making a lot of money out of community projects by selling them paving blocks,” says Mazibuko. “Producing the actual paving blocks ourselves will empower our people with skills in manufacturing and paving. It is also an entrance to mainstream business. Our endeavour is to see people in a position to run their own businesses and to develop further.”

The plan, in operation for only three weeks, will soon also produce roof tiles and wire mesh fencing. An industrial centre will be developed at the present site.

Two other projects, one of upgrading the water reticulation system and the other of water connections in Mamelodi, have employed 10 people each this week. After a triathlon, more people will be employed on those projects.

Mazibuko says 18 people are undertaking a six-month course approved by the SA Federation of Civil Engineers Council in a capacity-building programme. The course includes site set-up, book-keeping, surveying, pipe-laying, and training for contractors.

Other services available at the resource centre include the child-minding programme, a feeding scheme for needy school children; and a science education programme for St Jude and St Paul, supervised by Proteo, to help students achieve better results.

The first edition of a community newspaper, called Nshozi, will be produced this month, and the computer centre is to be extended.

The centre is also part of a campaign to build a clinic at the Bluegum informal settlement.

The Graduate Institute will be running management and technology studies, and MBA and Bachelor of Business Administration courses as part of a package from the Africa Growth Network offered by Faculty of Management University. Other courses include marketing through the researchers, and accounting through the Wise University and entrepreneurship through the Research University.

PATH TO SUCCESS: Veli Mazibuko at a pavement that has been dug up for a paving project in Dudiza. The bricks will come from the brick-making project.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: A woman worker collects freshly pressed bricks at the Dudiza brick-making project.

PHOTOGRAPHS: NAISHON ZALK
Poverty, Growth must be tackled together

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

BUSINESS OF MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1986
Nisec fighting allegations

CHRIS DATERMAN

In one of South Africa’s more controversy-riddled pension
pay-out company Nisec — facing
allegations of fraud in being awarded
a five-year, R149 million con-
tract — is contracting unidentified
overseas witnesses in a bid to
counter the province’s attempted
cancellation of its contract.

This was learnt yesterday as the
Western Cape Tender Board con-
siders a potentially damning memo-
randum prepared by advocates
for Western Cape Health and Wel-
fare MEC Mr Ibrahim Rasool.

The board, reconvened early
next month to hear Nisec’s
response — behind closed doors.

Rasool’s lawyers have urged the
Tender Board to act quickly, claim-
ing that each month some R135
million in pension and welfare
payouts is being handled by Nisec
without adequate insurance cover.

Nisec deny their operation is
under-insured.

Rasool’s lawyers allege Nisec
obtained the tender fraudulently
and question Nisec’s compliance
with the contract.

RESIGNED:

Abe Williams

MEmORANDUM:

Ibrahim Rasool

Offences probe of Nisec in 1993
year led to raids on the home of
then Nisec director, Mr Michael
Huisamen and his two homes of
former health and welfare
minister Mr Abe Williams.

Williams resigned within hours
of being raided, admitting he had
received money but claiming it was
unrelated to the tender.

Huisamen has issued defama-
tion summons totalling R3 mil-
lion against five newspaper editors,
their managements and Rasool.

It is believed Nisec’s search for
witnesses is in connection with a
French computer company which
developed Nisec’s automated finan-
cialising inventory in February 1995.

The French report found Nisec
technology was unable to perform
to the standards claimed.

Nisec’s automated mobile pen-
sion and grant payment system,
designed by Denel, has been in
operation, mainly in Black Western
Cape townships, for two years.

Rasool said the tender within
two months of taking office only to
see 12 of its 48 employees join Nisec.
City's poorest parts lose out on RDP funds

ANDREA WEISS
METRO CORRESPONDENT

Some of the poorest parts of Cape Town have missed out on a R408-million RDP allocation by the Cape Metropolitan Council because former black local authorities were in a state of collapse when applications had to be submitted.

Consequently, the CMC decided yesterday to give the lion's share of its RDP funding for this financial year to projects in the Tygerberg (R14-million) followed by R74-million to the South Peninsula municipality, R5.9-million each to Cape Town and Helderberg and R5.2-million to the Eastern municipality.

African National Congress councillor Les Roux pointed out that no submissions had come from Crossroads or Brown's Farm, areas which were desperately in need of RDP funds. He suggested the CMC agree to the 28 projects identified in this year's RDP funding, but said the next year's allocations should take cognisance of areas which had lagged behind.

Saleen Mowzer added his voice in support of the suggestion, saying the administrations for these areas had been on the verge of collapse and consequently did not have the capacity to make proposals.

CMC executive committee chairman Pierre Uys said it was not possible at this stage to decide how money should be spent in the next financial year, but these issues could be dealt with in the criteria for future RDP projects.

The 28 projects which will benefit from the R408-million allocation include five sports facilities, five community centres, three healthcare facilities, three infrastructure services, two public transport facilities, two libraries, two creche projects, two maintenance projects for public flats, a facility for the aged, one market stalls project, a night shelter and a planning project. The biggest budget item is the upgrading of community halls in Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu, where R45-million will be spent.
Govt, Branson discuss ‘people’s lottery’

Wendy Knowler

LONDON — Virgin boss Richard Branson is talking to SA’s government about setting up a “people’s lottery” with 100% of profit going to upliftment projects and charitable causes.

“As a lottery is effectively a tax on the people, the profit should benefit society, particularly the poorer sections of it. This could be one of the most important decisions the government makes — the revenue-generating potential is huge,” he said yesterday.

Former Daily Dispatch editor Donald Woods, who is to return to SA after fleeing almost 20 years ago, is backing Branson’s lottery bid and is keen to get involved with it. “It has incredible potential for tackling SA’s problems, particularly in education,” he said.

Branson said he would be happy to “take the burden of funding it off government’s hands for no return, and use our expertise to help identify the best people in the world to run it. SA’s people’s lottery should be run by a body of professionals with no shareholders between them and the good causes.”

He envisaged all proceeds going into a fund which the government would apportion as it saw fit.

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, in London on Monday, confirmed that he had discussed the issue with Branson and said he would meet him in SA next month for further talks.

Among the hundreds of companies in Branson’s empire are several which operate on a non-profit basis.

He said: “I have made a lot of money... I don’t want to get into party politics but rather to use my position and expertise to set about getting positive change.”

In 1994 Branson tendered for Britain’s national lottery on a similar non-profit basis, offering to set up a separate fund to compensate charities which would lose out on donations as people opted for a shot at the huge prizes. “But the government awarded the contract to Camelot instead, and now the UK’s lottery is the only one in the world which cream off profits for shareholders — about £200m this year alone,” he said.
US donates R256.7m for development

PRETORIA: The United States Agency for International Aid yesterday gave R256.7 million to the South African government for 11 development programmes.

The grant was accepted by Deputy Finance Minister Ms Gill Marcus from the US ambassador to South Africa Mr James Joseph, at a ceremony at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. They also signed a document of commitment.

The embassy said the grant was part of President Bill Clinton's pledge to provide R2.7 billion in support of South Africa's political, social and economic transition.

R49m would go towards improving primary health care, R48.9m to address the educational needs of pre-primary and primary school children, and R29.25m for adult basic education and training.

R28.35m would be used to develop policies for youth development and further education, and R35.1m for transforming the tertiary education system.

The statement also said R13.5m of the grant would be used to provide housing and urban services to poor communities, and R18m would be used to transform the system for the administration of justice. — Sapa 21/11/96
Imssa under fire

Colleen Lowe Morna

The Independent Mediation Services of South Africa (Imssa) has come under fire for the way it was chosen to prepare a report on government/non-governmental organisation (NGO) relations, and its whirlwind approach to these consultations.

In an ironic twist, the government abandoned a tender it put out in July — to which a number of NGOs had responded — calling for a facilitator to conduct discussions on the proposed National Development Agency (NDA) because of the lengthy procedures involved. It turned to a donor who chose Imssa to carry out the task.

NGO liaison officer in the deputy president’s office, Bongi Mkhabela, said that while she has “the ear of Cabinet on NGO concerns”, she had to choose the fastest route to get the job done. The NDA advisory committee to Deputy President Thabo Mbeki is to submit its report in mid-December, so that a Bill can be tabled before Parliament early next year.

But, describing the consultations as “a mess”, Leanox Garane, programme officer for the Development Resource Centre (DRC), said the lack of transparency in Imssa’s appointment is a “serious concern”.

Imssa, which has been given until November 24 to complete its report, made whistlestop visits to all the provinces earlier this month. Owing to short notice, attendance ranged from 10 individuals in one province to 80 in Gauteng. There are an estimated 30 000 NGOs.

Imssa regional director Carol Hoffman, who is in charge of the exercise, said whether consultations had taken a month or four years, “my sense is this is as good as you would get”. She noted that some NGOs — particularly the bigger ones — had also made written submissions.

Mkhabela said NGOs had to start “thinking strategically, rather than get caught up in procedural issues”. Mereka Msonyelo of the Centre for Education Policy Development, and a participant at the Gauteng workshop, reported that “there will always be a tension between process and product. But there is a difference between balancing the two, and being haphazard.”

He said the product which Imssa will present next week — on which participants will not have the chance to comment — will be “a cold report” which cannot be said to represent all NGOs.
Questions Surround Mother of All NGOs

South Africa 11
NGOs bounce back again

The first ever NGO Week, from December 2 to 6, is expected to attract over 500 NGOs from around the country to the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) where it is being held. Satellite events will take place in each of the nine provinces.

According to Lyn Soudien of the US-South Africa Leadership Programme (USSALEP), one of the organisers, the event "is a clear signal that NGOs can work together.

While the sector has a reputation for being fragmented and highly politicised, it has shown "that there is a higher reason for our being than our individual differences."

The highlight of the week, says Kumi Naidoo, executive director of the National NGO Coalition, will be the adoption of an NGO Declaration to give "hope and vision, and energise the sector" when the talking — and partying — are over.

A packed week of panel discussions, working groups and debates, interspersed with a lively social programme, will see NGOs ponder a number of burning issues. They include:

- Relations with the government, which have been under strain since donors, who lavished their funds on NGOs during the apartheid era, switched to funding the new government.

The closure of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) ministry in March dealt a heavy blow to NGOs, both because it was construed as a switch to a top-down approach to development, and because it had provided a foot in the corridors of power.

NGO Week takes place against the backdrop of a consultation on the National Development Agency (NDA) seen as the primary link in the future between government and NGOs.

Many NGOs have indicated that they would like the NDA to be an independent body reporting to Parliament.

NGO liaison officer in
Role of NGOs

Pivotal — Radebe

POLITICAL WRITER

THE government regarded non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as equal partners in developing South Africa's previously marginalised societies and their innovative role was "pivotal", Public Works Minister Mr Jeff Radebe has stated. C T 26/11/96

No one should be in doubt as to our commitment to working in partnerships with all stakeholders in delivering socio-economic growth in South Africa," he said in an article published in the latest edition of the Independent Development Trust's journal, Leading Edge.

His comments come in the wake of increasing criticism of the government by NGOs, who have accused it of not supporting them enough.

The government's philosophy was "not to give handouts to people but rather to create an environment in which development becomes everyone's responsibility".

"The government, in this regard, recognises the need to develop appropriate policies and practices in relation to the development process and to provide relevant skills to the previously marginalised," he said.

"Development is one area where NGOs have a comparative advantage over government because of their ability to innovate, their enthusiasm and commitment, their flexibility, and their lack of bureaucracy." It is therefore important and necessary to facilitate the participation of NGOs in the NDP so that their unique experiences and skills are harnessed in a positive and accountable manner.

The need for socio-economic growth can only be guaranteed if all efforts at reconstructing and developing the country were people-driven and people-centred, he said.

"This is important as it places ordinary people and organs of civil society, through institutions such as NGOs, at the centre of socio-economic growth. There has always been and will always be a need for NGOs in South Africa. These organisations have provided desperately needed assistance, guidance and resources to our communities.

Their activities have ranged from direct disaster relief and welfare functions to a carefully planned, integrated involvement, in which their activities are directed towards capacity-building that leads ultimately to the empowerment of impoverished communities." Radebe said his department had given R70 million under its National Public Works Programme to the IDT's Community Employment Programme to build infrastructure such as community facilities, access roads, water provision and sanitation and environmental projects in rural areas.

"Attacking poverty and deprivation was a top government priority and we are currently working hand-in-hand with the country's people on the path of development. This process, however, will not succeed if it involves government alone, but should be all-inclusive, taking in government, business, labour and NGOs," Radebe wrote.
EU in talks to speed up use of aid package

John Digidu

A DELEGATION from the European Commission, the European Union (EU) executive body, arrives in SA today for talks on ways of speeding up the implementation of the EU's aid programme.

Commission sources in Brussels said yesterday the mission, consisting of six people and headed by development director-general Stefaan Smits, would explain the union's future priorities, new aid procedures and ways of hastening the implementation of the R600m-a-year aid programme.

Smits would hold talks with Finance Minister Trevor Manuel, who has taken over some of the responsibilities of the defunct reconstruction and development programme office, and Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus tomorrow.

The implementation of the package, which replaces the EU's programme for victims of apartheid, ran into its first serious hurdle earlier this year, when government used EU funds to finance controversial AIDS awareness play Sarafina 2. Although the Sarafina 2 saga threatened to derail Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma's political career, it was seen as normal testing problems by aid veterans in Brussels.

Although some Brussels sources were concerned the Sarafina 2 episode might be an indication of things to come, the main concern raised by commission officials is the snail's pace at which Pretoria officials are using the package, which is made up mainly of grant funds.

Previously, the EU accepted the delay — stemming mainly from caution on the part of the Mandela administration and the need to do it right — but has made it known that it cannot understand why it continues.
The RDP must be extended to the whole of Southern Africa as such a programme would enhance the region's trading capacity in the global market says Cosatu's Sam Shilowa.

RDP needs new approach

By Abdul Milazi

THE CONGRESS of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) is calling for an RDP that will cover the whole of Southern Africa.

The federation says such a programme would enhance the region's trading capacity in the global market.

General secretary Sam Shilowa says: "We should ensure that we strengthen regional economic development. In this regard we need to develop a programme and time frames for its implementation."

The call by Southern Africa's biggest trade union federation given impetus to proposals by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) that countries in the region need to coordinate their policy formulation on areas of common interest in order to facilitate growth.

South Africa's labour market absorbs a large number of migrant workers from neighbouring states and this factor, many labour analysts argue, impacts on local development programmes.

The analysts say South Africa's RDP will never reach its potential unless its neighbours are also developed.

"We should encourage states in the region to identify goods that can be traded between the countries."

"We should put our weight behind efforts designed to correct the trade imbalances in the Southern African region," argues Shilowa.

The labour movement should engage the Government on the implications of its macro-economic framework on the development in Southern Africa and the region.

Regional solidarity

"We need to strengthen regional solidarity on the labour front."

"Affiliates need to conduct or commission research on the regional development pattern, for example conditions in the clothing and textile industry," says Shilowa.

Countries in the region need a common vision on issues such as the social clause and seek concessions in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) around issues that adversely affect the region.

"We need to reaffirm and campaign around our demand for the WTO to be democratised and broadened into a tripartite body," he argues.
EU aid to SA 'should be streamlined' (297)

John Dludlu

The R800m-a-year European Union (EU) aid package to SA should be streamlined to focus on a few development programmes to facilitate its implementation, a senior EU official said last night.

Speaking after a meeting with Deputy Finance Minister Gill Marcus, European Commission development director-general Stefan Smidt said the commission planned to take a more focused approach—a move which would see some programmes being ditched. This would improve efficiency, shorten the time lag in disbursements and eliminate "misunderstandings" in the programme's implementation.

The money pledged by the EU would not be reduced. Smidt was reluctant to give main areas that the EU would like to finance in future.

Smidt, who proceeds to Swaziland and Zimbabwe on similar business today, said high-level meetings between the EU and SA would be held to monitor the implementation of the aid package.

Future plans included decentralising the implementation of the programme by involving local governments. However, clear rules and agreements would be entered into with SA officials to eliminate chances of corruption.

Smidt, who will head the EU's team of negotiators when formal talks with SA begin, said the development co-operation relationship with SA now had a "firm, good basis" following last week's establishment of a legal framework to govern it.

The new thinking in the EU is contained in its recently drafted country strategy on SA.

Smidt denied suggestions the current evaluation of the EU's special programme on the victims of apartheid by outside auditors, the predecessor to the present aid programme, was a "witch hunt". It was also not based on any suspicions.
Why are NGOs struggling?

A new government approach to NGOs is needed, argues Ben Turok on the eve of NGO Week.

As the non-governmental organisation (NGO) movement prepares for the celebration of NGO Week nationwide, we have to admit that the new South Africa owes the movement an apology. It has to be acknowledged that the consolidation of democratic rule has not brought an enabling environment for NGOs. Indeed, many are going to the wall.

Yet prior to the 1994 election, hopes in the NGO world were high. Many played a major part in the struggle against apartheid, and most pinned their hopes on joining the transformation to democracy and development.

Many NGOs emerged from grassroots structures, while others linked up with popular structures. True, some NGOs were insular and some self-serving, but, in general, there can be no denying that they have done much to assist local communities throughout the country.

So what has gone wrong? Why are NGOs struggling to survive? And has the government been helpful? The NGOs themselves would answer that they feel alienated from the government, and some are now rather hostile. Since the government is committed to development, this cannot be helpful.

The current problems in the NGOs are due to several factors. NGOs have suffered a large
Taiwan to review aid to S Africa

TAIWAN would have to review its official aid projects in South Africa following this country’s decision to sever diplomatic ties with the Republic of China, Taiwanese ambassador I-Cheng Loh said yesterday.

"Of course we will have to revisit the whole programme," he told journalists in Pretoria. "National development assistance is long-term, governed by bilateral treaties or agreements. When one of the parties ceases to be a party, then I imagine some kind of review is necessary."

Loh said it would be premature to elaborate President Nelson Mandela’s announcement on Wednesday that ties would be severed at the end of next year had come as a complete surprise, he added:

"It was totally unexpected. Appropriations have to be done on a year-by-year basis. I really cannot say how this would affect the dozens of ongoing projects."

Announcing the Government’s intention to cut ties with Taiwan, Mandela said South Africa would establish full diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China. Mainland China has all along insisted that it would only agree to diplomatic relations with South Africa if this country severed its links with Taiwan.

Loh said he tended to agree with the view that South Africa’s yielding to China’s argument indicated the African National Congress was bowing to pressure from SA Communist Party members within its ranks.

Taiwan had officially protested against the move earlier in the day:

"I trust Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo at 5pm this afternoon at the instruction of my government, and lodged the strongest protest over what we see as the unfortunate announcement," Loh said.

He said Taiwan would continue its effort to improve relations with South Africa, and hoped this country would reconsider its decision. Sapa.
Public debate on the social welfare budget wide open today. With Minister George Freas, Model-Report on the new role of welfare.

**ANALYSIS**

White paper achieves consensus over the new role of welfare.

The issue of welfare has been a topic of discussion in the current debate. Minister George Freas has taken a leading role in this discussion, presenting a white paper that has achieved consensus on the new role of welfare. The white paper outlines a comprehensive approach to social welfare, focusing on the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. It proposes a range of reforms aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the welfare system, with a particular emphasis on poverty reduction. The white paper also calls for greater collaboration between government and civil society organizations to ensure that the needs of all beneficiaries are met.

The white paper has been widely applauded for its clear and pragmatic approach. It has been praised for its focus on evidence-based policy making and its commitment to social justice. The response to the white paper has been overwhelmingly positive, with many stakeholders expressing their support for the proposed reforms. This consensus is significant, as it indicates a shared understanding of the challenges facing the welfare system and a commitment to finding solutions.

The next steps in the process will involve implementing the reforms outlined in the white paper. This will require significant resources and effort, but the consensus achieved in the debate so far provides a strong foundation for success. The government is committed to working closely with stakeholders to ensure that the reforms are implemented effectively and that the needs of all beneficiaries are met.

In conclusion, the white paper on the new role of welfare has achieved consensus and outlined a clear path forward for social welfare. The government is committed to implementing these reforms and ensuring that social welfare remains a priority for the country. The future of social welfare looks promising, with a shared commitment to improving the lives of all beneficiaries.
Probe into Boesak’s alleged misappropriation completed

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The investigation into alleged misappropriations of about R2m by Allan Boesak and a former colleague had been completed and would be presented to the Western Cape attorney-general today, sources said at the weekend.

It was anticipated that attorney-general Frank Kahn would be in a position to decide on whether to proceed with a prosecution by the end of the week. He would be given an in-depth briefing on the available evidence by members of his office over the next few days.

Boesak, a former ambassador-designate to the United Nations and former director of the Foundation for Peace and Justice, who is presently in the US, was suspected of misappropriating funds sent by foreign donors for anti-apartheid causes. The foundation’s bookkeeper, Freddie Steenkamp, was also under suspicion.

Two members of the attorney-general’s office, including deputy attorney
Deciding on best policy for NGOs is all in a day’s work for Mkhabela

By Helen Grange

view of civil society and feed those into the policy-making process”.

It won’t be easy, though, to determine which NGOs deserve funding and how much they should get. Although there are an estimated 54,000 NGOs in South Africa, most are cultural organisations like church choirs and stokvels.

Moreover, since the 1994 election, many NGOs formerly funded by foreign donors for their efforts in the struggle are now battling to find a reason for their continued existence. Mkhabela believes they need to re-evaluate their position and acquire a vision appropriate to the new socioeconomic terrain. “Government can’t be expected to take care of every need. I also feel government funding of an NGO should not exceed 50%. The rest should come from civil society,” she says.

Mkhabela feels strongly that a community is as strong as its institutions on the ground. If the individual is not captured in any form of organisation, there’s a high likelihood of social breakdown, she says.

“No government has delivered an organised society.”

A gaping hole exists today, she says, even though the youth are concerned. “There are so many projects for victims of all kinds but not for an ordinary child in a normal home. Are we waiting for our kids to become dysfunctional before something is done?”

If Mkhabela’s remarks are anything to go by, it’s safe to presume that the NDA committee’s recommendations will include guidelines aimed at determining which NGOs are already most active in community development and thus worthy of the entire spectrum of society—from women to the youth—can be embraced.

The NGOs are meanwhile anxious to see what form the NDA is going to take. There is widespread support for it to be independent and report annually to Parliament.

Others want it to have a closer relationship with Government, and have appealed for it to act as an intermediary between Government and NGOs on matters of mutual concern.

Whichever way it turns out, there’s one danger that has to be avoided. “What we don’t want is for the NGOs to start taking over services which the local government should be providing,” says Mkhabela.

Also, NGOs need to regularly examine themselves in regard to their output and capacity to deliver. “The challenge is for NGOs to work themselves out of a job and then reinvent themselves where the next need arises. They need to know when the mission is accomplished,” she says.

 Hopefully, by next year Mkhabela’s mission will be accomplished, and the unwieldy hydra-headed creature that is the NGO sector will be trimmed to manageable size.
Determined... Sibongile Mkhabela is determined to make sure NGO money is allocated fairly and according to expressed needs.
Pretoria - The United Blind People of South Africa has said black blind people were better cared for by the apartheid government.

Speaking at a march in Pretoria to mark the international day of disabled persons, UBPSA spokeswoman Angelina Maboe said that blind people were disappointed with the new Government's failure to address their needs, radio news reported.

Black blind people no longer received some of the services rendered during the apartheid era, she said.

Their demands included proper housing and better welfare conditions. - Sapa.
Millions spent in a real empowerment way

Successful in SA, says Nissen

Western Cape's RDP most
Focus on health care services for the disabled

Twenty years after the disability rights movement began in South Africa, the twin weights of prejudice and unemployment remain the major problems facing the disabled, people in the field say.

For the International Day of Disabled Persons, celebrated yesterday, the Department of Health focused on increasing accessibility to health care services.

To encourage improvement of services, facilities will be rated after a year, and awarded gold, silver or bronze certificates, the department said.

The department is also launching a survey to establish the extent of disability in SA. The study will look at needs of both service providers and consumers, and give an audit of available resources.

"It's obviously useful to know the extent of the problem so that you can plan programmes," said Vanessa Bouwer, deputy director of the South African National Council for the Blind. But what was really needed was successful outreach programmes and community-based rehabilitation. — Medical Correspondent.
A development pact is needed between government and NGOs.” Wires Frank Hermes

Non-governmental organisations

Non-governmental organisations are a key element in the provision of emergency relief and development assistance. They provide a vital function in filling the gap between government and NGOs. Wires Frank Hermes
NGOs battle to survive

THERE WERE MORE THAN a few Cellphones and suits in evidence. An insurance giant and a foreign government, among others, sponsored the event and the tone was reflective and introspective rather than militant, when more than 200 non-governmental organisations gathered in Johannesburg on Monday at the start of a week-long conference.

But unlike in the past when NGOs were unequivocally anti-Government, “this week’s deliberations will centre on how NGOs can work in partnership with Government but still reclaim their space as forward-thinking innovators representing the aspirations of civil society.”

After more than two years of being in limbo, the first major gathering of NGOs is expected to result in a more coordinated and unified approach to the future.

In an eloquent address to which he called on delegates to “celebrate the past ... and reflect on the future”, Mr Reon Ramahla, president of the South African National NGO coalition - the conference’s convening body - said the “second phase of struggle was against poverty”.

In the 1980s NGOs worked mostly against the apartheid state and dealt with the effects of the National Party’s warped policies, especially in the education arena.

They had a common cause and were well financed by foreign governments and funders.

All that changed under the new African National Congress-led Government. Large numbers of skilled NGO personnel were employed by Government, debilitiating many organisations.

Worse still, funding started to dry up as funders decided to channel their money into the new Government's Reconstruction and Development Programme.

Over the past two years there have been ongoing talks on the relationship between NGOs and Government and how the two can complement each other’s work.

After much deliberation a Transitional National Development Trust, with Kagiso Trust head Mr Eric Molobi as chief executive officer, was set up in June.

The TNDT will act as a conduit for funding and as a permanent body for liaison between Government and NGOs.

Molobi told the conference the TNDT had had a “difficult start” and recruiting appropriate staff had been one of its problems.

In his keynote address, Public Works Minister Mr Jeff Radebe said Government was unable to achieve its reconstructive and developmental goals without the input and direct involvement of NGOs.

“Government regards NGOs as equal partners in socio-economic development,” he said, adding that the NGOs were invaluable as they were innovative, flexible and enthusiastic and did not have to battle with bureaucracy.

Government’s 900-odd public works programmes, especially in rural areas, would not make an impact if NGOs were not involved in their implementation, he added.

But while ministers like Radebe were willing to work with NGOs and created the channels and space for these groups, there were numerous avenues for work with Government that were not being explored, asserted ANC Member of Parliament Mr Ben Turok.

Emphasising the huge task Government had in trying to improve services to most people, Turok pointed out that “Government has discovered it cannot do it alone”.

“NGOs had been instrumental in drawing up the RDP White Paper, he said, but had since become marginalised.

“He said Government had made a mistake when it said that funds should be channelled through the RDP.

Donors were willing to do so as they “wanted to win friends and influence people”, but Government had demonstrated otherwise.

Turok, who is a member of Parliament’s finance and trade and industry committees, said the business community kept parliamentarians very busy.

Business constantly sent delegations to discuss any matter pertaining to them, and NGOs could do the same, he said.

And even though he conceded that access to parliamentarians and Government funds was not always easy, he said NGOs had to be persistent. “Use the system,” he urged.

Responding to Turok, NGO Coalition’s executive director Mr Kumi Naidoo said the challenge was now to “move beyond general statements and look at the practical challenges faced by NGOs.

“NGOs are partly responsible for where we are today ... there are not only extraneous factors that affect us ... it is time for us to become assertive and proactive”.

While it was true that numerous NGO employees had gone into Government, he suggested that the sector “be proud that we have produced such skilled personnel”.

By harnessing and uniting their resources the future would be optimistic.

Grand plans are in the pipeline, he added. The coalition’s executive committee was looking at various projects, chief among them the possibility of setting up an investment arm for the sector.

“If we pull together our economic capacities, we are more powerful than we give ourselves credit for,” Naidoo said.

He suggested that funding from the pension and provident funds of various NGOs could be used to set up an investment company and pointed out that trade unions had become major players in the economy by doing so.

Unity among NGOs was vital for them to make an impact on policy.

Naidoo said that NGOs should also look at asking Government for an “affirmative action policy for NGOs” regarding tenders.

“In many instances we have the capacity, willingness and ability to do a lot of what consultants do,” he said.

He said that while formal democracy had been won in South Africa, the vibrancy and enthusiasm of civil society that existed in the 1980s was no more. “We have to develop a new approach to volunteering to bring people back into participating in development.”
NGOs have role to play in securing our future

By Graeme Block

This week sees the fortunate coincidence of two important events. Today is celebrated as Volunteers Day. In Braamfontein, the Minister of Welfare and Population Development Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi will be launching a function hosted by Impact, an NGO dedicated to encouraging volunteers in South Africa.

Government alone cannot take responsibility for the development among communities. For this reason alone, we need to acknowledge the thousands of South Africans freely giving of their time for the well-being of their fellow citizen.

A second event of national importance is this week’s celebration of NGO Week at the Rand Afrikaans University. NGOs will be celebrating their contribution, achievements and ongoing role in the struggle for development.

A diverse and highly skilled sector, NGOs have not only played a key role in ending apartheid, but helped to define the development agenda of Government. Today, they face new challenges and difficulties as globalisation puts a squeeze on resources. There are also new opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

The Department of Welfare is dependent on NGOs for much of its delivery. About R1.1-billion per year is transferred through the provinces to support childcare, the aged, criminal justice programmes and other developmental social services. Increasingly, communities and families will have to play a role.

This is one of the reasons why the Department has ‘argued strenuously to the Katz Commission over tax exemptions for NGOs.

If Government were to bear the full costs of services provided by NGOs, who mobilise the time and resources of volunteers and donors alike, the price tag would be high.

In many cases, NGOs are far closer to immediate grassroots problems on the ground, and are better placed to provide flexible and innovative solutions.

Next year, the welfare department’s NGO directorate will be initiating legislation to create an environment more conducive for NGOs. The new legislation would minimise Government control and regulation.

A favourable legislative climate would assist NGOs. Co-ordination is needed to ensure clear policy guidance, cross, processing and evaluation mechanisms.

The use of intermediaries, such as the Independent Development Trust (IDT), in delivering the national public works programme, shows the benefits of a close partnership.

Many new Government officials are aware of the need to foster a civil society that is alive, critical and able to respond to our country’s development challenge.

A conscious coalition must be forged, with the voluntary and private sector to overcome the problems which threaten the well-being of South Africa’s people.

Graeme Block is chief director for social development. This article reflects the views of the national Department of Welfare.
NGOs: Set to tango

NGO Week saw the sector calling for more control over funding and policies, reports Aspasia Karras

The choice of Rand Afrikans University as the venue for NGO Week set the tone for the ironic paradigm shift the sector has been forced to make since 1994.

The megalithic tango hosted 500 delegates, representing an estimated 30 000 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in South Africa. Formed in an "unashamedly" anti-government spirit, they met to discuss the critical issues facing them today, including the fact that many old comrades are now in government.

Key issues were the need to define the confusing relationship with the government and understand how the funds (or lack thereof) are coming from; and to develop some cohesion in the sector to position themselves strategically in the policy-making processes.

While Minister of Public Works Jeff Radebe acknowledged that NGOs are autonomous and play a critical role in the development process, the lines of authority and communication are never clear. And in the wake of the Reconstruction and Development Programme's (RDP) attempts to save the day through new consultations about a National Development Agency (NDA)—which will attempt to formalise interaction between the government and NGOs—defining relationships becomes more important than ever.

Kumi Naidoo, executive director of the South African National NGO Coalition, which convened the conference, says: "Next year, we must come out fighting."

He argues for a critical re-evaluation of the NGO sector to enable them to take on the practical challenges facing them.

The issues of human resource development, financial management, strategic planning and globalisation are, in fact, the same challenges facing South African organisations unfavourably.

Naidoo says: "First, NGOs must recognise that they are not intended to be mass providers of services, but rather creative entities, generating new, more sustainable forms of development. Our weakness is that we have not learnt how to translate localised experiments into policy. So policy is made in a vacuum."

What Naidoo is not doing is allowing himself and others to be drawn into victim talk. "How can we be effective, professional and coherent if we see ourselves as victims? Yes, the environment has changed, and we have seen the death of some really good NGOs. But we need to become pro-active and really understand our environment."

A sentiment heartily endorsed by Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE) director Dr David Everatt. "For 11 years CASE has been recording the thoughts and aspirations of the poorest of the poor. In the new context, when we compete for tenders against private, market-driven companies, it's like chalk and cheese. Both in quality and quantity we are far more strategically positioned to deliver on the needs of the new government."

But he argues that it is convenient rhetoric on the part of civil society to keep NGOs under pressure, preventing them from being seen as professional, competent entities.

How can we be effective, professional and coherent if we see ourselves as victims?

"The image of NGOs staffed by excited young graduates, should be challenged. Many NGOs like Immsa, Cal, LACP, and ldesa are large, viable organisations, staffed by committed professionals who have chosen to stay out of the government. And it is their commitment that is abused, as many people in the evaluation must start to call the shots. If they mobilise as a sector, they can begin to make an impact."

For example, Naidoo is proposing a two-track tendering system, which will give preference to voluntary organisations first, so that resources really go back into the community.

This is a point also made by Everatt, especially in terms of parasitals that continue to get large tax grants.

Naidoo concludes: "NGOs are in the market place. Just because they are not profit-oriented does not mean they are not players. We leverage massive social capital, in terms of the work we do, and we have substantial consumer power as a collective. If you just think of the accumulated support of the pension funds of 2 000 NGOs, valued at R500-million, you can see the point."

The coalition wants to draw on the precedent of the trade unions and is exploring setting up a national investment fund that wants to move the tango on to the fast lane and into broad daylight. NGO Week may have been just the right catalyst.
Taiwan withdraws aid

Mail & Guardian Reporters

TAIWAN on Thursday hit back at South Africa's decision to cut diplomatic ties, announcing it would shelve most of its aid projects in South Africa and recall its ambassador.

Foreign Minister John Chang told a press conference in Pretoria that 80% to 90% of its aid projects would only be resumed once the two countries had worked out a formula for a new relationship.

The snip came a day after President Nelson Mandela said South Africa would maintain relations at the highest level short of diplomatic ties. Mandela said Taiwan was "a very close friend."

Chang made no mention of cutting trade or investment ties — trade between the two countries hit R5.7-billion last year and Taiwan is considering major investments, including a $3-billion petrochemical project.

It was reported Chang, who arrived in South Africa on Tuesday, addressed the press conference after meeting his counterpart, Alfred Nzo.

But Nzo left the conference before Chang made his announcement.
MANDELA STANDS BY DECISION

Taiwan suspends all SA treaties, aid projects

JOHANNESBURG: President Nelson Mandela's statement yesterday that he stands by the decision to drop diplomatic relations with Taiwan in favour of China caused an angry reaction.

Angry Taiwanese foreign minister said yesterday his country would recall its ambassador and immediately suspend all aid projects and treaties in protest at South Africa's breaking of diplomatic ties.

The minister, Mr John Chang, told a news conference the moves showed the island state's displeasure at Pretoria's decision to cancel diplomatic links with Taiwan from 1997 in favour of China.

Speaking after talks in Pretoria with South African Foreign Minister Mr Alfred Nzo, an angry-looking Chang said Taiwan would suspend its aid programme in South Africa and most of 36 existing treaties and agreements between them.

He said the announcement caused him "great pain".

"We came to Pretoria with sincere hopes, and a bleeding heart, to try to find out whether or not we can save our diplomatic, at least to say formal, relationship," he said.

That hope was dashed in talks on Wednesday with President Nelson Mandela, who said he would stick by his "agonising" decision of the week before to end diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

I felt and still feel very much disappointed as far as the result of these meetings is concerned, especially when I learnt with great despair ... that our current diplomatic relationship cannot be saved," Chang said.

Ties would be restructured once a new formula for relations between the two countries had been negotiated.

South Africa's foreign ministry said Taiwan's moves were regrettable. "The reaction will influence our sincere desire that the friendly relations that have been built up over the years should continue to (our) mutual benefit," a ministry statement said.

"We reiterate that we would like to conduct our relations after 1997 at the highest level, short of diplomatic relations."

Taiwan is South Africa's seventh-largest trading partner, with two-way trade totalling R5.7 billion in 1995. Up to 43 000 jobs could be at risk if Taiwan disinvests entirely from South Africa, though this is not seen as likely.

Mr Nico Cyprienka, chief economist at Standard Bank, said Chang's announcement was not unexpected considering the rivalry between Taiwan and China.

"This was a face-saving reaction, totally logical and totally understandable," he said, adding that trade with Taiwan was likely to continue.

"If an investment is viable it will go ahead anyway on the basis of the economic imperative. If it does not make sense now, it probably never would have got off the ground," he said.

South Africa stood to gain far more from its relationship with China and Hong Kong than with Taiwan.

"This is not a boycott or sanctions situation," said Mr Ben van Beurden, chief economist for the South African Chamber of Business, which groups together more than 40 000 businesses.

"Anything that makes sense economically will go ahead on that basis," he said. "This is a break of diplomatic and political relations, not of trade and economic relations."

Many industry analysts had been sceptical about a $3.5 billion (R16.1bn) petrochemical plant suggested by Taiwanese vice-premier Mr Hsu Li-teh during an official visit to South Africa in August.

The plan is almost certain to be jeopardised by the diplomatic shift. South Africa was Taiwan's biggest diplomatic ally, and its defection to Beijing — which refuses to talk to any country that recognises Taiwan — leaves Taipei with diplomatic relations with just 29 minor nations.

Its relations with Taiwan date back to the apartheid era. — Reuter
lished, generating 32,666 short-term jobs which, in turn, were rotated among workseekers so that about 65,000 people acquired income and marketable skills.

The programme’s budget of R300m represents only a fraction of the IDT’s planned expenditure. Its success indicates the IDT is well positioned to get upliftment policy to work.

So the postponement of the relaunch as a ‘development facilitator’ should be seen as a matter of protocol rather than a political gesture to appease opponents.

The IDT appears to have fulfilled its mandate and thought its way through to a productive future role.

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**DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**

**IDT’S DAY OF HOPE**

Government is expected to unveil a policy document on a national development agency within weeks. The agency will be a conduit for funding nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) closest to community upliftment projects.

Two factors lend urgency to this step. The first is that the organisations have been hit by a switch of foreign aid to government as the primary vehicle of assistance to the poor, particularly through the (discarded) RDP. Second, there has been a growing realisation within government that it lacks the ability to deliver and the focus of the NGOs has given them the skills and capacity to micromanage development.

The national development agency document was originally scheduled for release at the end of September. With this in mind, the Independent Development Trust (IDT) had planned a ‘Day of Hope’ last week during which it would redefine itself as a giant NGO primarily dedicated to ‘working in partnership with govern-

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**Mamphelo Ramphele**

ment and other funders to deliver sustainable integrated development.”

The ‘Day of Hope’ has now been deferred until next year because, says IDT CE Merlyn Mehl, “we are not keen to preempt a process that has engaged all the major national players in development.”

The relationship between the IDT — formed in 1990 by then President F W de Klerk with a R2bn grant — and the national development agency remains speculative but there is likely to be a convergence of aims.

Because of its origins under the Nationalists — though it was always specifically administered outside the ambit of government — the IDT has been the subject of criticism by certain NGOs which, in effect, unfairly write it off as a “liberal” outfit designed to effect palliatives for the poorest of the poor.

But the IDT has a record of success and, with Mamphelo Ramphele chairing it, has reaffirmed its independence and innovative spirit.

One example of this is Public Works Minister Jeff Radebe’s decision in 1994 to give a sub-programme of the IDT R70m for local community projects.

In the IDT publication Leading Edge, Radebe notes: “Government regards NGOs as equal partners in the process of developing our previously marginalised societies... The philosophy of this government is not to give handouts to people but to create an environment in which development becomes everybody’s responsibility.”

So far, in its six-year existence, the IDT has allocated almost R3bn (and spent R2.4bn) on 8,800 development projects.

Radebe’s funds went to the IDT’s Community Employment Programme, formed in 1994. According to the trust, the programme has paid out R169m for more than 750 projects. It has enabled villagers to build water reticulation systems, roads, reservoirs, community halls, classrooms, clinics and bridges.

An objective evaluation of the programme — monitored by the International Labour Organisation — concluded it “has had a positive impact on the poorest of the poor.” Within 18 months of inception, 490 projects had been estab-
Investment company mooted to rescue NGOs

The South African National NGO Coalition this week proposed setting up an investment company to avert the critical funding crisis that has, for two years, gripped the almost 8,000 non-governmental organisations it represents.

The proposal, made at the first major NGO conference since 1994, is still being explored but a decision is likely by early next year.

“We have had discussions with merchant banks and expect to make an announcement early next year,” says Kumi Naidoo, executive director of the NGO Coalition.

Naidoo argues that the investment company, to be owned by the coalition, will mark genuine empowerment since all proceeds will be ploughed back to NGOs to continue their work in communities.

“The investment company is an attempt to shape our environment rather than have the environment shape our future,” Naidoo says.

The investment company proposals follow similar initiatives by the Kagiso Trust. Its Kagiso Trust Investment Company, formed in 1993, is now worth R200-million and is a joint controlling shareholder of publishing and newspaper group Perakor.

Funding has been a critical issue for NGOs since the 1994 elections. Money from the international donor community went directly to NGOs in the 1980s, but since 1994 it has been directed into government coffers and the Transitional National Development Trust.

This has made NGOs’ future uncertain and a number have had to close while others have been forced to scale down their projects.

While the investment company is expected to ease the funding crisis in the long term, Naidoo argues they will still need state assistance.

He estimates they currently need about R1.2-billion to carry out development work, but only about R100-million is available from the government and the Transitional National Development Trust, which was created by government a year ago to disburse funding to NGOs until it is replaced by the National Development Agency.

Thus far the Transitional National Development Trust has committed only R21-million to 62 projects, a fifth of the total amounts it has held since August.

Naidoo says the coalition will push for a “social pact” with the government at local, provincial and national level.

“We are suggesting that each NGO have closer relationships with line ministries and work as partners with regard to resources.

While the state has the ultimate responsibility to provide social services, there’s a higher chance of delivery when NGOs are involved. We have worked with the people and have a much better understanding of the communities’ needs,” he says.

The coalition is drawing up a proposal to government to enable NGOs to tap an increased allocation to the trust and its successor.

The trust has received R220-million since its formation last year, but Naidoo hopes this will be increased to R400-million.

Naidoo cautions that even the National Development Agency, expected to be set up within a year, “would not be the beginning of the end of the funding crisis for the NGOs”.

The conference, largely dominated by funding requirements, also called for tax concessions for NGOs and the private sector businesses which support them.

“NGOs are voluntary organisations and need favourable enabling environments to succeed and prosper. Therefore the taxation environment must change both for NGOs and private sector backers,” says Naidoo.

He says the coalition will push for the absorption of the Independent Development Trust and Kagiso Trust into the National Development Agency.
Nongovernmental coalition to launch new investment vehicle

Patrick Wadula

THE Nongovernmental Organisations Coalition was holding talks with potential partners to put up seed capital for a proposed new national investment vehicle, executive director Kumi Naidoo said.

Naidoo said the vehicle was decided on as an alternative funding source to boost self-sustainability from next year, after it became clear that government and donor funding for the nongovernmental organisations sector could not be relied upon.

At the close of a five-day non-governamental bodies workshop on Friday, Naidoo said the coalition was holding discussions with various unnamed companies in the corporate sector.

"The potential partners would be called upon to help with the seed capital to set up a national investment vehicle," he said.

Naidoo said sustainability could not be guaranteed through the improvement of government and private donor practices.

He argued that there was pressure on the development cooperation budgets of international donors and these funds could not be assured over the long term.

"Nongovernmental organisations must mobilise resources and savings, thereby creating economic activities capable of generating income," he said.

"There was a need to create grant-making institutions for such organisations at local level to build their investment bases towards self-sufficiency." Naidoo said that with 2,000 nongovernmental organisations nationwide, there was good potential to raise funds.

"The capacity of ordinary people to build a capital base is often underestimated. This misperception may lead to the neglect of local resource mobilisation."

Delegates at the workshop resolved that organisations had to develop enterprise and financial management skills to expand alternative funding activities.

It was necessary for community foundations to develop strong partnerships between local businesses, community-based organisations, trade unions, civic and religious organisations and financial institutions.

"Such partnerships could lead to increased local contributions" He called on small organisations to co-operate with such bodies as they could not do much on their own.
NGOs will lobby for tax changes to encourage greater corporate giving.

NGOs are often seen as valuable partners in the field of humanitarian aid and development. They work closely with governments, international organizations, and local communities to address a wide range of issues. However, in recent years, NGOs have also been called upon to play a greater role in providing basic services and in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The role of NGOs in humanitarian assistance is crucial. NGOs can provide essential services such as food, water, shelter, and medical care to those in need. They can also help to build community resilience by promoting education and economic opportunities.

NGOs are often able to operate in areas where governments are unable or unwilling to provide assistance. They can provide a rapid response to humanitarian crises and can adapt to changing needs.

However, NGOs also face challenges. They must operate in complex political and security environments. They must also navigate the challenges of funding, staff recruitment, and management.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the role that NGOs can play in promoting development and humanitarian assistance. NGOs are increasingly being called upon to take a more active role in shaping policy and decision-making.

NGOs must also be mindful of the need to ensure that their work is sustainable. They must work to build the capacity of local communities so that they can continue to provide services in the long term.

In summary, NGOs play a vital role in humanitarian assistance and development. They are able to provide essential services and can adapt to changing needs. However, they also face challenges and must work to ensure that their work is sustainable.

By: [Author's Name]
Boesak faces R1.5-m theft trial

LEONIE OLIVER

Allan Boesak, former Western Cape economic affairs minister and one-time South African ambassador designate to the United Nations in Geneva, will appear in Cape Town Magistrate’s Court in January on theft charges involving more than R1.5 million and on fraud charges.

The charges relate to alleged misappropriation of funds while Dr Boesak was head of the Foundation for Peace and Justice.

Dr Boesak’s co-accused Freddie Steenkamp, his former colleague and bookkeeper at the foundation, appeared briefly in the court today on charges of theft totalling more than R1.5 million.

In total the case involves nine charges of fraud and 21 of theft.

Prosecutor Steven Powell told the court: "Dr Boesak’s lawyers had assured him that their client would return to South Africa at his own cost to stand trial."

Mr Powell said he was not prepared to divulge any details on the fraud charges.

The case was postponed to January 17 and Mr Steenkamp was granted bail of R20 000.

Bail conditions include handing in his passport to the investigating officer, reporting to Parow police station every Sunday, and refraining from contacting State witnesses, with the exception of his wife, who is also named as a State witness.

Mr Steenkamp, neatly dressed in a dark suit, appeared calm in the witness box.

Journalists filled the courtroom and photographers waited outside to take his picture.

G Ovwage presided and L Magson appeared for Mr Steenkamp.
Boesak may face charges on return

World Alliance of Reformed Churches and a patron of the United Democratic Front — was a highly prized anti-apartheid speaker abroad.

A Companies and Trusts Act case against Boesak would probably rest on a claim that he failed to fulfill his duties as an FJP director — he consistently claimed that he knew little or nothing about “the books” that Steenkamp handled.

Boesak said: after being cleared by a probe appointed by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki in April last year that “loss of money” was given to him by overseas organisations at the height of the anti-apartheid struggle.

He said these organisations knew that he had (for example) no formal pension — and had told him that “they wanted me to use it for myself and my family.”

He had put these funds into a Discretionary Fund of the FJP, as he did with the proceeds from the sale of his Vredehoek home.

Bank’s probe found that Boesak borrowed R1.13 million from the FJP without authority.
Bosnian may face criminal charges on his
European Union cuts aid to South Africa by R15-million

The European Union yesterday cut its annual aid to South Africa - sending a worrying political signal to Pretoria.

EU officials, however, have said that no negative message should be read into the cut.

South Africa will receive a total of R800-million in EU aid next year, a cut of some R15-million.

The reduction, however, is only half of what European Parliament ministers had called for. EU budget ministers had originally asked for a R30-million cut.

The 1997 EU budget was voted through by the European Parliament in what was the last stage of the European budgetary process.

The decision would normally escape public scrutiny, as it forms part of a lengthy, marathon voting session.

Pretoria is preparing its stance for crucial trade negotiations with the EU, and is bound to view this aid cut with concern - especially as it follows a recent decision not to increase loans to South Africa from the EU's European Investment Bank.

The only comfort for the South African government is that EU aid is set in Europe's own accounting currency, the euro, so the figure in rand will continue to climb if the South African currency continues its tumble on world markets. - Star Foreign Service.
Upliftment and change in welfare policy

The current welfare system was launched in the Northern Province to enhance the skills of rural women.

Taking action... a project was launched in the Northern Province to enhance...
NGOs get council grants

Santa Claus, Christmas, has brought gifts in the form of financial aid to about 12 non-governmental organisations in the Greater Johannesburg area. They are to receive grants-in-aid at a value of R10 million from the Southern Metro Council.

Educational organisations will receive bigger contributions with a large percentage donated to tertiary-related projects.

Council executive chairman Pramila Naidoo said bursaries would be awarded to students living in the Greater Johannesburg region with parents earning a combined income below R3 000 a month.

Nursery schools and adult education programmes would also receive funding.

He said organisations which responded to the problem of homelessness in the city and provided shelter to destitute people and street children had received favourable consideration.

"Council noted the significant lack of applications from deprived areas and agreed to distribute pamphlets providing information on the grants-in-aid resources," said Naidoo.

He said 40% of the budget had been set aside to allow community organisations which had not applied to gain access to these resources.

The closing date for applications has been extended to December 31.

City Desk.
Boesak accused of taking Coke funds

Almost a quarter of a million rand intended for the poor was allegedly diverted by Allan Boesak. Stefaans Brümmer and Rehana Rossouw report

Among the 30-odd charges faced by former African National Congress Cape leader Allan Boesak when he appears in court next year is that his foundation misappropriated a donation of almost a quarter of a million rand from Coca-Cola which was intended for the poor.

Boesak, who has said he will return voluntarily from the United States to stand trial in Cape Town on January 17, and his former bookkeeper Freddie Steenkamp, who appeared in Cape Town Magistrate's Court on Friday last week, are each alleged to have been involved in the misappropriation of more than a million rand of donor funds in total.

Steenkamp, who was not asked to plead on 21 theft and nine fraud charges, was released on R2 000 bail after a brief court appearance.

The Mail & Guardian reported earlier this year that the Atlanta-based Coca-Cola Foundation was "blissfully unaware" its April 1992 donation to Boesak's Foundation for Peace and Justice had not been used as intended. This came after Danish funders DanChurch Aid had launched an investigation into allegations that the foundation had diverted its own donations.

A Coca-Cola representative said at the time that the company had made the R500 000 donation (R234 000 at the current exchange rate) on the understanding it would be passed to the Caravan Community Project in the Karoo town of Carnavon to build a creche and other facilities.

The M&G reported that while DanChurch had also donated the equivalent of R53 000 to the foundation for the same project, Caravan never received more than R10 000 from the foundation.

In the meantime, a former senior police security branch member, who was closely involved in the apartheid state's monitoring of Boesak during the 1980s, confirmed to the M&G that in the early- to mid-1980s police became aware Boesak was a channel for foreign funding used in the struggle - including donations from Coca-Cola.

He said Boesak was under surveillance, which included the use of postal and other intercepts, but "we never figured it out exactly, as our information was not that good".

It appears, however, that the present charges against Boesak relate exclusively to his post-1990 activities, when the ANC had already been unbanned and the need for clandestine funding was theoretically over.

It may well be asked to what extent Boesak, who lived in an upper-class suburb and drove an Italian luxury car, was able to distinguish between his own needs and those of the struggle.

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Turok in centre of NGO labour wrangle

Ben Turok is locked in dispute with fired staff, reports Mungo Soggot

AFRICAN National Congress MP and economics guru Ben Turok has fired most of the staff at the NGO he runs, setting off an acrimonious labour relations wrangle.

Staff at the Institute for African Alternatives, who were supposed to leave at the end of this month, have already been locked out of the cash-strapped NGO’s Johannesburg headquarters.

Turok, MP for Paarl, also told staff they could lose their retrenchment pay if they fought him through the mediation body established under the new Labour Relations Act.

Institute staff complained to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration earlier this month that Turok had breached the new Act by not discussing the closure decision.

Employees say they are still in the dark about Turok’s plans. Shortly after the initial closure announcement, Turok suggested the institute could survive with severe cuts, and he has previously indicated the organisation should move to Paarl. He was unavailable for comment this week, despite repeated approaches.

Turok established the NGO in London in 1986 and opened offices in Johannesburg in 1991. The institute, which trains community leaders, is funded mainly by USAID, but has been struggling to raise new cash following senior staff changes.

Recent internal minutes show Turok complained he was unable to determine the NGO’s financial status, nor the progress of its projects.

Employees met Turok on November 11 to voice fears that their jobs were on the line as the NGO only had sufficient funds until next March. Staff say Turok assured them there was no immediate problem, asking one: “Why... are you insecure about losing your job?”

But a week later, all but four of the NGO’s employees were retrenched following a board meeting from which staff representatives were barred. Four employees were kept on to wind down the NGO’s affairs.

After staff started talking about breaches of the Act, the institute’s director, Myron Peter, said they could bring in a private mediator selected by management, provided staff paid his R2 500 bill. The employees replied in a memorandum: “As all staff have been retrenched, how could you expect us to cover the costs of R2 500?” They added that they would approach the commission which would act “in the best interests of the organisation”.

The application to the commission — which was faxed on December 10 — accuses Turok of riding roughshod over the Act by “refusing to bargain around retrenchment” and “refusing to discuss severance pay.”

The following day Turok returned from a meeting with USAID to Pretoria and reportedly attacked staff for approaching the commission, tagging them “tsotsis”.

“I’m not afraid of the commission,” he reportedly said. Unsigned minutes of the meeting quote him as saying: “I will liquidate, and maybe there won’t be December salaries or retrenchment packages.” He gave staff 15 minutes to decide.

Facing the prospect of spending the festive season with no money, staff say they had to capitulate. Peter responded in a memo: “The board welcomes the decision to waive the conciliation process and try and remain open.” Staff say they are now “baffled”.

Turok — who helped frame both the Freedom Charter and the Reconstruction and Development Programme — recently outlined in the Mail & Guardian a string of reasons behind the struggle for survival among NGOs.

These included the organisations “having a chronic incapacity to work together... NGOs often emerge around a particular personality, and individualism is a common feature. This tends to bring a lack of continuity as these individuals come and go.”
With government playing a bigger part, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have taken on a more prominent role in the provision of services. At least two issues have been underscored:

- The importance of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the health care and welfare sector.
- The need for a new role to play in health care and welfare provision.
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Boesak accused of taking Coke funds

Almost a quarter of a million rand intended for the poor was allegedly diverted by Allan Boesak.

Stefans Brümmer and Rehana Rossouw report

Among the 30-odd charges faced by former African National Congress Cape leader Allan Boesak when he appears in court next year is that his foundation misappropriated a donation of almost a quarter of a million rand from Coca-Cola which was intended for the poor.

Boesak, who has said he will return voluntarily from the United States to stand trial in Cape Town on January 17, and his former bookkeeper Freddie Steenkamp, who appeared in Cape Town Magistrate's Court on Friday last week, are each alleged to have been involved in the misappropriation of more than a million rand of donor funds in total.

Steenkamp, who was not asked to plead on 21 theft and nine fraud charges, was released on R2 000 bail after a brief court appearance.

The Mail & Guardian reported early last year that the Atlanta-based Coca-Cola Foundation was "blissfully unaware" its April 1992 donation to Boesak's Foundation for Peace and Justice had not been used as intended. This came after Danish funders DanChurch Aid had launched an investigation into allegations that the foundation had diverted its own donations.

A Coca-Cola representative said at the time that the company had made the $50 000 donation (R234 000 at current exchange rates) on the understanding it would be passed to the Caravan Community Project in the Karoo town of Carnarvon to build a creche and other facilities.

The Mail & Guardian reported that while DanChurch Aid had also donated the equivalent of R50 000 to the foundation for the same project, Caravan never received more than R10 000 from the foundation.

Boesak, who has been lecturing at the American Baptist seminary in Berkeley, California, for the past 18 months and lives in San Francisco with his wife, Elna, and their four-year-old daughter, could not be reached for comment this week.

But he has maintained in the past that no money was diverted for his "personal use". Boesak may well argue in his defence that donor funds were indeed diverted, but with the knowledge of his donors - and that the money was used for the "struggle".

A former activist this week asserted that Boesak was indeed at times the person to "turn to" for funding of activities, some of them underground, against apartheid.

Ironically, a former senior police Security Branch member, who was closely involved in the apartheid state's monitoring of Boesak during the 1980s, confirmed to the Mail & Guardian that in the early to mid-1980s police became aware Boesak was a channel for foreign funding used in the struggle - including donations from Coca-Cola.

He said Boesak was under surveillance, which included the use of postal and other intercepts, but "we never figured it out exactly, as our information was not that good".

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Tutu and Burton then resigned from the trust, which had been started with the proceeds of Paul Simon concerts in South Africa.

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Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's office initially poured cold water on the allegations in April last year, when a report by his legal adviser, Mojakhulu Gumbi, found the DanChurch charges against Boesak, then an ambassador-designate, "unsubstantiated".

But the investigation was taken up by the Office for Serious Economic Offences (Oseo), which pulled in auditing firm KPMG for help and sent staff to the United States and Europe to collect information.

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Boesak in 'God's hands'

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for his return had not yet been set. Dr Boesak would certainly be returning before the trial date to begin preparations for his trial, said Miss Linnefelder.

She said she had advised Dr Boesak not to give interviews. "My client made a statement saying two things: He would definitely return of his own account and the lives and future of him and his family was in God's hands," she said.

Dr Boesak had not yet received a copy of the charge sheet and she had had to courier him a copy. "He is in America and it is impossible to fax 60 pages to him, so I sent it to him," she said.

Dr Boesak has been lecturing at the American Baptist Seminary in Berkeley, California, for the past 18 months and lives in San Francisco with his wife Elza and their four-year-old daughter Sarah-Len.

Dan church, AID secretary general Christian Baslev-Olesen, who is based in Denmark and was a close associate of Dr Boesak during the apartheid era, told Saturday Arise he was relieved a decision had finally been taken by the authorities.

"I think it was important that a decision was taken because this has been going on for more than two years. All involved have been wanting to see what would happen and what decision the South African authorities would make," he said.

Mr Baslev-Olesen said there was no feeling of vindication at the decision taken by the State to prosecute Dr Boesak, despite the fact he had gone public with his allegations two years ago.

"This was one of the most difficult and painful situations we have ever been involved in," he said.

The Bell, Dewar and Hall report commissioned by the Nordic donors alleged money donated by Paul Simon to help victims of apartheid was drained from a Children's Trust Fund bank account and used to repay "loans" taken from donor funds by Dr Boesak and other staff at the Foundation for Peace and Justice.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu was one of the trustees of the Children's Trust Fund who was alarmed to discover last year that R428 000 donated by Paul Simon following his 1992 Graceland tour of South Africa had gone missing. The Paul Simon funds were administered by the Foundation for Peace and Justice, of which Dr Boesak was director.

The lawyers found no record of any repayments by Dr Boesak, although small amounts were repaid by other staff members. A defiant Dr Boesak said at time he was innocent of all charges and described the allegations as "a grave travesty of justice."
Pilot rural skills project 'big success'

Plans to expand

The Western Cape's Triple Trust Organisation (TTO) plans to set up a regional office in Umtata next year to train unemployed people after the success of their pilot skills training sessions in rural areas.

This decision has been welcomed in many villages in and around Umtata "where people even want to study on Saturdays", TTO sewing trainer Susan Gongotha said.

Sewing and leatherwork courses were given in various communities in towns in the Eastern Cape but other courses such as Business Introduction and Business Start-Up will be added in the future.

The Netherlands Government has already given funding for the project and other foreign governments have shown interest.

At Ngcolile, near Tsolo in the Transkei, a village with a population of about 9000 people - TTO trainers, in partnership with the Ngcolile Top Community Development Forum, gave business and further skills training to many groups already undergoing some skills training there.

Graduates in this village covered a wide spectrum of people from young to old, including a married couple in their 80s.

Ms Susan Gongotha said: "The Eastern Cape trainees were so hungry for what the TTO was bringing that they could not wait enough," she said.

"This was not just a rural expedition that needed to be equalled with our normal training in Cape Town. We are catalysts and agents for change.

"We are there to light a flame so that when it lights up we can look back with pride and say we were the ones that struck the match."

While the programme was taking shape, Phumani Bukasse, co-ordinator of TTO's national expansion strategy, and a number of other TTO staff members, were involved in forming "strategic alliances" with provincial development authorities, meeting local chiefs and government representatives.

"We were successful in developing strong, positive networking contacts with the Eastern Cape government, raw material suppliers, loan institutions etc," said Ms Bukasse.

"We even received a request to train 150 Eastern Cape village-based development officers for the local government in our methods.

"The same model and structure would then be used from Hermanus to Harare."

The TTO is a non-profit organisation committed to people empowerment through enterprise development. It was first started in the Western Cape in 1988 and so far thousands of previously unemployed people have taken courses and graduated and are now in a position to earn money.

This has been made possible through generous and faithful funding from several foreign governments and local businesses. The Cape Argus is one of the donors to this worthwhile enterprise.

"Given the success of the pilot course and the enormous demand for further rural training, it is hoped additional funding will be forthcoming," said a spokesman for the organisation.

"The cost of training one person to start a business is less than R2 000. TTO would like ultimately to make a significant impact in the rural areas as well as in the urban areas."
The development of sport and physical education facilities is a key aspect of the upgraded community plan. The project aims to enhance the local community's access to high-quality sports facilities, promoting a healthier lifestyle and fostering community spirit.

The upgraded facilities will include an athletics track, multi-use sports courts, a community gym, and improved changing and locker facilities. These enhancements will not only cater to the needs of the local population but also attract visitors and tourists, further boosting the local economy.

The development is expected to open in October 2022, and it is anticipated that the community will see a significant increase in physical activity levels. The project is a joint initiative between local authorities, the sports council, and the community foundation, ensuring a collaborative approach to the development.

In addition to the physical facilities, the project will also focus on community engagement. Workshops and training sessions will be organized to teach various sports and physical activities, ensuring that the community benefits from the investment in sport and physical education.
Mvula Trust’s work ‘on par with international standards’

Robyn Chalmers

AN INDEPENDENT international evaluation of SA’s largest water and sanitation non-governmental organisation, Mvula Trust, has found its work was on par with leading practices in global water development.

The findings coincide with the provision of a R28.4m grant to the Mvula Trust programme by the European Union. The programme is aimed at providing finance for water and sanitation projects in marginalised areas not being reached by government.

The evaluation team, which was led by three water development experts from the US, Sweden and Zimbabwe, spent six months assessing 20 Mvula Trust water supply and sanitation projects around SA.

The report found that the main challenge of rural water supply was to ensure a project’s life far beyond its initial construction. While it was too early to judge whether the trust was achieving sustainability, the findings pointed to the development of a number of positive and negative trends.

On the positive side were the trust’s political community ownership, mobilising local-level management and cost-sharing, as well as the promotion of demand-driven projects in encouraging local communities to improve their own services.

Areas of concern included the need to provide for mixed levels of service and the ability of local management committees to enforce rules and sanctions. The ability of rural communities and local governments to manage the relatively sophisticated levels of technology provided and the differences in maintenance policies between Mvula and other projects also caused concern.

Mvula Trust executive director Piers Cross said at the weekend the evaluation gave the trust confidence that its approaches were broadly on track, but also opened up substantial new areas of focus in the coming years.

"Of importance is the fundamental problem of service sustainability and the need to develop effective approaches to provide mixed-level services to our heterogeneous rural populations," said Cross.

Water affairs and forestry department deputy director-general Mike Muller emphasised the need for the whole water and sanitation industry to learn from the experience of local and international development agencies.