

SQUATTERS - FREE STATE

1994-1995

Free State hardens stand on 'invaders'

ET/16/12/94 (309)

BLOEMFONTEIN. — Anyone invading land or buildings in the Free State from now on would be removed immediately by the police or the army, the regional Minister for Housing Mr Vax Mayekiso told journalists here yesterday.

He said talks were being held with people already illegally occupying land or buildings, but any new invasions would be reversed the moment the authorities came to know of them.

Mr Mayekiso said his department would not stand by while the housing programme was thrust into "a state of anarchy by counter-revolutionary groups". If anarchists continued invading property they would be met by force.

Mr Mayekiso said erven surveyed for housing at Winburg, Senekal, Ficksburg and other areas had been invaded before services were installed.

The invasions had made the instal-

lation of services impossible and affected the government's Reconstruction and Development Programme.

People had threatened to invade state houses, completed or under construction, at Sasolburg, Kutlwanong near Odendaalsrus, and Bethlehem, as well as in the former homeland QwaQwa.

Mr Mayekiso appealed to the public to support the government in its efforts to protect property rights, otherwise promising projects would be jeopardised.

Mr Mayekiso said land and building invasions were politically motivated. He asked why they had not taken place before the April election and accused invaders of taking advantage of the political transition.

The invaders were often not needy, he said. They were being manipulated ("engineered") to serve the purposes of agitators, he said. — Sapa

Free State shows the lead in placing squatters

BD 30/10/95

(309)

Wyndham Hartley

WELKOM — Populist names for squatter camps — such as Freedom Square or Mandela Square — have been given the official seal of approval in the Free State gold fields.

A decision to officially recognise the names was taken after negotiations in Welkom's multiparty liaison committee, and it has, to a large extent, resolved the unplaced voter problems in the town.

Welkom's chief elections official Petrus van der Merwe said residents had chosen the names themselves, and each shack in the squatter settlements

had formally been given a number.

While some of SA's informal settlements, such as Phola Park on the East Rand, have achieved prominence through political violence, most have remained officially unacknowledged and unrecognised settlements on the fringes of cities and towns.

Now the names are coming of age and in Welkom addresses such as 546 Freedom Square and 77 Mandela Square appear on the voters' roll.

The action taken in Welkom has resulted in most of the town's 120 000 registered voters gaining verifiable addresses, enabling them to vote.

Mduduzi Ka Harvey reports that

Gauteng local government spokesman Thabang Mamonyana said his ministry had issued instructions to local authorities in the province to ensure squatter camp shacks were numbered during the voter registration period.

Some local authorities had managed to number shacks while others had resorted to aerial surveys to demarcate the squatter camps and determine which ward a particular squatter camp belonged in.

In other cases, where a voter claimed to live in a particular squatter camp, the local authority would investigate its location and place the voter in the ward where the camp was located.

SQUATTERS - KwaZulu/Natal
1995

Squatters ordered off land

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — About 2 000 squatters who invaded Matatiele council land leased to two farmers were ordered off by the Maritzburg Supreme Court yesterday.

In court papers, it was said plots of land had been pegged out and people formed three queues on Monday to be "processed" by men sitting at tables.

The application was brought by the partners who lease the land for grazing, Mr Kenneth Moolman and Mr Matthew van Dyk, and the town's transitional local council. (308)

Commenting on the invasion, Matatiele mayor Mr Libby Sorour said it was a political ploy by the Eastern Cape to obtain control of Matatiele.

The council's attorney, Mr Basil Dwyer, said in papers he went to the land and tried to find out who organised the occupation. CT4/1/95

"They became rather vague and said they were just there to view the matter. I was unable to get a clear indication as to who was responsible or what the names were of the people occupying the farm."

The case was adjourned to January 20 by Mr Justice Combrink.

CTC

NEWS

Judge rules in favour of KwaZulu/Natal govt (308)

SKW 4/1/95

Police poised to move against land invaders

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Maritzburg — Police will have the full backing of the KwaZulu/Natal government this morning when they begin to remove up to 5 000 squatters who have occupied land owned by the Matatiele Council in the south of the province.

The Maritzburg Supreme Court yesterday granted an application by two farmers and Matatiele's Transitional Local Council to have the squatters evicted.

Squatters from the

northern Eastern Cape began moving on to the land, known as the Racecourse Camp, last month.

The land had been earmarked by the council for the settlement of its own homeless people.

Matatiele mayor Libby Sorour claimed the land invasion had been planned. He also said people had been bussed into the area after messages were broadcast on Radio Transkei that land was available outside Matatiele. This was denied by the radio station.

The KwaZulu/Natal

government described the invasion as a "land grab" planned by political groups in Transkei who were part of the campaign to have East Griqualand incorporated into the Eastern Cape.

In court papers supporting yesterday's eviction order, it was said that plots of land had been pegged out and that men seated at tables were processing illegal applications for housing sites.

Some of the "settlers" were erecting crude homes on the land yes-

terday.

The application was brought by the council along with farmers Matthew van Dyk and Kenneth Moolman, who are renting the land for grazing.

Estimates of the number of people on the land vary between 2 000 and 5 000.

Matatiele SAPS station commander Captain Fanie de Lange yesterday confirmed that the police would act immediately against the squatters in compliance with the court order.

CHAMELEON SYSTEMS

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban — Several hundred squatters from the Eastern Cape who moved on to land owned by the Matatiele Town Council left the area on Tuesday night, despite their avowal that they would disobey a court order for their removal.

Matatiele mayor Libby Sorour said they had "vanished like vanishing cream".

Police were in the area yesterday to ensure the court order had been obeyed and

E Cape 'settlers' leave Matatiele

(308) Nov 5/1/95
municipal employees were clearing building material brought in by the "settlers".

In what is claimed as a planned invasion, about 5 000 "settlers" poured into Matatiele, which falls within KwaZulu/Natal, at the weekend to "register" as owners of a piece of municipal land.

The land occupied by the people adjoins the Eastern

Cape.

This is the latest incident in the fight between the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu/Natal for ownership of East Griqualand.

KwaZulu/Natal Premier Dr Frank Mdlalose praised the town council for obtaining the court order.

He said the invasion appeared to be calculated to thwart delicate negotiations

between the two provincial governments and Deputy President Thabo Mbeki.

The Democratic Party said the invasion was a flagrant provocation by people of the Eastern Cape of the government of a neighbouring province. DP MPL Wessel Nel said: "This seems to be part of a co-operative annexation attempt with the Eastern Cape ANC."

Natal land cleared of illegal occupants

DURBAN. — The southern kwaZulu/Natal town of Matatiele has claimed victory in the dispute over land which was occupied by several thousand squatters from the Eastern Cape last week.

Almost all of the 5 000 squatters who moved onto the 50ha of municipal land known as "Racecourse Camp" had left by early yesterday morning.

This came after the Maritzburg Supreme Court granted an eviction order on Tuesday.

Protected by policemen, town council workers moved onto the site yesterday to dismantle crude structures and remove litter left by the squatters.

The squatters had already begun to leave the camp late on Tuesday when a messenger of the court arrived to serve the eviction order, according to Matatiele mayor Mr Libby Sorour.

A small group was still in the area yesterday. When approached by policemen,

the squatters began toyi-toying and chanting "Viva Eastern Cape", Mr Sorour said.

The site, leased to two Matatiele farmers as grazing land, was deserted by yesterday afternoon. (308)

The occupation had earlier been described by the kwaZulu/Natal government as a "land grab" organised by political groups in the Eastern Cape intent on derailing negotiations about the future of East Griqualand.

CT 5/1/95

Whose backyard is it anyway?

(308)



WM 6-12/1/95

D

Steuart Wright: East London

HOMELESSNESS in the East Griqualand town of Matatiele has become a political football in the battle for the territory between kwaZulu/Natal and the Eastern Cape.

The chairman of the Matatiele Squatters' and Workers' Association, Watson Mokoatle, says there is no political motive behind last weekend's invasion of municipal land by about 2 000 squatters.

But Matatiele mayor Libby Sorour counters that the invasion is part of a broader campaign by Eastern Cape authorities to seize East Griqualand. His accusations follow Eastern Cape Premier Raymond Mhlaba's recent attempt to declare the town of Kokstad as one of his regional capitals, despite the fact that it is situated in the province of kwaZulu/Natal.

Mokoatle admits many of the squatters come from neighbouring Transkei rural areas but says the majority work in, and see themselves as residents of, greater Matatiele. "These are simply the people of Matatiele, they are not politically motivated. Like we said when we went to the municipality: we are not a political organisation, we are only people looking for a place to stay."

He adds that after more than five years of talks with the municipality, it had not built one house or allocated any land for more than 5 000 homeless people. Some live in caves in nearby mountains and travel to the town to work every day.

"We tried to talk to the council from 1987 to apply for houses and we got no reportbacks. Then we formed our own association and after talks deadlocked twice last month, we decided to set December 31 as the deadline to erect our own shacks if nothing was done," Mokoatle says.

His association has no stance on

whether East Griqualand and Matatiele should remain part of kwaZulu/Natal or become part of the Eastern Cape. But he points out that Sorour, who supports incorporation into kwaZulu/Natal, is not winning any friends in his actions against the squatters. On Tuesday, Mokoatle had to calm angry squatters who were threatening Sorour after he arrived with police and the sheriff to serve a court order to halt the erection of shacks on the town common.

Operations to have the squatters forcibly removed began on Wednesday after the council obtained a supreme court order to remove the squatters. There was a strong police presence at the scene as municipal workers demolished the shacks.

The Eastern Cape government has denied accusations that it is encouraging the squatter invasion of Matatiele municipal land as part of its bid to have the town included in its province. Said government spokesman Prince Msutu: "The government has never encouraged occupation by anyone in any part of the country. Its policy is that houses must be built for people and land must be made available."

The Matatiele municipality should involve all role players in discussions about land and housing, instead of "reducing this to a feud between the governments of the Eastern Cape and kwaZulu/Natal", Msutu said.

The border feud is due to come to a head in a summit on January 16 between Mhlaba and his kwaZulu/Natal counterpart, Dr Frank Mdladlose.

The potential for conflict over the dispute last year prompted President Nelson Mandela to appoint Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and retired ANC vice-chairman Walter Sisulu to oversee an amicable solution. Since then no concrete steps have been taken to settle the two provinces' differences. — Ecna

Shops of Matatiele (308) Star 6/11/95 whites boycotted

Durban — Black consumers began boycotting white-owned shops in Matatiele yesterday after the ejection of more than 5 000 squatters from council land near the town, police and the mayor said.

Matatiele station commander Captain Fanie de Lange and mayor Libby Sorour said black consumers were buying goods only from black-owned shops in the southern KwaZulu/Natal town, after the council thwarted attempts by Eastern Cape residents to claim vacant land.

"Some support the boycott, others do not, so people are not sure and are not buying from white shops now," De Lange said.

Sorour said some of the squatters had met on Wednesday night and

were divided on the issue.

But a prominent ANC member in Matatiele, who asked not to be identified, said there was a "great deal of support" for a boycott.

"The reaction by the council to homelessness is ridiculous. People who work in the area ought to be housed there," he said, referring to a Supreme Court order granted to the council declaring the land occupation illegal.

The governments of KwaZulu/Natal and the Eastern Cape have been caught in a tug of war over the East Griqualand region, which includes Matatiele.

The KwaZulu/Natal government has alleged the occupation was a "land grab" aimed at derailing talks between the provinces on the issue. — Reuter.

Police cool Matatiele

stand-off

(308) Star 12/1/95

■ OWN CORRESPONDENT

Durban — A road blockade by the white business community of Matatiele in southern Kwa-Zulu/Natal ended yesterday after intervention by the police.

The blockade led to near-violent confrontations between white and black businessmen — who set up counter-blockades — and supporters of the Matatiele Homeless People's Association (MHPA), which started the boycott last week in support of its demand for land.

The angry businessmen used vehicles to block off all three roads to Matatiele, including the R56 link with Kokstad and the coast, after a heated meeting in the town hall.

Versions of events leading up to the blockade vary — businessmen and police claim the MHPA continued the boycott despite assurances by the ANC, to which the MHPA appears linked, that there would be no further mass action.

ANC co-chairman Mandla Gaba said there was no evidence that the boycott was being enforced yesterday.

A police spokesman said the white businessmen had closed the town after the black community embarked on a "selective boycott", nominating black-owned businesses at which people could buy goods.

The black businessmen reacted to the blockade by closing off the roads between Matatiele and Mount Fletcher and Maluti and forcibly removing the white businessmen's barriers.

Police intervened, convinced important role-players to negotiate, and arranged a meeting scheduled for 10 am today.

Tensions high as businessmen

308

blockade town

AR 012/1195

MATATIELE. — Tensions ran high in the Kwa-Zulu-Natal border town of Matatiele as scores of local businessmen blockaded roads leading to Maluti and Mount Fletcher in retaliation for a selective consumer boycott in the town.

Squatters who were forcibly moved from municipal land they illegally occupied embarked on the boycott last week and announced that people would be allowed to buy from only one shop and one garage in the town.

In a tit-for-tat protest, businessmen stopped all vehicles travelling out of Matatiele yesterday and checked for goods before anyone was allowed through the blockade. Several truckloads of goods were turned back and drivers told to return goods to the store where they had been bought.

Placard-waving shopkeepers, their wives and children were taken aback by residents who arrived and shouted racist remarks.

Matatiele mayor Libby Sorour stood on the back of a pick-up videotaping the events.

Hundreds of residents and commuters demanded the opening of the road and African National Congress officials were called in. But the business community said it would not lift the blockade until the consumer boycott was called off.

Police spokesman Rigard Venter promised residents and commuters that members of the Internal Stability Unit were on their way. However, police did not arrive.

When the first vehicle successfully forced its way through the blockade, businessmen watched in defeat as other loaded vehicles followed suit.

Strong words were exchanged among squatters, residents and businessmen but no fighting occurred. The businessmen then moved away for a private meeting. — Sapa.

Traders block roads

ANGRY Matatiele businessmen, crippled by a five-day consumer boycott, retaliated yesterday by blocking roads leading to the town to prevent outside traders from selling to boycotters.

Matatiele mayor Mr Libby Sorour denied reports that the boycott had been lifted and said the KwaZulu-Natal town had lost more than R6 million as a result of the boycott called by about 2 000 squatters who were forcibly removed from council land last week.

"I am totally against any boycotting in the town. It is irresponsible and causes hardship to its residents," he said.

Day long talks

A local trader said day-long talks involving African National Congress chairman Mr Jacob Zuma and top party officials from KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape had only succeeded in resolving a split in ANC ranks over their support for which province should get Matatiele and the surrounding East Griqualand.

He said they had failed to address the boycott and the plight of the 2 000 or so people left homeless as a result of their eviction from the town common.

Action committee

"Local shopkeepers have formed an action committee to prevent shops outside of town from buying here and reselling goods to boycotters across the Eastern Cape border. They are also turning away hawkers who intend selling their goods on the streets," he said.

He said businessmen had lost faith in the politicians trying to resolve the issue and that Zuma had reconvened talks yesterday. — *Ecna*.

Now it's the turn of businessmen to blockade (308) Matatiele

WM 13-19/1/95

Steuart Wright in East London

THE East Griqualand town of Matatiele was under siege this week as local businessmen retaliated against a consumer boycott by blocking outside traders from selling to boycotters.

The businessmen, hard hit by a five-day consumer boycott which has cost the town more than R6-million, blocked three roads to the town on Wednesday morning in a bid to choke the supply of goods to boycotters in and around the town.

About 2 000 squatters who had illegally occupied council land called the boycott after they were forcibly evicted last week. The council saw the occupation as part of an Eastern Cape campaign to seize the kwaZulu/Natal town and surrounding East Griqualand.

A local trader said the blockades to prevent outside traders from exploiting the consumer boycott were removed on Wednesday afternoon.

He believed the businessmen, who have formed an action committee, have made their point. "If people from the Eastern Cape can boycott and block roads and the police do nothing, we can do the same," he said.

According to the trader, the protest by local businessmen was not without confrontation.

At one stage, "in the conspicuous absence of police", about 500 outside traders who had bought goods in Matatiele to sell to boycotters across the Eastern Cape border threatened to overturn vehicles.

He said the blockading of roads was phase one of their protest and unless scheduled talks with ANC officials from kwaZulu/Natal and the Eastern Cape later in the week were fruitful, the town's traders would embark on phase two — which at this stage, he said, remains a secret.

The ANC's Jacob Zuma met party officials in the town on Tuesday and Wednesday but traders said the talks had failed to tackle the consumer boycott or the plight of the homeless squatters. The talks, the traders said, dealt only with the split in ANC ranks over which province should get East Griqualand.

While Matatiele mayor Libby Sorour condemned the blockades, he said that "as long as the Eastern Cape continues its boycott I will support any steps to end it".

Sorour has repeatedly claimed that the invasion of council land, mainly by people from the Eastern Cape, was orchestrated by the Eastern Cape as part of its campaign to win East Griqualand.

The Bisho government — which sees the relative wealth of kwaZulu/Natal as a beacon of hope for the region's economic ailment — has made no bones about its intention to have its border shifted into its neighbour's territory to include East Griqualand.

Last year Eastern Cape Premier Raymond Mhlaba declared the kwaZulu/Natal town of Kokstad one of his regional capitals.

Mhlaba is due to meet his kwaZulu/Natal counterpart, Frank Mdlalose, on Monday to discuss the territorial dispute which prompted President Nelson Mandela to appoint Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and retired ANC chairman Walter Sisulu to seek an amicable solution last year.

To date no concrete steps have been taken to resolve the two provinces' differences and tensions are mounting in what is traditionally a peaceful corner of the violence-plagued kwaZulu/Natal province. — Ecna

Matatiele summit planned

East London — Eastern Cape Premier Raymond Mhlaba is due to meet his KwaZulu/Natal counterpart, Dr Frank Mdlalose, on Monday to discuss the increasingly tense territorial dispute over the small East Griqualand town of Matatiele.

The dispute has seen squatters — reportedly from across the border in the Eastern Cape — illegally occupy municipal land in defiance of a court order, evicted by police, enforce a consumer boycott and trigger off retaliatory roadblocks by angry traders.

Each side has refused to end its protest until the other backs down.

A series of meetings, some involving senior African National Congress figures from both provinces, has failed to

break the impasse.

The Eastern Cape government has rejected claims by the town's mayor, Libby Sorour, that it is behind the squatter crisis.

Sorour said the boycott was costing the town more than R1,5 million a day.

Two meetings were held yesterday, one involving police, businessmen, squatters and the ANC, and a later one between representatives of the town council and squatters.

By late afternoon, the blockades were still being manned by boycott-hit businessmen, a Matatiele police spokesman said.

Telephone services to Matatiele and Kokstad were suspended last night. A Telkom spokes-

man could not say why the lines were not working.

Tempers flared in Matatiele on Sunday when squatters reoccupied municipal land known as Race Course Farm in defiance of a Supreme Court order.

Ninety-one squatters, most of them reportedly from the former Transkei, were arrested when Sorour insisted police act on the court order which prohibited occupation of the land by the squatters.

Safety and Security spokesman Craig Kotze said in Pretoria yesterday it was up to the local police force to keep the situation under control.

"It's an interprovincial issue and that's it, we must give them a chance to solve the problem..." he said. — Sapa.

(308) Sapa 13/11/95

Squatters, businessmen in talks on Matatiele boycott

APR 13/11/95 (28) (308)

DURBAN. — White businessmen in Matatiele continued their roadblock outside the southern KwaZulu-Natal town today while negotiations resumed to try to end a consumer boycott of their shops.

"The situation is still the same as yesterday. The relevant parties are in talks now," police spokesman Warrant-Officer Ashley Keal said.

Businessmen set up the roadblock this week in response to a selective consumer boycott of white and coloured-owned shops.

The businessmen prevented

the movement of goods, to stop boycotters from purchasing at black-owned stores.

The boycott began last week after squatters, mostly from the Eastern Cape, invaded vacant farmland next to Matatiele and were ejected by the council.

The governments of the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal both lay claim to the town, which falls within the disputed East Griqualand region. The KwaZulu-Natal government claimed the invasion was a "land grab".

Talks scheduled on Monday

between the premiers of both provinces, chaired by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, were cancelled this week because a cabinet meeting was planned the same day, according to Thembinkosi Memela, spokesman for KwaZulu-Natal Premier Frank Mdlalose.

"The premier is watching developments in Matatiele closely but he was hoping the issue could be taken one step further at Monday's talks. Unfortunately the talks are off," Mr Memela said.

Meanwhile, a Matatiele businessman who asked not to be named said he expected the consumer boycott to end today.

"We're close to a solution. The problem now is they want us to lift the roadblock first but we want them to put in writing that the boycott is over," he said.

Police said they had not acted against those who had set up the roadblock yet, and were awaiting the outcome of today's talks. — Reuter.

Tension high after 'invasion'

(308)

CT 15/2/95
JOHANNESBURG. — Residents of the besieged Lenasia Ext 13, south-west of here, joined police to patrol streets to protect their property and families after two men were shot last night.

Tension was high in the area, where houses had earlier been illegally occupied.

Residents openly expressed their concern about the presence of the illegals, while the people who had invaded empty houses stood in groups in the yards.

By midnight the situation had degenerated into a colour issue between coloureds and Indians. — Sapa

Police stay on alert after Lenasia squatters held

ARG 16/2/95

(308)

□ Homeless refuse to leave until demands met

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Police continued to maintain a strong presence in Lenasia Extension 13 today after they had arrested nine squatters last night and early today for occupying empty houses in the suburb.

On Tuesday night more than 300 people from Eldorado Park moved into the houses, which have stood vacant for three years because of bureaucratic bungling by the past and present governments.

While some squatters left the area yesterday, many others have stayed.

But police said today it was difficult to arrest the invaders as they loitered in the streets rather than occupying the houses. The squatters say they will not leave the suburb until their demand for houses is met.

Lenasia police station commandant Daniel Naidoo confirmed that the nine people, including a mother with a small baby, would appear in court on charges of housebreaking and trespassing.

Major Naidoo said that all the people in custody were arrested inside the houses, adding that nobody would be arrested outside.

He also said that the police would maintain a presence until the Gauteng MEC for housing, Dan Mofokeng, gave orders to the contrary.

This morning scores of squatters were milling outside the houses. Some were munching dry bread, while others threatened to march to the police station later today to demand the release of the nine arrested squatters.

The arrest of the squatters is a signal of the Gauteng government's new tough stance on illegal occupations.

Mr Mofokeng said in a statement



DEMAND FOR ARREST: Squatters confront police outside the Lenasia police station, demanding to be arrested. They were acting in support of three colleagues arrested earlier.

today that the arrests were regrettable, but that the Gauteng government would not let land invasions or illegal occupations continue, particularly since negotiation were in progress.

"This was meant to send a message, not only to these illegal occupants, but to anybody planning the same thing," he said.

Stones were thrown soon after 9 last night and tempers flared as internal stability unit policemen began arresting illegal occupants on charges of housebreaking.

Dukuduku forest an ecological disaster - Chiolo

(308)
Cape Town — Freedom Front
MPs have challenged the ANC-
led Government to demonstrate
that it can handle the squatter
occupation of the Dukuduku for-
est better than F.W. de Klerk's
previous government.

Dr Willem Botha made the
challenge yesterday and another
FF MP, Joseph Chiolo, said the
response to questions on the for-
est by both governments reads
like one of the worst environ-
mental horror stories.

"South Africa is allowing and
sanctioning one of the worst eco-
logical disasters to happen right
before our eyes," he said.

Dukuduku was declared a na-
ture reserve in July 1993.

The KwaZulu/Natal legisla-
ture was negotiating with squat-
ters to vacate the area and al-
ready 541 families had moved,
although some had moved in
again, said Minister of Housing
Sankie Nkondo.

The Government's lack of seri-
ousness in dealing with environ-
mental issues, said Chiolo, was
reflected by the National Assem-
bly's select committee on en-
vironmental affairs and tourism
chairman Peter Mokaba circulat-
ing a questionnaire from the In-
ternational Parliamentary
Unions 40 days after the dead-
line. — Sapa

Star 13/95

Nzimande, Y P	Std 10	Receptionist
Philippopoulos, L S	National Dipl. in Theatre Technology	Stage Supervisor
Potgieter, D J	BA (Hons) Journalism	Journalist
Ralfiabo, T N	Std 10	Junior Vision Controller
Reddy, S	MA (Communications)	Audio Journalist
Seane, E M	Std 10	Junior Security Officer
Sebasa, J M	BA (Social Sciences)	Researcher: TNP
Seema, T D	Std 10	Junior Video Tape Operator
Shaikh, M	BA (Hons) Psychology; BA (Hons) Journalism	Executive Producer (R)
Shibambu, T M	Std 10	Announcer/Producer/Translator
Shikoane, T V	Std 10	Learner Production Assistant
Sibiya, N E	BA (ED): Sur Secondary Teacher's Diploma	Senior Production Assistant
Singo, S S	Std 10	Junior Security Officer
Sobolev, A A	Std 10; Diploma Journalism	Associate Principal Double Bass
Thomas, A P	BA (Communication)	Junior Producer (R)
Van der Mescht, J	Std 10	Production Assistant
Zeekei, W F	Std 10	Junior Security Officer

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Negotiations with squatters in the Dukuduku State Forest

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS (on behalf of the Minister of Housing):

- *5. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Housing: *HANSARD 11/5/95*
- (1) Whether any progress has been made in negotiations with squatters in the Dukuduku State Forest; if not, why not; if so, what progress;
 - (2) whether any squatters are currently living in the forest; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, how many;
 - (3) whether any squatters have been moved to an alternative development site; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, how many?

S184E

- (2) Yes, squatters are presently resident in the forest. However, the number of squatters is unknown.
- (3) 541 families have moved to the alternative Dukuduku development site.

Threatened disruption of broadcasts of the World Cup Rugby Tournament

*6. Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

- (1) Whether a certain trade union, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, has threatened to disrupt broadcasts of the World Cup Rugby Tournament; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, whether he intends taking any steps with a view to (a) preventing the said trade union from carrying out this threat and (b) ensuring that confidence in the Post Office is not undermined by threats of this nature; if not, why not; if so, what steps? S185E
- (2) whether he intends taking any steps with a view to (a) preventing the said trade union from carrying out this threat and (b) ensuring that confidence in the Post Office is not undermined by threats of this nature; if not, why not; if so, what steps? S185E

THE MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

Background

Telkom is currently engaged in negotiations with recognised trade unions on the National Bargaining Forum. During the very early stages of the negotiations the South African Telecommunications Association (SATA) and the Mine Workers Union (MWU), staged a protest march during which some banners displayed "No increase, no world rugby" slogans.

In subsequent discussions with the unions involved the unions indicated to Telkom that their members do not intend disrupting the Rugby World Cup broadcasts.

A week after the said protest march, Post and Telecommunications Workers Association (POTWA) staged a rally of similar marches throughout the country, culminating in a march to the company's head office in Pretoria. These marches were accompanied by press releases which also threatened that the union would disrupt the rugby broadcasts if its wage demands were not met.

Telkom management engaged the union in discussions on the matter where officials of POTWA indicated that they fully understood the implications of any disruptions on such an historical event on the country's image abroad as well as the implications that held for the possibility of hosting the Olympic Games.

Telkom cannot provide ironclad guarantees that no disruptions, or at least attempts, will be perpetrated by either the union members or some other parties. In this regard Telkom has formulated extensive contingency plans to ensure as far as humanly possible no disruption of this important broadcasting event.

- (1) Telkom has assured me that they have sufficient contingency plans in place, the nature of which is highly technical and detailed and can therefore, not be divulged for obvious reasons.
- (2) *Wage settlement*

This matter deals with Telkom and not the Post Office. Telkom believes that it has gone a long way towards addressing the concerns of the unions during the current wage negotiations.

Telkom is confident that its position in the wage negotiations is defensible and reasonable. Lobbying between Telkom negotiators and union officials are ongoing in an attempt to obtain agreement and minimise conflict between the parties.

A clear distinction needs to be drawn between the negotiations between POTWA et al and Telkom, on the one hand, and POTWA with the SA Postal Services, on the other. SA Post Office has declared a dispute with POTWA on wages whilst Telkom has not formerly deadlocked with the said union.

- Contingencies*
- Various contingency plans are being put into place by Telkom to reduce any likelihood of disruptions to the Rugby World Cup broadcasts. The nature of the highly technical and detailed contingencies cannot be divulged for obvious reasons.

(b) *The image of Telkom*

As is stated above, Telkom's position in the wage negotiations is defensible and reasonable. Telkom is also continually engaged with union officials to moderate their behaviour in

② SQUATTERS - KWAZULU/NATAL
1996-1998

Regulator's powers 'will not be whittled down'

Tim Cohen

80 31/10/96
CAPE TOWN — Telecommunications Minister Jay Naidoo presented the Telecommunications Bill to Parliament yesterday, defending the legislation against claims that it was rushed through the parliamentary process and that it eroded the proposed industry regulator's power.

Naidoo said provision to ensure the regulator's independence had been strengthened after the parliamentary telecommunications committee held hearings.

A comparative study done by the International Telecommunications Union assessing the independence of the SA Telecommunications Regulatory Authority had found it had "substantial independence".

The legislation created the regulatory certainty necessary to attract billions of rand of investment. New technology and massive injection of management expertise and technical skills would accompany this capital flow.

The Bill was opposed by NP and DP speakers who argued that the omission of the recommended six-year period of exclusivity granted to Telkom created uncertainty and that the proposed industry regulator's powers had been reduced.

The Bill is scheduled to be passed before the end of Parliament's current session.

Court halts eviction of squatters in Natal

Farouk Chothia

80 31/10/96 (308)
DURBAN — The Durban Supreme Court granted an order yesterday which effectively placed a moratorium on evictions in KwaZulu-Natal in terms of certain sections of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

Judge JP Howard granted an order preventing the demolition of shacks on privately owned property in Smithfield Road, Durban North, pending a Constitutional Court ruling on the validity of sections three and four of the Act.

The order was granted against Premier Property, private security company Combat Group, and central government. They did not oppose the application brought by informal settler Bhekokwakhe Magwaza. He planned to challenge the validity of the Act in the Constitutional Court.

Combat Group head Norman Reeves, who had been asked to evict the settlers, said Premier Property had decided against challenging the application because they feared intimidation. Reeves said Premier Property's plans to start a housing project and a shopping complex on the land would be on hold until the Constitutional Court ruled on the Act.

Magwaza said the Act was draconian and barbaric. The Act allowed for the removal of his personal effects from the settlement, but section 13 of the constitution prohibited the seizure of private possessions, he said.

Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom's spokesman Hellmuth Schlenter said Hanekom agreed that the Act was undemocratic, and probably unconstitutional. Hanekom hoped to place legislation before the Cabinet by year-end to address problems related to the Act.

Squatter control unit will demolish shacks

Farouk Chothia

(308)
20 15/4/97

DURBAN — The Durban metropolitan council's squatter control unit would ensure that informal settlements no longer mushroomed, while the government would try to create at least 7 000 housing opportunities each year in the metropolitan area, Durban mayor Obed Mlaba said yesterday.

People had to be patient, and land invasions would not be tolerated, Mlaba said.

The unit, which existed at the time of the former city council and would now operate throughout Durban, would demolish shacks. The unit would also identify those behind the formation of settlements with the aim of considering legal action, Mlaba said.

Planned development was needed and the council had established a housing unit, which would be charged with the task of creating at least 7 000 housing opportunities a year.

Durban's problem-riddled Cato Manor development project — where there were plans to build 41 000 housing units, several industrial parks and the largest academic school in the southern hemisphere — would fall under the unit, Mlaba said.

The council was spending R25m on providing electricity in the outer-west areas of Durban, and was contributing R22m to a R105m project aimed at improving road access between the city and the airport and Umlazi, the largest township in the metropolitan council.

Preliminary work on building an indoor sports centre in Umlazi had also started. The council would spend R3m on the project, with the National Sports Congress contributing R1m.

The council would also spend R1m on refurbishing King's Park soccer stadium's VIP lounge and reception area.

Move to settle claim welcomed

Deborah Fine

(308) 90 16 3 98

THE KwaZulu-Natal regional land claims commission has welcomed a decision by the Durban metropolitan council to enter negotiations with government over valuable council-owned property on which former residents evicted under the Group Areas Act have staked a claim.

The vacant land, known as Block AK, was earmarked by the council for a low-cost housing development, but about 191 people who were removed from the site more than 20 years ago last year lodged a claim to the land.

The claimants were part of a group of about 5 000 families evicted from a narrow strip between First Avenue and Mitchell Road, Durban, when the

neighbourhood was proclaimed a "white" area in October 1963.

The claim is one of the largest in SA's urban areas after Cato Manor in KwaZulu-Natal and District Six in Cape Town. The council has expressed a willingness to negotiate the sale of the land to the department of land affairs in order to settle the claim.

KwaZulu-Natal land claims commissioner Cheryl Walker said the successful resolution of the claim in this way would "become a powerful symbol of reconciliation and set a countrywide precedent for urban restitution".

The move towards a settlement supported the commission's position that negotiated solutions to land claims were more fruitful than costly and adversarial litigation, she said.

IFP factions battle for control of Lindelani

(308)

Farouk Chothia

20 18/9/98

DURBAN — Opposing factions within the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) called yesterday for the security force presence in Durban's Lindelani informal settlement to be stepped up after six people were killed and three others were injured in gun battles which have raged since Wednesday.

The violence is believed to be linked to a battle for control of Lindelani between one IFP faction led by Durban councillor Michael Zulu and another led by former KwaZulu-Natal MP Mandla Shabalala.

Shabalala was expelled from the IFP in 1996, and Zulu emerged as the new IFP leader in Lindelani. However, the Durban High Court ruled earlier this year that Shabalala should be reinstated as a party member.

He does not recognise Zulu's status as IFP Lindelani leader.

Both Zulu and Shabalala are currently facing attempted murder charges in connection with earlier incidents of violence in the settlement where between 30 and 60 people have died in the course of this year.

Shabalala said SA National Defence members should be deployed, and a satellite police station opened. Lindelani has no police station.

High-ranking policemen were deployed to Richmond, where there was conflict between African National Congress (ANC) and United Democratic Movement (UDM) supporters, in a bid to end violence.

Shabalala said he suspected that Safety and Security MEC Sydney Mufamadi and Police Commissioner George Fivaz were not taking similar measures in Lindelani because it was not an ANC stronghold.

Public order policing unit spokesman Sergeant Kevin Stephens said 60 policemen were patrolling Lindelani. A larger deployment could be expected.

Stephens said a 30-minute exchange of gunfire between the rival groups made Lindelani look like a "war zone" yesterday. Two people had been injured. Police had intervened to end the fighting and three people had subsequently been arrested.

Sapa reports that IFP safety and security spokesman Philip Powell said it seemed that resources which should be available to combat violence in flash-points such as Lindelani were being used in Richmond.

Decisions on allocation of resources should be based on operational criteria, rather than political expediency, Powell said.