SQUATTERS - T.V.L.

1992

JANUARY - APRIL
Co-operation the key says Hough

THE new year promised to bring South Africans closer to a new dispensation for the country as well as its provinces, Transvaal Administrator Mr Danie Hough said yesterday.

However, he warned in his New Year’s message that a new dispensation would not be successful if violence and anarchy prevalent in towns and cities were allowed to continue.

"Positive and constructive co-operation by all is needed to create peace, prosperity and welfare for each and every inhabitant of our province."

Talents

Hough said the nation’s talents and energy had been wasted for too long on generating and upholding conflict.

"I hope that self-control and realistic thinking will prevail at last," Hough predicted that as a result of continuing urbanisation, 1992 would see a tremendous increase in demands on communities, the Government and his administration in particular.

In the Transvaal alone, 390 000 erven were needed for the settlement of people living in the "backyards of the city", he said.

"It is projected that by the year 2000 in the Central, Eastern and Western Witwatersrand, including the Vaal Triangle, provision has to be made for an additional 3.3 million people.

"With the present backlog we will need 50 000 hectares of land."

Hough called on all Transvaalers to work together towards creating the new South Africa where everybody would have their own special place in society regardless of race, colour, religion or culture.

Sapa.

Last squatters evicted from gold mine's hostel

THE last of about 300 people who were staying at Durban Roodepoort Deep gold mine's hostel were evicted from the mine on Friday.

A Durban Deep spokesman said the hostel was vacant and the squatters had been moved to a site at Poortjie near Lenasia which was made available by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) in conjunction with Vaulindloa United Communities of SA (Vuosco) which acts on behalf of the homeless.

The mine started evicting people on Thursday in terms of a Supreme Court eviction order awarded on December 4. Mine management had assisted in providing transport.

Vuosco President Eric Ntshigela said his organisation only managed to arrange temporary accommodation for the evicted people as there was "a lot of documentation involved in permanent residency".

Ntshigela said about 150 families had been moved with their belongings, but they had not been provided with any shelter. The mine spokesman said the hostel, which had been extensively vandalised, would be refurbished and would house miners and their families who presently lived outside the mine premises. The evictions were peaceful.

The families were moved after last minute appeals for a reprieve on the order.

The homeless people began occupying the hostel illegally about a year ago after negotiations on selling the hostel fell through.
Group denies hand in squatter poster blitz

The Greenbelt Action Group (GAG) has denied that it released a derogatory poster urging violence against the Zevenfontein squatters in the Diepsloot area.

The posters, depicting a group labelled "Greenbelt" shooting at caricatures of President de Klerk, ANC president Nelson Mandela and the Zevenfontein squatters, were plastered throughout the area on Tuesday.

The poster campaign is the latest in the controversy surrounding the proposed relocation of the squatters.

"The poster, which has the name 'Greenbelt' prominently on it, is an incoherent, semi-literate attempt to raise emotions over the issues of squatting. We condemn it unreservedly," said GAG chairman Anthony Duggan.

GAG is conducting negotiations with the TPA over plans to relocate the squatters in the Greenbelt area north of Johannesburg and Sandton and outside Midrand. — Staff Reporter.
Goedgevonden waits in limbo

The black farmers of Goedgevonden near Ventersdorp in the Western Transvaal are being denied a new lease on life.

The land from which they were removed in 1976 has been leased to white farmers for as little as 17c a hectare by the Department of Agricultural Development and the community’s claim to it is now being contested in court.

However, until the Appellate Division decides whether to uphold a supreme court decision to have them evicted, the black community will be made to feel as if they are intruders.

The area in which they have set up their zinc shacks has been cordoned off with barbed wire and a roadblock, only open between 8am and 6pm, has been set up. Access is allowed only to residents whose names are checked off a list, which has resulted in a few scuffles with department guards.

The department will not extend opening hours and this has made it nearly impossible for some community members to get to and from work or for relatives and friends to visit.

So far no serious incidents have occurred since last May’s attack when 1 000 farmers destroyed 13 shacks, vandalised and looted the returnees’ property and injured a number of them. An interdict against the AWB, whose headquarters are in the town, has been granted.

The attack came one month after the community moved back to the land from Bophuthatswana, where they had been removed to farmland at Vriesgewagd and Germansnek.

In Goedgevonden, the agriculture department has refused to allow the community to plough or to improve their houses. To do so would be to create a “permanent situation”. The improvements to living conditions or homes.

While the department has provided running water and medical services, Geoff Budlender of the Pretoria Legal Resources Centre said of the government’s obstinacy over the other issues: “This is a reflection of how government wants to freeze the situation.”

Field workers from the International Red Cross and the Transvaal Rural Action Committee (Trac) are the only relief organisations that have been granted permission to assist the community.

The South African Red Cross Society was originally not allowed access to the farm and medical aid or food had to be passed through the fence where the roadblock is situated.

“At least they treated us better in Bophuthatswana,” said William Kgagana, whose grandparents, buried in the old graveyard, once owned grazing fields in the area. “In Bophuthatswana my three children could go to school and my cattle were able to graze but now that is impossible. The black farmers of Goedgevonden are being made to feel like intruders as they wait for an appeal against their eviction from land they used to farm.

By LINDA RULASHE

The government, by contrast, began by wanting to remove the people again to Bophuthatswana. Thereafter, they felt a solution based on principles of “agricultural productivity” could be found: people who knew only white farming would decide what was productive and they would select those who would be allowed back.

The government has rejected any proposals regarding a mixed form of farming in which part of the members of the community would be involved in communal grazing and share cropping while another is involved in off-farm employment.

The report concludes the rest of the community will either have to remain in the homeland, or move on to “site and service schemes” in urban areas, which means they would effectively become urban squatters.

There is also the question of the rest of the community — who tried to follow but were turned away at the roadblock. They are still waiting in Bophuthatswana.
Dumped families battling

By LULAMA LUTI

It may be a bright new year for some, but life is a struggle for 150 homeless families squatting in a school hall in Poortjie, near Westonaria.

Evicted from a hostel at Durban Deep mine at Roodepoort last week by a Supreme Court order, the squatters and their possessions were dumped in the veld near Dobsonville.

After Dobsonville Civic Association protested over their plight, the squatters moved into the hall owned by the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

It is in an area being developed for a low-cost housing project for squatters from Bekkersdal, some of whom are already living there.

"The TPA has agreed to give people sites here in Poortjie and they would be selling for R460," said squatter spokesman Ephraim Molebatsi.

"Rent and service charges together with the land repayment fees would amount to R61." But the shelter is only temporary and the squatters must move out when they get building materials or tents.

A woman who would not reveal her name, told City Press: "We've really suffered. Our furniture is broken and we have no money. Only God knows how we are going to survive."

Operation Hunger and the Red Cross have been providing food for the squatters and their biggest problem is a roof over their heads.

More than half the evicted families have since found alternative accommodation with friends and relatives in nearby Dobsonville.

Those who opted to go to Poortjie are now faced with more problems than before.

The lucky ones live in congested conditions in the school hall and when it rains they have to share with those who do not have shelter. The rain is further ruining their furniture, already damaged in the move.

Transport to Roodepoort, where most of the squatters work as labourers and domestics, has proved another nightmare. It is costly as well as scarce.

Health is another cause for concern. Although a local nursing sister visits the families often, the area is damp and flea-infested.

Building in the area has begun.
The title alone gave a magical ring to the recent Golden Highway Housing Expo that transformed a stretch of raw veld 30 km south of the overcrowded sprawl of Johannesburg and Soweto into a model village of low-cost homes.

Its launch stirred optimism among thousands of homeless black families that South Africa was on the brink of bold new solutions to a housing shortage now grown to crisis levels.

The wave of optimism was encouraged by the confident note struck by Cabinet Minister Leon Wessels when he addressed the crowds at the opening ceremony.

Here, midway on the Golden Highway that links Johannesburg to the Vaal Triangle, the Transvaal Provincial Administration had set aside a chunk of land where eager building contractors had the chance to erect the best bargains they had to offer within the budgets of low-income families.

All angles seemed to have been covered by Government sponsors under the commendable banner and words of the Department of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing.

It seemed that the sponsors were striking at the core of the housing problem when they stipulated that each of the 41 contractors invited to share 105 stands had to keep total costs inside a modest R10 000 — or as low as R5 000, if possible.

Affordability was the keynote. Practicality was underscored when builders had to beat a four-week deadline to complete each house from foundation to roof top.

Contractors of all shapes and sizes responded with enthusiasm to the challenge. So did potential house-buyers when they were invited to tour the expo and select their dream home while it ran from September 25 to October 9. They arrived in droves.

A team of contractors from the African Builders Association (ABA) were elated when they scooped first prize. Their winning entry — a two-bedroomed house, built in conventional brick, with lounge, bathroom and large kitchen, on offer in the R5 000-R10 000 bracket — drew the vote of no fewer than 14 000 home-hunters.

The elation has been short-lived.

ABA executive Nema Tshabalala revisited the expo site a few days ago in dismay. "The dream has been shattered," he sighed. "There was one angle that was overlooked — homebuyer access to bond finance, the key to the whole problem. Next, there was no planning to ensure the initiative maintained an ongoing momentum."

"It's all turned into bitter disappointment — a classic example of the tragic lack of a really co-ordinated housing policy that can come to grips with the crisis of the homeless."

"The hopes of thousands of potential buyers were raised and then dashed when they discovered the harsh realities of the difficulties of persuading banks and building societies to provide mortgage finance for low-cost black housing."

"Most of the financial institutions have been scared off by talk of bond payment boycotts, spasms of violence and unrest, problems when retrenchments hit jobs and family budgets, the headaches of repossessions if there are defaults on accounts."

"And the problems are compounded by the total absence of any co-ordination in all the efforts to solve the crisis. There are grand announcements about new initiatives from time to time. Then silence."

To ram home the argument, Mr Tshabalala spread his arms, twisted in a circle and gestured around the almost deserted expo site. All the demonstration houses were still standing — but are locked and barred. The only trace of the bustle of three months ago was a handful of TPA security guards.

"We had all the fanfare — but there's no sign of any follow-through to keep the momentum going. There are still late visitors who missed the show but arrive to make their choice of the house they want to order. But, as you see, the sponsors have not even left behind a noticeboard to tell them where to find more information."

"The expo raised all kinds of high expectations that finally someone was serious about solving the housing shortage. All that's left is a ghost-town." Mr Tshabalala turned and pointed across the Golden Highway. Sprawled across the very site was a vast jumble of squat terraces..."
shattered

huts packed into 16 000 sites
provided by a controlled settle-
ment scheme, named Orange
Farm, launched by the TPA.

The close juxtaposition of the
two housing initiatives, and the
sharply contrasting, seemed
ironical. "Is that going to be the
alternative while the house-
building programmes grind
almost to a halt?" he asked.

"It becomes more and more
obvious that there are crucial
missing links in the chain of
housing initiatives. Here we
have classic proof that what has
become vitally is a radical re-
think of the whole issue."

Equally bitter is a technical
expert who acts as a special ad-
viser to the South African Hous-
ing Trust and who was aston-
ished by the high quality of
many of the homes unveiled at
the expo.

"The very successful Golden
Highway Housing Expo," he has
written in a post-mortem memo
that has been handed to the
Government, "is rapidly becom-
ing a very explicit illustration
of the alarming inadequacies
of the housing process for low-cost
housing.

"On the western side of the
highway is the housing expo. It
is a cluster of splendid little
houses which is a brilliant ex-
ample of how things should be
done.

"On the eastern side is a vast
expanse of squatter huts which
mushroomed overnight. This
awesome sight is a clear signal
of how things should not be
done. There may be very good
reasons for this unfortunate
event. But what makes it so im-
portant is the speed at which it
took place and the size of the
development.

"What we see on the ground
are thousands of families trying
to house themselves. Stripped
of human dignity and encourage-
ment, they battle for survival in
what they consider to be a very
unequal dispensation.

"If abandoned to rely only on
their own resources they will
undoubtedly lose the battle, and
the area will deteriorate into a
massive slum of human dis-
tress, crime and violence. This
may easily happen within the
short time-span of three years.
The costs will then be astro-
nomical to rectify matters.

"The problem is immense,
but the housing expo shows us
visible solutions.

"It may not be possible to
provide each family with a pro-
perly built house right now, but
a start must be made to demon-
strate concern and a willingness
to assist. We must give guid-
ance and muster some sort of
financial assistance to families
who can afford it.

"We must be in direct contact
with conditions on the ground
and synchronise actions where
required. This is a better option
than to be complacent and wait
for a new South Africa to take
on the problem."

A spokesman at the Depart-
ment of Planning, Provincial
Affairs and National Housing
says the expo was organised at
the request of builders who
were eager to display what
homes could be provided in a
range affordable to low-income
families.

"It was highly successful and
a full report with all technical
details about the show houses
has been sent to the TPA and
interested parties in the private
sector," he added. "The matter
is now in the hands of the TPA."

At the TPA, an official said:"We laid on a promotion at the
Golden Highway expo for build-
ers to erect their houses and
bring them into contact with
potential customers, as they
had requested. We are involved
in the supply of stands and
basic services for housing but
we cannot arrange finance for
house construction.

"It's now up to the builders
and home-buyers to arrange de-
tails about actual purchases."
Farm dwellers to protest quit order

THOUSANDS of “squatters” at Majakaneng in the Brits district plan to stay away from work today in protest against an ultimatum to evacuate the area or face forced removal.

Pamphlets issued in the name of the Transvaal Provincial Administration have warned the estimated 1,400 families occupying the farm owned by a group of black farmers to leave the area by today or their “illegal structures” would be removed without further notice.

The pamphlets say: “The land is good for agriculture and not suitable for future establishment of towns.”

But yesterday the TPA denied knowledge of the eviction order.

The occupants of the farm claimed their presence was legal. Some produced receipts reflecting the amounts they had paid to the landowners as deposits to stay there.

The amounts range between R40 and R240.

“We are paying monthly rentals to the landowners even if we do not have basic facilities such as water supplies and schools for our children,” one tenant said.

They claimed they were also made to pay R15 for water, a R5 burial fee and R10 for school buildings before they could move in.

Local civic association chairman Mr Shadrack Mathunsi said the landowners had assured the tenants at a meeting on September 2 last year that they would be regarded as permanent residents. The assurance followed attempts by some owners to evict them.

A Department of Development Aid official confirmed the ultimatum. He said the squatters should apply for sites at Lethlabile and Hartbeesfontein townships.
CP threat over squatters

RATEPAYERS in the green belt north of Johannesburg have asked the CP to help fight Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) plans to establish a squatter area in the Diepsloot region.

CP MP Clive Derby-Lewis yesterday vowed to "take action" against the TPA unless the squatters were removed within 24 hours.

The Greenbelt Action Group (Gag) earlier rejected the establishment of the squatter area in North Rand.

Gag chairman Tony Duigan said squatters were pouring into the area despite Transvaal administrator Danie Hough's undertaking to defer a decision on resettling the Zwenfontein squatters at Diepsloot until late this month, The Star reported on Tuesday.

Later Hough said in a statement he had given instructions that a further influx of squatters should be prevented.

TPA spokesman Pieter van der Hoven said the issue of the squatters would be discussed at the TPA's executive meeting on Monday.

Derby-Lewis said the CP was waiting to see what the TPA was doing about the squatters. "They must make a decision or we will force them to make it."

Van der Hoven said the TPA had not heard from Derby-Lewis.

Resident Paul Pertin said smallholders were concerned about crime in the area.

"There are about 3,500 people occupying land illegally and there are no facilities, no sewage, no water," he said.

The CP had been contacted because local government was not interested in resolving the problem, he added.
Bold new plan to aid homeless

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

STOKVELS, which are black informal clubs investing about R170 million annually, are to embark on a business venture to provide housing options for the homeless.

The president of the National Association of Stokvels of SA, Mr Andrew Lukhele, said yesterday that a seminar would be held in Johannesburg on February 7 where details of the project would be explained.

He said the whole Stokvel City Housing Project as a business was dedicated to black economic empowerment in the interests of nation building.

Solving

He said the limitation of the State's housing and local authority policies suggested that other options could be used in the search for stability in the townships.

Research has shown that most blacks stayed in shacks or informal houses which have sprung up in open places either within or adjacent to the townships.

In the Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vaal Triangle townships there are more than 412 000 formal township houses, 422 000 backyard shacks and 635 000 shacks on vacant land, according to research.

Lukhele said stokvels were planning to help alleviate the black housing crisis by diverting millions of savings from banks to unit trusts, which would serve as collateral for housing loans.

The arrangement would allow black savings to be ploughed back into the black communities, rather than having the money loaned to affluent whites.

Catering

The South African financial system had until now been catering for regular earners with assets, fixed abodes and a track record of payment.

He said while that was a proven method of reducing the risk of non-payment, it excluded millions of blacks from formal financial assistance.

It also meant that savings by blacks were largely used as loans to rich whites in the suburbs and "very little or nothing is in turn ploughed back into the black communities who provide it and need it most," Lukhele said.

The acute housing shortage could be reduced if ingenious methods were used by concerned people in South Africa.

Sprung up

Stokvel members could use their unit trust certificates as collateral for home loans from banks. As a result of reluctance to lend money to blacks because of violence, unrest and boycotts "black self-help" was important in solving the chronic shortage of housing.

"Members of the stokvel for housing will include people who are members of stokvel groups affiliated to Nasasa and relatives who are owners or tenants in rented township houses.

Venture

It would also be ideal for houses in one street to be taken as a stokvel group because they know each other.

He said one of the first steps to be taken in this venture was for experts in town planning and related research fields to visit targeted areas such as Soweto.

"Some of the unique features include the adherence to health standards and kickbacks to tenants other than rents from backyard dwellers," he said.
New bid to control greenbelt area

By Shirley Woodgate

Plans by the Transvaal Provincial Administration to establish an area of "squatter" camps north of Johannesburg have triggered applications for the establishment of a new local authority for the area between Randburg, Midrand and Hartbeesfontein.

Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder, who is chairman of the newly formed Garden Triangle Action Group (the newest applicant), said the land was predominantly under the control of the former Peri-Urban Board for the Development of Rural Areas.

The application, by five "property owner societies", adds yet another claimant to the race for control of the vast agricultural holdings north of the city.

The Greenbelt Action Group (GAG) has also lodged an application, another is believed to have come from the Muldersdrif area, and it is speculated that Krugersdorp, Randburg and Sandton are planning to expand their northern boundaries.

Motivating the application to the Administrator, Mr van Tonder said the concept of creating squatter camps was unwelcome and outdated.

Accommodation for workers should be provided near the centre of cities, he added.

The destruction of nature in the interest of development, the random expansion of towns, and an outright refusal to become a squatter and sewage dumping ground are among the reasons for the application for a new authority.

Mr van Tonder said the Garden Triangle Action Group planned to liaise with GAG.

GAG chairman Anthony Duigan said he believed the TPA was looking at the entire region with the aim of expediting the processing of applications for the greater greenbelt area.

"We will liaise with any interested party, including the ANC, the Sevenfontein squatters, the civic associations and Mr van Tonder's group," Mr Duigan added.
SAP says it will not act to evict greenbelt squatters

POLICE would not move people out of the greenbelt north of Johannes burg, but would maintain a presence, SAP spokesman Col Frans Malherbe said yesterday.

The TPA had earlier assured the Greenbelt Action Group, which is objecting to plans to establish a squatter settlement in the area, that further influx of people would be prevented.

The police had been approached to turn would-be squatters away.

The TPA executive committee would discuss the matter at a meeting on Monday, the TPA said.

Malherbe said it was the duty of the TPA to move people out of squatter camps. "If there are no charges laid, the police do not act. So we will just maintain a presence in case of any problems, until Monday's meeting," he said.

Police and lawyers of the ratepayers would meet today to discuss the squatter problem, he added.

Smallholders in the area have objected to squatters occupying the land.

The action group's chairman Tony Duigan said the problem was that the TPA treated the problem as one that could be addressed in an ad hoc way.

"This is a national problem which calls for a national strategy," he said.

The issue was complicated by the fact that there was no local authority to take responsibility for resolving the problem in the area, he added.
Johannesburg Ratepayers in the green belt north of Johannesburg have asked the CP to help fight plans to establish a squatter area in the Diepsloot region. CP MP Mr Clive Derby-Lewis yesterday vowed to "take action" against the 'squatters' were removed within 24 hours.
Officials threaten us, say Bop squatters
Squatters conned out of R32 000

By MARTIN NTSEOLENGO

MORE than 500 homeless Elandsfontein families in the Western Transvaal have been conned into paying Joseph Matshite R32 000 for land reserved for farming.

Now Chief John Mapho wants them out before the end of the month.

Some of the squatters have already left and are being accommodated at Phatsemi near Rustenburg, and the government is providing transport for those who want to leave.

But a few squatters, led by Julius Molawa, have vowed to fight until they are compensated. Most of them are confused because, although chief Mapho has ordered them off his land, Matshite, the chief's cousin, has told them to ignore the order.

The squatters claimed that Matshite told them the land was bought by his clan from Reuben Magoane in 1936. They also claimed Matshite did not come to see them after they had been ordered off the land, although each family had paid him R450.

NOWHERE TO GO... Villagers pack up their belongings.

Pic: SIPHIWE MHLAMI

They said no one knew where he was.

Julius Molawa told City Press Mapho had made life hell for the squatters for four years, and more than 4,000 children at the settlement were not attending school.

Molawa claimed his six children were not allowed to go to school in Mapho-pestad although he had paid school fees.

He said he paid Mapho R10 to be accepted as a clan member, R25 for graves, and R50 for school buildings. Mapho denied the claim.

Molawa said after Mapho allowed him to live in Elandsfontein he built an R8 000 house and bought cattle.

Most of the affected families said all they wanted was to get their money back and get out of Elandsfontein.

Mapho was calm when he spoke to City Press, but became agitated when Molawa's name was mentioned.

"He is the one who is causing all the trouble," he said.

Chief Cronen wants them out by end of month

"Who is Matshite? Who are you talking about?"

Mapho's account was supported by the commanding officer of the Boons police station, W/O Du Preez, who said that what Matshite did was totally wrong and contrary to the spirit of an agreement reached in 1912, when the farm was bought from J H Coetzee.

He said 22 people bought the land from Coetzee, and the agreement was that the Maphopes would be the controlling clan because they had paid more than the Matshites.

The title deed stipulated that the land on which the families were squatting be reserved for grazing and ploughing.

JULIUS MOLAWA

He claimed Molawa told farm labourers that land was for sale, and brought in people from different tribes.

When asked about Matshite he asked:
The punch lines: Oxfordshire's high school students are asked to come up with the best punchline to the joke: Why did the tomato turn red? It saw the salad dressing.
The Dark City

The battle for a patch of land in the Complex

The island is no longer a place of refuge. Its former inhabitants have disappeared, leaving behind desolate ruins. The once peaceful community is now a battleground of competing factions. The remaining residents struggle to survive in a world scarred by conflict. The ghosts of the past haunt the island, reminding everyone of the fragility of life. Can the island ever return to its former glory, or is it destined to remain a desolate wasteland?
Decision on Midrand squatters delayed
Lessons of whites-only referendum

THERE is a valuable lesson to be learnt by the liberation movement in the recent whites-only referendum.

Moreover, this referendum could have precipitated an unprecedented ideological shake-up in contemporary politics.

Since the unbanning of the ANC in 1990, and the return to South Africa of its leaders and indeed the commencement of talks between Government and political leaders, both sides have had to look over their left and right shoulders respectively.

Government looked nervously over its right shoulder at the groundswell of far-right radicalism, and the ANC did likewise over its left, at the extreme left.

But that was in the context of negotiations, in the grand ideological picture these positions were quite significant. On the far right was the Conservative Party which 10 years ago, almost to the day, formed the radical nucleus of the National Party.

On the far left, the PAC reminded the ANC of things radical and unsettling. Thirty-odd years ago, the PAC formed the radical core of the ANC, in a manner of speaking. Between the two of them, the CP and PAC have thus over the past 25 years been the conscience of the main political parties, as it were.

While the NP and ANC were said to represent the emerging political future of South Africa, the CP and the PAC represented all the fear and loathing still inherent in the country's collective subconscious.

The far right saw the NP as a danger to white hegemony in politics in South Africa, and indeed to the white people in Africa. The far left (PAC) saw the ANC as selling however daunting a task it may seem.

Leaving the PAC/CP bloc on the fringes of the national debate would be disastrous — especially if a settlement is reached. The (logical) big fear is that a Renamo or Unita situation could develop in the region. And here is where the lesson can be learnt from President FW de Klerk's referendum.

De Klerk held his breath and did the most unenviable thing in the light political developments.

As the head of a non-racial political party heading (with the ANC) negotiations obviously aimed at reaching a nonracial and democratic future, De Klerk called a whites-only referendum.

It was called a gamble, and risky, and a cheek, and racist, and but call it what you will, De Klerk's referendum took care of the CP in a way only he could and on the CP's terms in a racist whites-only poll. The result is now history, and there are great expectations building up of a split in the CP camp, but more so of a palace coup that could see the far right at the negotiating table.

How does this affect the far left? Well it's simple, it is up to the ANC-Government has clearly dealt with its ghost. It might be a very academic argument, but if the far-right arrives at the negotiating table in whatever form, that outer circle will have been smashed.

Just how far talks within the black liberation movement could have gone earlier will remain a mystery, but one can speculate at length about exactly what serious talks (before any further negotiations) between the ANC and PAC might deliver.

In a way, De Klerk has buried his past. The ANC, through which the future no doubt lies, could make that future a lot brighter if it dealt with the PAC.
AWB ‘to chuck squatters out’

"EITHER the Zevenfontein squatters go, or we go. And I ain’t mov- ing," said an angry Midrand resident yester- day after he initiated police barricades to be set up to stop more squatters from settling there.

The resident, an organiser of the Chartwell North Action Group, said the Afrikaner Weerstands- beweging might be called in to remove the 650 families if they did not leave, "and that is not the biggest card up our sleeve".

The man did not want his name published because he was "too close to the squatter camp for comfort".

He said many people in the area of Chartwell, Broadacres, Fourways and Kyalami had joined the Conservative Party. He said they were in touch with the party on a daily basis.

On Monday they distributed pamphlets in the area warning squatters they had settled there illegally and that they would have to go. No time limit was set, but the organiser said he wanted them out "right now if possible".

He would not elaborate.

Yesterday, infuriated Zevenfontein residents who had left for work in vehicles were stopped over a kilometre from the camp by barricades made of piled-up earth, guarded by policemen recruited by the action group.

The organiser said no vehicles would be allowed in, in case they were carrying building materials.

22/11/92

Only emergency vehicles and those carrying elderly people would be allowed in.

Others would have to park and walk, said the organiser.

On Monday the action group stopped a water tanker from Randburg from going into the squatter camp, but said they allowed it through yesterday.

Transvaal Provincial Administration director of liaison services Mr Piet Wilken said the TPA last week ordered police to make sure no more shacks were erected.

"But people have to understand the homeless must be settled somewhere. "We are doing our utmost to put them in suitable places."

A final decision on where to move the Zevenfontein squatters would be taken by the TPA's executive committee by the end of this week," said Wilken.

Mrs Winnie Mandela and Coretta Scott King, widow of the slain civil rights activist, Martin Luther King Jr salute well-wishers during the march to commemorate his birthday.
White residents block squatters

JOHANNESBURG. — A committee formed by white residents of Chartwell on the North Rand had started 24-hour patrols of entrances to the Zevenfontein squatter camp to prevent more people moving into the area.

The chairman of the Chartwell Action Committee, Mr Mike Findlay, said the committee had been authorised by the owners of the land to exercise control over numbers.

More than 100 trucks and bakkies carrying building material had been prevented from entering the camp over the weekend, he said.

Mr Findlay said the committee was in contact with squatter leaders and there had been no incidents between the two groups.

The main entrance to the squatter camp, on a private road, has been blocked off by sand heaps and is being guarded by the police. — Sapa
Drip technician ‘jackadaiical’

A TECHNICIAN could have contaminated drips which allegedly caused the deaths in 1980 of 13 babies, a Johannesburg inquest heard yesterday.

The court was told that during routine quality control tests conducted by drip manufacturer Sabax, technician Allan Davies regularly failed (40% of the time) to exercise the “skills and procedures” required in terms of international norms.

The skills and procedures required of Davies were integral to the company’s quality control process, known as process validation, and necessary to maintain sterile conditions during drip production.

Microbiologist Prof Margaretha Isacson of the SA Institute of Medical Research, who yesterday offered evidence of her investigation into Sabax facilities, labelled Davies “inexperienced” and “jackadaiical”. Isacson said Davies was a potential source of infection.

In her report, Isacson said “although it was not shown there was a causal connection between Davies’ skill and the contaminated products”, he should be transferred to “less sensitive duties”.

Reviewing quality control tests, attorney Peter Soller, representing 10 of the families which lost babies, said sterile conditions had been compromised on production equipment during testing.

He said bacteria tests done in the cabinet in which the drips were produced showed contamination.

During cross-examination by advocate Clive Cohen SC, representing Sabax, Isacson said technicians’ skills and procedures were “most important” in guaranteeing the sterility of the end product.

Isacson criticised Sabax testing procedures, saying neither drip components certified sterile by suppliers nor the Sabax end product were tested for contamination. However, a body of opinion regarded these tests as unnecessary.

The inquest continues today.

Azayo vows to continue its campaigns

THE Azanian Youth Organisation (Azayo) would continue to provide visiting artists with a “hot reception”, president Thami Mceqwana said yesterday after his release from detention on Monday.

Mceqwana was detained for more than a week in connection with the grenade attack on the offices of the Paul Simon tour management before Simon’s first concert two weeks ago.

Mceqwana said his detention under the Internal Security Act was an attempt to intimidate Azayo.

“We will definitely continue to use any means possible to stop the tour,” he said last night. “And any other artists can expect not to get kidgloves treatment from us if they come here to make money.”

Mceqwana added, however, that Azayo would leave alone artists who contributed to black culture, such as American director Spike Lee, who arrives tomorrow to begin filming Malcolm X.

But US rap group Snap, which is planning a visit in a few months, could expect “a hot reception”, he said.

Whites patrol squatter camp

A COMMITTEE formed by white residents of Chartwell on the North Rand has started 24-hour patrols of entrances to the Zevenfontein squatter camp to prevent more people moving into the area.

More than 100 truck and bakkie loads of building material had been prevented from entering the camp over the weekend, he said.

Findlay claimed the committee was in contact with squatter leaders and there had been no incidents between the two groups.

Last night a police spokesman could not confirm that a committee had been formed to patrol the entrance, but said police were patrolling the area and all was quiet.

Police fired first shots, says AWB
For Orange Farm
Low-cost houses

The company is planning to construct a township to be called Orange Farm near Pretoria. This is intended to be one of the largest low-cost housing developments in South Africa. The township will provide accommodation for low-income groups. The company is researching the best methods to construct low-cost houses, and plans to build several prototypes to test different materials and techniques. The company also plans to train local workers to ensure that the houses are built to the highest standards. Completion of the project is expected in the next few years.
MP warns of flare-up over squatter row

By Shirley Woodgate

North Rand MP Louis de Waal has appealed for calm in the face of threats by the Chartwell North Action Group to call in the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging to remove the 650 "squatter" families living illegally in Zevenfontein.

He warned yesterday: "Any hasty action will have far-reaching implications which could spark an incident that would make the Ventersdorp clash between police and the AWB look like a picnic.

"A flare-up in that region could seriously damage the Codesa talks."

In a reference to the possible development of an east/west arc of 13 low-cost villages between Johannesburg and Pretoria, he said: "All parties involved in the squatter row in the north-western PWV must accept the principle that low-cost housing must be provided for people who work and live in the area."

He said the only solution to the problem was a compromise. It was now necessary to put the strongest possible pressure on Randburg and Sandton — neither of which had townships where workers employed in the two towns could live — to take responsibility for developing housing schemes in areas accessible to their industrial regions, he said.

They would have to act in co-operation with the Government, as the agent for land which fell outside the jurisdiction of local authorities.

Mr de Waal said the TPA should be given every opportunity with Randburg and Sandton, together with interested pressure groups and political parties, to establish a workable short-term solution to the Zevenfontein issue.

This group was not typical of all "squatters" since for the past 10 to 20 years about 90% of the people had illegally paid rent of R30 a head to an individual to live on the land.

The Red Cross estimated that between 65 and 80 percent of the people were employed in nearby Randburg and Sandton. It was a viable community until it was evicted," he said.

After their eviction three months ago, the Zevenfontein "squatters" have been allowed to live on land belonging to a local farmer, but the deadline to move is at the end of this month and the TPA has promised a decision by today on a move to Diepsloot.

Mr de Waal warned that if the TPA dragged its heels over a long-term strategy for informal housing, the north-western PWV could be over-run by an Orange Farm-type situation.

He suggested the TPA contribution to a future settlement could be by way of changing the title deeds of owners, after expropriation for informal settlements had taken place and surrounding land values had been detrimentally affected.

"They could allow rezoning of the agricultural holdings to allow industrial developments to offset the losses incurred by landowners."

It was vital that an acceptable solution be found by keeping all avenues of debate open, he added.
Randburg seeks housing sites

Randburg plans to appoint consultants to investigate sites for the establishment of informal settlements and low-cost housing schemes inside or outside the town's borders, according to management committee chairman Andre Jacobs. Commenting on the Zevenfontein squatter issue, Mr Jacobs said: "Since we are not yet ready to talk to the TPA about these people, we believe they must be moved to Diepsloot on two conditions. "One is that all local authorities in the region must urgently investigate how they can contribute to the solution." "The other is that the TPA must put together a committee consisting of all town and local area committees in the area to draw up an overall housing strategy for low-cost settlements in the region," he said.

Cosmo City, already earmarked as a likely area for high-density housing, is being considered for low-cost housing. Mr Jacobs said, "No final decisions have been taken on the issue."

Randburg committee chairman Bruce Stewart said only about 1,000 artisans were employed in the town, half of them housed in a hostel in Alexandra. "Within Sandton's borders, the largely undeveloped Frankenwald area had been identified as suitable for affordable housing, and the Johannesburg Metropolitan Action Group had already identified Linbro Park as being suitable for high-density housing."

Sandton management Mr Stewart stressed...
In search of solutions to the squatting problem...
No convictions as train blitz resumes

DESPITE the arrests of several suspects, no one has yet been convicted in connection with train attacks which have left at least 145 dead and more than 700 injured in the past 18 months.

Commuters, meanwhile, are again running a gauntlet of death as violence on trains returns after a season of calm, with seven dead and 23 injured so far this week.

Yesterday two men were found dead near Westgate Station at first light, Sapa reports. They had been hacked with pangas and were then apparently thrown off a train, police said.

Two other commuters were injured at Riverlea Station and a man at Nancefield was attacked by a mob with pangas.

'Peace Action, an independent monitoring group, noted "a definite increase" in train-related violence since last week.

The period from mid-November until the first week of January had been "very quiet", a fact the group put down to increased police presence on commuter trains.

Monitors accused police of not doing enough to prevent attacks or apprehend and convict attackers, a charge denied by the SAPA.

A Peace Action spokesman yesterday alleged that policemen had stood idle on Tuesday evening while about 20 armed men boarded a train at Mayfair Station.

Alleged killer Albert Dlamini faced three charges of murder and nine of attempted murder in the Germiston Magistrate's Court on Friday — more than three months after he was arrested by civilians during the October 9 attack on a commuter train between Katlehong and Waderville, which left three dead and nine injured. He is out on R2,000 bail.

After the murders on trains near Jeppe in 1999, police arrested about 10 people, most of whom were released when the case was temporarily withdrawn.

It is understood that three people are still awaiting trial on murder charges in connection with attacks in which 49 people died in September 1998.

Police say strategies implemented last year, including reinforcements on trains and at stations, and helicopter patrols, are still in force.

But with 641 trains moving through the Reef daily, it was impossible to have personnel on duty at every station and on every train, said SAPA spokesman Capt Engela De Beer.

Last year police began patrolling platforms and trains, and searching passengers for weapons using metal detectors.

"Law and Order" Minister Maj-Gen Leon Molele put the current wave of violence down to "gangsterism", and said: "We have little doubt the majority of incidents are criminally motivated."

SAA Rail Commuter Corporation director Koos Meyer said the corporation was aware of the rising rate of violence, but added that safety of passengers was a police responsibility.

Soweto police spokesman Capt Joseph Nqobeni said yesterday police had sufficient staff on metro trains. In a prepared statement, he blamed the recent deaths on false alarms.

ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said theorganisation doubted whether the violence was due to criminal activity. "Gangsters may attack people, but what would be the purpose of throwing them from trains?"

Meanwhile, Witwatersrand Attorney-General Klaus Hel big said that only one case against an alleged train killer was pending, resulting from the attack on Jeppe Station last year. However, there might still be some dockets outstanding.

TPA faces hard task over squatters

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) today faces a tough decision on what to do about the North Rand squatters as groups of residents in the area vow to take drastic action if the shacks dwelhers are allowed to stay near their homes.

Residents of the North Chartwell area near Zevenfontein farm, where several hundred squatter families are staying illegally, warned yesterday that the squatters would be forcibly removed if the TPA allowed them to stay.

The North Chartwell Action Group is already "patrolling" the Zevenfontein squatter camp and preventing trucks loaded with corrugated iron — for building shacks — from entering.

And residents in nearby Dipsloof, where the TPA has proposed to move the squatters, warned yesterday there would be "armed resistance" if the squatters were relocated there.

The TPA said on Monday it would "probably" make a decision today on the fate of the squatters, whose numbers have risen dramatically recently.

The CP has given the TPA a 10-day ultimatum to remove the squatters.

An informed CP source said yesterday Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough had admitted to colleagues recently that the TPA "does not know where to put the squatters".

Local residents' patrols and barricades of the Zevenfontein settlement continued yesterday, although no violence was reported.
TPA invites ideas on squatters

A WORKING group of all parties interested in the controversial low-cost housing area north of Johannesburg is to be instituted, the Department of Community Development announced yesterday.

Deputy director-general of the department L Dekker said the working group, chaired by chief director of Physical Planning and Development of the Transvaal Provincial Administration P P C van der Hoven, would investigate and evaluate all proposals for a solution to homelessness in the area.

It would report to the Executive Committee of the TPA by March 31.

About the immediate problem of relocating the Zevenfontein squatters, Dekker said the community would be moved within a week.

“The TPA is urgently negotiating with especially the Randburg Town Council and the Sandton Town Council to try to find land closer to work opportunities and where basic services could be provided,” he added.

Dekker said more time was needed to evaluate proposals that had been received from interested groups up to yesterday morning.

“What is definitive is that the community will be moved before the end of January. If a suitable site cannot be found closer to Randburg or Sandton, they will temporarily be moved to Diepsloot, the original site chosen for them.”

Arrangements would be made for basic services to be provided at this site until a permanent site could be found.

“The present site at Zevenfontein is not suited. It has an adverse impact on the environment and the living circumstances are poor,” he said.

Dekker said the issue of finding space for the influx of poor people was obviously sensitive and the working group had been introduced to hear proposals by all interested groups and individuals — Sapa.

PW tapes subject of official probe

CAPE TOWN — Ombudsman Mr Justice Piet van der Walt confirmed yesterday he was investigating a complaint by former President PW Botha about the destruction of the tape-recording of his conversation with ANC president Nelson Mandela.

He could not say when the investigation would be completed.

A spokesman for Botha said he had no comment.

The complaint concerns a recording made in 1989 of a conversation between Botha and Mandela, who at that stage was serving a life sentence. The recording was destroyed by the National Intelligence Service after notes had been made about the discussions.

Last year, Botha strongly criticised the decision to destroy the recording and said this had been done without his permission.

Inquest told of Sabax's delay in advising against drips

DRIP manufacturer Sabax had not "considered" advising client hospitals to change their baby drips until five months after it was told its products could be contaminated, a Johannesburg inquest into the deaths of 13 babies heard yesterday.

Sabax was first informed by Garden City Clinic of possible drip contamination on May 1990, but only stopped supplying the implicated products in late September 1990. However, Sabax quality assurance manager Keith Allen said bacterial tests on products removed from hospitals and performed by Sabax in June 1990 had found no contamination.

During cross-examination by Advocate R Levine, representing Clinic Holdings — Garden City's holding company — Allen said a company representative had followed up incidents at Garden City Clinic and Johannesburg Hospital in May and June 1990.

He confirmed the company had "not officially" considered advising hospitals to change to a heat sterilised product.

On Wednesday, Corporate planner for Sabax's holding company Adcock Ingram, Arthur Barnett said Sabax stopped supplying the drips in late September after contamination was found in drips received by two babies who died at Morningside Clinic.

The inquest continues.
TPA officials tear down shacks at Zevenfontein

By Guy Jepson and Carina le Grange

Transvaal Provincial Administration officials preempted their own decision on the fate of the Zevenfontein informal settlement near Lonehill, north of Johannesburg, when they started dismantling shacks yesterday morning.

Residents said that officials, escorted by police, began the work at about 6.30 am — about 12 hours before the deputy director-general of the TPA’s community development department, Len Dekker, said the settlement would be moved within seven days.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman confirmed last night that “a few incomplete structures” were removed by TPA officials and land owners earlier in the day.

“At the request of the owners of the property, the TPA and the owners removed incomplet-ed structures that people had just started building.

“He could not say how many.

“The police were only there to protect the people who took part (in removing the shacks). We had nothing to do with the actual removals whatsoever,” Captain Opperman said.

Several of the ramshackle settlement’s 650-odd residents claimed that many structures were dismantled and removed by truck — along with the contents of some shacks.

Said Aaron Mthembu: “This morning I left for work at about 6.30 am as usual. I went to fetch my car on the other side of the police roadblock (set up outside the settlement to prevent the further influx of people) and on my way I saw plenty of trucks driving into Zevenfontein, with the police.

“I asked what the trucks were doing and was told they don’t want to see us here any more,” he said.

Mr Mthembu said that one of the men in the demolition party informed him he was “an AWB member”.

Roy Mbowane, a middle-aged driver employed in Wynberg, said he received a telephone call at about 8 am telling him to hurry home as “something bad” was happening.

“I found the officials busy. My shack was gone. I don’t know what I’m going to do.”

Mr Mbowane said the contents of the shack he and his wife Caroline share — including two beds, a sink, a table, two pots, two chairs and blankets — were also missing.

He had been told by a Sakkie Lombard that the items would be taken to Germiston. He was also given a contact number.

The TPA could not be reached for comment last night, but in a statement to Sapa Mr Dekker said the settlement would “definitely” be moved before the end of the month, although sites were still being negotiated with the Randburg and Sandton councils.

If a suitable site could not be found closer to Randburg or Sandton they would temporarily be moved to Diepsloot, the original site chosen for them and arrangements would be made for basic services to be provided at this site until a permanent site could be found.

He also said that a working group of all parties interested in low-cost housing for the area north of Johannesburg would be instituted.

Greenbelt Action Group chairman Anthony Duigan said last night that it was imperative that Randburg municipality had to get involved in finding alternative solutions for the problems of the Zevenfontein residents as about 70 percent of them worked in Randburg.
Shacks razed

in year after

Squatters live

BY ISAAC MOLDI

ABOUT 600 Zambian squatters lost their homes.

The squatters were evicted after a court order was issued to clear the area for development by the government.

The eviction was carried out in the early hours of the morning, causing widespread unrest among the residents.

The court order was based on land use regulations, which the squatters claimed were not properly implemented.

The eviction caused a stir among human rights activists, who called for a peaceful resolution to the issue.

The government, however, defended its action, saying it was necessary for urban planning and development.

The eviction left many families homeless, with makeshift camps set up in nearby areas.

The situation has sparked a debate on housing and urban planning in the country.
The fact that they are poor does not mean squatters are always right

You can see the Zevenfontein squat camp from the air. It's right beside the ruler-straight, gleaming silver aqueduct north-west of Johannesburg which pilots use as a beacon.

It's unimpressive — the usual agglomeration of do-it-yourself shacks and huts, home to an estimated 4,000 people.

What makes Zevenfontein special is that it's rapidly become a symbol of the modern South Africa — and an example of the problems which life has ahead for most of us.

Just north of the squat camp is a part of the world called Chartwell. It's made up of plots of land, most with houses on them, some quite fancy, but mostly unspectacular.

The residents there say they enjoy living in the country; they have a bit of extra space, and many run chickens or other animals.

They'll also tell you that it used to be a bit isolated, and you needed a good watchdog. Now, however, since the squatters arrived, you need more than just a dog. You need a good gun.

Crime is soaring. Houses are broken into with monotonous regularity. Living in the country, this part of the country, is downright dangerous.

The folk in Chartwell want to see the squatters moved on. They admit, quite freely, they don't much care where to.

Now, it's a funny thing about squatters, but there is a tendency in certain quarters, especially in the media, to assume that right is on their side.

They are poor. They are homeless. They are "victims of the system". They are oppressed. Therefore, runs the common logic, anyone who wants to see them shifted must be in the wrong.

But stop for a second and consider the Zevenfontein/Chartwell example. If 4,000 squatters moved in next door to you, how would you feel?

Whether you live in a flat or a house or on a plot is irrelevant. Even a small camp like Zevenfontein is dirty, unsightly, and unsanitary.

Nor do I know of too many liberals prepared to step in and say to the squatters — fine, come and live in my back garden.

It's very easy to be righteous, provided the poor are cluttering up someone else's doorstep.

But more important than this is the question of land rights and values.

The right to own a piece of land and put your home on it is an idea central to our concept of society, whether Western or African. Remove this right and suddenly we will be behind the Iron Curtain, in the socialist Dark Ages.

Now, clearly, the squatters are trying to exercise this right. Like the rest of us, they want no more than a piece of land on which they can build a shelter for their families. But they cannot do this if they infringe the rights of the residents of Chartwell.

And yes, the people in Chartwell have exactly the same rights as the squatters in Zevenfontein, despite the fact that they might be better off and white.

A right is something applicable to all, not just the disadvantaged.

The argument is easier to grasp if you consider something tangible like a motor car.

You have two cars and I have none. Therefore, I will seize one of your cars. We will then each have a car and be able to go on our separate journeys, yes?

No. Only in the realms of socialist fantasy is this acceptable. Elsewhere, it is called theft.

The same process applies to land. A squat camp springing up next door is a form of theft, depriving a community like Chartwell of value as efficiently as a car thief.

The culprits in all of this, in truth, are neither the squatters, nor the burglers of Chartwell.

The culprits are instead the planners and administrators who have failed so abjectly to make provision for the poor.

In doing so, they have created the squatters, South Africa's own Boat People.
Squatters: the problem no one wants

PART of the millions of rands which municipalities collected in assessment rates from businesses should be used to provide effective housing for their workers, says ANC PWV region spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa.

Entering the row over the resettlement of the Zevendein squatters, the said that 78 percent of the area was derived from business and industrial property, but used towards subsidising residential environments with high cost services.

There should be a proportional link between the rates paid by businesses and the provision of land for workers, either inside or outside the towns," he added.

As the pressure to provide land for the squatters shits from the Transvaal Provincial Administration to Randburg and Sandton, where most of the residents are employed, the Administrator of Administration Danie Both said the 560 families would be temporarily resettled in a transit area until a permanent site was found.

He said the two towns and the Local Government Affairs Council would be approached for the loan of a temporary site, but if negotiations failed, the squatters would be moved to 30 ha in Diederiek, which would be declared a transit area.

It is believed permanent sites being investigated for low-cost housing by Randburg include Marceladale and Cosmo City. It.

At this late hour, the TPA has also decided to appoint a working group at which all parties will be represented to evaluate the existing urbanisation strategy and identify sites under the jurisdiction of Midrand, Sandton and Randburg for permanent, orderly urbanisation.

Welcoming the announcement, Mr Mamoepa referred to previous TPA plans to establish a network of squatter villages in the northern PWV, and said the TPA had no right to move squatters or identify land for informal housing without full consultation.

Gaggen Triangle Group spokesman Robert van Tonder warned that the Zevendein residents would probably have to live in Diederiek for "quite a while", and he repeated a previous call for Randburg and Sandton to help in the provision of housing for those affected.

The chairman of the Charterwell Local Area Committee, Graham Dean said the announcement was good, in that the TPA had accepted responsibility for moving the people, but it was bad moving them to Diederiek and leaving the people there.

"Social engineering creates conflict — you cannot put squatters next to people with million-rand assets and, wherever you move them, there will be conflict. They must go where they will be acceptable to the community," he said.

Greenbelt Action Group chairperson Tony Duigan said it was imperative that Randburg get involved, as the people worked in Randburg.

Mr Duigan also said GAG found the TPA's decision that Diederiek could be made into a "transit camp" unlikely as it could trigger a higher level of conflict.

"We remain implacably opposed to any form of dense settlement in the area," he said.

A group calling itself Peace Action which has started monitoring the situation, has claimed widespread intimidation of the squatters by the South African Defence Force and local residents.

"Chartwell can't have a squatter camp this week, allowing only residents to go in or out," Mr Duigan said.

Photograph Sean Woods
Zeivenfontein: conflict looms

By MARTIN NTSELENGE

A TIME-BOMB is ticking away in Zeivenfontein between squatters and landowners.

A violent confrontation in that area grows more likely every day as stand owners from surrounding areas are threatening to physically remove the defiant squatters.

The Diepsloot Residents' Association (Dare) and the Chartwell Action Group (Cag) have more than 1 000 members ready to force the squatters out of the area. A leading member of the Conservative Party, MP Clive Derby-Lewis, confirmed he had sent an ultimatum to the TPA.

Writing on behalf of the "afflicted white residents of the area" through the Chartwell North Action Group, he says: "I wish to inform you that unless the Zeivenfontein squatters are removed by January 30, 1992, to a recognised black residential area, action will be launched with the express purpose of ridding the area of illegal squatters, whose criminal activities appear to be condoned by the government."

AWB leader Eugene Terre Blanche confirmed that his organisation had been asked for help.

The 700 squatter families at Zeivenfontein camp have been at the centre of a row between the TPA, residents in the area and the Greenbelt Action Group (Gag).

- The office of TPA Administrator Danie Hough issued a statement saying the squatters should be resettled by the end of the month in a suitable area and the city council of Randburg and Sondton would be asked to provide a temporary site.

The TPA added that the families would be resettled in a transit area, where water, sewerage and refuse disposal would be provided.

If negotiations are successful, the TPA would approve the purchase of parts of Diepsloot Farm in terms of the Illegal Squatting Act of 1954.

The TPA executive is to appoint a working group comprising representatives of all concerned parties to evaluate urbanisation.
Diepsloot residents warn of bloodbath

RESIDENTS near Diepsloot yesterday warned of a bloodbath if the 4000 Zevenfontein squatters were moved to the North Rand area by the TPA later this week.

The residents said they would not tolerate a rising tide of crime in their area if the squatters were allowed in.

They also said they blamed the TPA for the “mess” and said the squatters did not want to move to Diepsloot either.

But squatters on the Zevenfontein farm said yesterday most of them worked in the area, that there was no crime emanating from the squatter camp, and they would not mind moving to Diepsloot. Most also said they believed the TPA had tried its best to resolve the “difficult situation”.

“We just want to go somewhere where we will be allowed to live,” one said.

Most of the squatters said their greatest fear was that their building materials would be taken away if their shacks were demolished.

Over the weekend, local Zevenfontein residents once again issued an ultimatum to the squatters to move — but residents near the Diepsloot farm, where the TPA is proposing to move the squatters “temporarily”, say they want to preserve their area as a rural “green lung”.

Diepsloot residents gathered in a local estate agency yesterday spoke of their fear of escalating crime and overcrowding that would accompany an influx of squatters.

Man killed, 7 hurt in train attacks

A TRAIN commuter was killed by gunmen who opened fire from Johannesburg’s President station yesterday morning, police reported.

A 28-year-old man was fatally wounded in the 7.15am attack. Police said they found no injured, but witnesses told police several other injured had fled. (238)

The attackers, believed to be two men, disappeared.

And, earlier at 6.55am, on a train running between Wadeville and Katlehong, a policeman was shot by four men who removed his service pistol before throwing him off the train.

The injured policeman walked to a nearby road from where he called an ambulance. He is in a stable condition in hospital.

The same group apparently also shot at other commuters before alighting at Germiston West Station from where they began firing at passing trains.

Five men and a woman were injured. An ambulance spokesman said the woman was shot in the head and an elderly man in the chest.

One man is in a coma at the Willem Cruywagen Hospital in Germiston, while the woman has been transferred to the Johannesburg Hospital.

Police found Makarov pistol cartridges at the scene, but the men were allegedly also armed with AK-47 rifles.

— Sapa.
Squatters move to go ahead

THE Zevenfontein squatters will almost certainly be moved to the Diepsloot farm at the end of this week despite protests from local residents and the Greenbelt Action Group (GAG).

The last resort open to the TPA to avoid a potentially confrontational situation has failed as both Sandton and Randburg councils said yesterday they would be unable to accommodate squatters this week.

Residents near Diepsloot said they would resort to violence even if the 4,000 squatters were moved there temporarily.

But some squatters said yesterday they all had jobs and the fears of the local residents were unfounded.

A TPA spokesman confirmed yesterday that the squatters would be moved to Diepsloot as a suitable site had not been found for them elsewhere. Diepsloot residents insist it is the prerogative of Randburg and Sandton councils to find houses for the squatters, as many are employed there.

The spokesman emphasised the move was temporary and said the squatters would stay at Diepsloot until the end of March, by which time a working group comprising representatives from the TPA, local councils, the Metropolitan Chamber, residents' associations and the squatters would have identified sites in the North Rand area suitable for "permanent urbanisation".

Sandton Council spokes-
mAn Deline van Wyk said yesterday the council would not come up with any alternative sites for the squatters before the end of the week – the TPA's deadline for the move.

And a spokesman for Randburg council said it was unlikely that space would be provided for the squatters by the end of the week, although the council was investigating possible cost housing sites.

GAG is having a meeting tomorrow night to decide what to do about the issue. Meanwhile, local residents have been saying in private that they want to barricade Diepsloot against the TPA trucks moving the squatters in on Friday, and that they will try to convince GAG to support this action.
Midrand to administer Ivory Park squatters

The Midrand Town Council has announced it will take over the administration of the Ivory Park squatter settlement north of Johannesburg. A statement issued yesterday on behalf of the council said the takeover was agreed upon in principle in conjunction with the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), which currently administers Ivory Park.

The move was in line with the overall redevelopment plan for the area surrounding Ivory Park, said Midrand Town Council management committee chairman Mr Dave Hidden.

"The funds will come from the TPA, which has undertaken to make good any shortfall." He said the TPA would buy 109 hectares of land in nearby Rabie Ridge on behalf of Midrand from the House of Representatives to accommodate about 1400 homeless families.

The TPA would also assist in funding R9 million for basic services on the 1766 stands in the area. Work to establish the services would be completed by March 31.

The Department of National Health had guaranteed that sufficient funds be made available to Midrand to erect two clinics to meet the health needs of the Ivory Park and Rabie Ridge inhabitants, he said. — Sapa.
Church leaders to visit squatter camp

A GROUP of church leaders, led by South African Council of Churches general secretary the Rev Frank Chikane, will visit the Zevenfontein squatter community today, the church body announced yesterday.

The move came as negotiations for the resettlement of the squatters continued yesterday in a bid to beat tomorrow's deadline.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration on the one hand and the Sandton and Randburg municipalities on the other were still locked in talks on the issue yesterday.

Plans to relocate the squatters evoked outcry from both left and rightwing organisations.

The resettlement of the squatters will go ahead tomorrow unless an alternative site is hastily granted by the Sandton and Randburg municipalities.

Dismal living

The TPA maintains the Zevenfontein site is unsuitable for permanent settlement, due to poor living conditions and a consequent adverse impact on the environment.

Meanwhile, the squatters themselves this week seemed keen to move to escape their present dismal living conditions, but said they felt insecure about the temporary relocation.
Task group seeks out sites for homeless

An urbanisation task group has been appointed to identify sites where thousands of homeless people can be settled in Midrand, Verwoerdburg and north of Randburg and Sandton, Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough said yesterday. The urbanisation strategy for the whole PWV region would also be taken into account.

Permanent, suitable sites would have to be identified for low-cost housing directed at the huge influx of homeless people.

The task group consists of 15 members, including representatives from Randburg, Roodepoort, Sandton, Verwoerdburg and Midrand town councils, the West Rand and Witwatersrand Central regional services councils, the Metropolitan Chamber for the Central Witwatersrand, the Greenbelt Action Group, Operation Massakhane for the Homeless and the local area committees of Chartwell, Muldersdrift and Rantesig.

Mr Hough said similar task groups would be appointed to evaluate other PWV sites.
Randburg city council gives squatters land

PRETORIA.— The Randburg City Council has provided land for permanent occupation by the Zevenfontein squatters in what provincial administrator Mr Danie Hough yesterday hailed as a turning point in the territory’s history.

Never before in the history of the Transvaal — and possibly elsewhere in South Africa — had any exclusively white council offered full municipal status to a large group of homeless blacks, Mr Hough said.

The squatters — at the centre of controversy raging for several weeks — will be re-settled on a piece of land measuring 44 hectares initially planned as Extension One of the proposed town of Bloubosrand, about 12km north of Randburg.

Mr Hough said he hoped the moving of the squatters would be completed within the next 14 days.

Agreement for allocating the land was reached between the Randburg city council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration on condition that, among others, the TPA bought the Bloubosrand area from the developers, re-planned it and provided the infrastructure.

The re-settled families would also be subject to a written agreement stipulating that they buy the sites and develop them.

This “shall all occur within the framework of reasonableness and fairness”, Mr Hough said.

He urged the private sector to help their employed in the matter.

Mr Hough called on communities in the province to return to the drawing boards and “think new” on the emerging process of urbanisation.

He said in the Transvaal alone about 300 000 erven were required to accommodate the city dwellers who lived in backyards in urban areas.

“It is estimated that in the year 2000 provision will have to be made for an additional 33 million people in the central, eastern and western Witwatersrand — including the Vaal Triangle.”

If the current backlog was taken into account, Mr Hough said, 50 000ha of land would be required.

“To illustrate the extent of the problem, the present Soweto covers 8 000ha compared with the 50 000ha of Johannesburg.” — Sapa
New row brews over Randburg squatter plan

DARIUS SANAI

A NEW row was brewing last night over the Zevonfontein squatters as the Transvaal Provincial Administration said the 750 families would be moved to Randburg — and Randburg residents condemned the move as "ridiculous and dangerous".

Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough told a news conference yesterday that a "breakthrough" had been made because the Randburg Town Council had found an area where the squatters could be housed.

A council spokesman said the decision to house the squatters at Bloobraand, near Fourways, had been taken at a meeting the previous evening, with the full approval of all residents' associations concerned.

But angry Bloobraand residents — who said they were unaware of a residents' association in the area — said last night they had not been informed by the council.

An unsigned circular delivered to them within an hour of the TPA announcement urged them to "stand together and ward off the threatening problems."

"We are generally a young, liberal group of people," said one resident, "but we know our house values will go down and crime will go up if the squatters are moved here."

Other residents claimed the TPA and Randburg council were "sneaking" the squatters into their area because right-wingers would not have them elsewhere.

Hough denied that the decision to move the squatters to Randburg and not Dieploot, as originally planned, was because of pressure from the Greenbelt Action Group (GAG) and right-wing residents in the Dieploot area, who include Boer en Tatant Party leader Robert van Tonder.

The squatters would be moved within the next 14 days, after the land at Bloobraand had been prepared, he said.

The Randburg council spokesman said all facilities, including water, electricity and sewage, pipes, would be provided on the site, which would subsequently be developed as a low-cost housing area, with the former squatters becoming homeowners and ratepayers.

Squatters said yesterday they would be happy to move to Bloobraand if this meant they would be allowed to stay there.
Relief for families

By ALINAH DUBE

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration said yesterday it would resettle the Zevenfontein squatters within the municipal area of Randburg.

The announcement was made by Administrator Mr. Danie Hough at a Press conference in Pretoria.

The actual removal of the squatters, who had until midnight to leave the farm, will take place after 14 days.

This will enable the authorities to take “preliminary steps” such as acquiring land, replanning the town, servicing the area and establishing an administrative office.

Hough said a suitable 44-hectare site was obtained with the help of the Randburg Town Council for resettling 750 families currently leaving at Zevenfontein.

“This is historic in the sense that Randburg is the first so-called white municipality to declare a black residential area within its boundaries. We hope other municipalities will follow their example,” Hough said.

“The area was thought to be suitable because it was situated 12km from the central business district.”
Unwanted here, unwanted there.

The JUICE truck would orbit a planet, or maybe it would be a asteroid. It would start a "JUICE" mission to explore the solar system and beyond. The truck is equipped with advanced technology, including a powerful laser, to study the properties of the planet and its atmosphere. The truck would also collect samples of the planet's surface material, which would be analyzed in great detail back on Earth.

The JUICE truck would also be equipped with a suite of instruments to study the planet's magnetic field, gravity, and other properties. The truck would conduct experiments to determine the planet's interior structure and composition. The JUICE truck would be able to communicate with Earth using advanced radio techniques, allowing scientists to receive and send data in real-time.

The JUICE truck would be a highly advanced spacecraft, capable of exploring the most remote and inhospitable places in the solar system. Its mission would be to advance our understanding of planetary science and to expand our knowledge of the universe.

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**NEWS**

**Not in My Backyard**

A new report suggests that a solar flare could pose a threat to Earth's atmosphere. The report, prepared by a team of scientists from various agencies, warns that a powerful solar flare could disrupt communication and power grids, leading to widespread disruptions and even blackouts.

The report notes that solar flares, which are caused by the release of energy from the Sun's magnetic field, can have a significant impact on Earth's atmosphere. The flare can cause a surge in electrical activity, which can affect communication systems and power grids.

The report suggests that measures should be taken to mitigate the potential impact of a solar flare. These measures could include the development of new technologies, such as solar shields, which could help to protect against the effects of a solar flare.

The report calls for urgent action to address the potential threat posed by solar flares. The authors of the report urge policymakers to take action to protect against the potential impact of a solar flare, and to invest in research and development to mitigate the effects of such events.
the municipalities of Sandton and Randburg — the nearest towns, where Zevenfontein people work — identify a suitable alternative site and service it. In the meantime, the people would presumably stay where they are.

But why the fracas developed in the first place highlights some of the problems which may be faced by other informal settlers and residents of suburbs, black and white, in future.

Mamoepa says the National and Local Government Housing Forum, of which the TPA is a part, is supposed to take care of issues like these. The scrapping of the Land Acts more than a year ago did not address the problem of landlessness, he adds.

It is difficult to disagree: Zevenfontein shows that while there is a forum, at least nominally, there is no national strategy in place to deal with the problem.

The Urban Foundation (UF) has argued that in an appropriate development framework, informal housing can play a pivotal part in a national housing drive. And the foundation’s Jill Strelitz reckons there is growing acceptance that people must be housed informally.

But the crux is there is no formalised process of identifying land for settlement or upgrading. And while there is no identification process, the “squatters” will identify and occupy land themselves. It might not be the most suitable land for them, for the surrounding residents or in terms of the national interest, but they have no choice.

Duigan underlines this by pointing out that the TPA’s plan to move the Zevenfontein people to Diepsloot would have been harder to oppose had it been approached in a strategic way and had criteria been advanced for settling them at Diepsloot.

He argues that informal settlements should be linked to urban centres which generate economic growth.

Spontaneous informal settlement is a critical issue for South Africa. At least half the people in the PWV area are inadequately housed and the pressure to look for places to “squat” is on. And, as the UF has remarked, during times of democratisation, spontaneous informal settlement increases.

Where the initiative to manage informal settlement properly will come from is not clear at the moment.

As Strelitz points out, the negotiating forums must place the land identification process high on the agenda.

Zevenfontein serves to underline the urgency of this.
Mobile home ... this family has grown accustomed to moving home to a new settlement. Photo: GUY ADAMS

— envisages the development of recreational areas. These green belts could not be built in urban areas and existing ones had to be preserved.

Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder said the squatters lived and worked in Randburg and Sandton. Therefore provisions such as houses had to be made for them in their own municipal areas.

As a result of the increasing squatter problem in the area, a group calling itself the Garden Triangle Action Group (GTAG) — which Van Tonder chairs — has sent an application to the Transvaal administrator for the establishment of a new local government.

The area, which they have named Garden Triangle, falls between Randburg, Midrand and Hartbeespoordam.

In the application, GTAG states it had become clear that Randburg, Sandton and the provincial administration were planning to create squatter camps in the area. Randburg and Sandton had enough undeveloped ground within their boundaries to provide houses, flats and cluster homes for their workers.

Van Tonder said: "The new municipality refuses to become Randburg and Sandton's dumping ground and sewerage farm or to accommodate their squatter camps." It would "not allow this essential recreational area and green lung of the Rand to be destroyed".

Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (Cast) views the problem differently. There are "vast tracts of unoccupied and unoccupied land around Zevenfontein" which could be developed and used to settle people, says Cast secretary general Dan Mofokeng. "The mining houses land" should be developed for settlement. And generally around the country, huge empty spaces separate the towns and cities from the townships. These should be made use of to solve the problem of homelessness in the urban areas," he maintains.
Decision to settle squatters enranges Randburg residents

Staff Reporters

The announcement that the Zevenfontein squatters will be permanently settled in Bloubosrand Extension 1 in Randburg, has unleashed an outburst of rage by residents who last night vowed to fight the move tooth and nail.

The news spread like wildfire through the suburb and angry residents swung into action less than three hours after the decision was made public by Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough.

By 8 pm, hundreds of members of the three-year-old community had flocked to a central point to voice their opposition. Several who arrived carrying baseball bats and sticks, had to be restrained from marching to mayor Mark Manley's house.

By midnight, makeshift roadblocks were being erected on all access routes to the 44 ha area, to prevent an overnight influx of homeless people to the land which had been designated by the Transvaal Provincial Administration as home for the 760 squatter families.

The eight-member Bloubosrand Residents' Committee was hastily formed to oppose the move.

BRC spokesman Paul Burrows said the committee met top councillors and council officials last night and were given an undertaking that no squatters would be moved to Bloubosrand for at least 14 days while consultations continued.

The BRC, the Randburg Town Council and the TPA started urgent discussions at 9 am today.

Mr Burrows said the council had given the BRC the impression that the TPA had forced its hand. It was not a case of the council "offering" municipal status and land to the squatters, as had been suggested by Mr Hough, Mr Burrows said.

Initially the TPA had earmarked land in the Diepsloot area as a transit camp for the squatters whose time had run out on their existing site in Zevenfontein.

But residents in that area vehemently opposed the move as the proposed temporary site is not provided with suitable facilities or infrastructure.

Mr Hough said the decision to move the squatters to Bloubosrand Extension 1 was made after lengthy consultations with the Randburg and Sandton councils as well as those affected.

But residents of Bloubosrand hotly denied they were consulted about the move.

Bloubosrand Extension 1 is located 12 km north of the town's central business district, near the existing industrial area of Kya Sand, within walking distance of an existing shopping centre and within reach of school facilities.

The site is already equipped with water supplies, electricity, refuse removal, health services and a library.

Mr Hough said the squatters could only be moved in two weeks time as the replanning of the town layout and the provision of services was still being finalised.

The families would be subject to a written agreement stipulating that the building sites should be purchased and developed within a given period, failing which the council and TPA would be entitled to remove those who did not comply, in order to ensure that the squatter community was settled in an orderly manner.

Mr Hough said he anticipated this move might unsettle whites, but that it was time people faced the realities of the huge problem of urbanisation and made the necessary compromises.
Randburg residents furious at squatter decision

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The announcement that the Zevensfontein squatters will be permanently settled in Bloubosrand Extension 1 in Randburg, has unleashed an outburst of rage by residents who last night vowed to fight the move tooth and nail.

The news spread like wildfire through the suburb and angry residents swung into action less than three hours after the decision was made public by Transvaal Administrator, Mr Danie Hough.

By 6pm, 1,000 members of the community had flocked to a central point to voice their opposition. Several who arrived carrying baseball bats and sticks, had to be restrained from marching to the house of the mayor, Mr Mark Manley.

By midnight, makeshift roadblocks were being erected on all access routes to the 44ha area, to prevent an overnight influx of homeless people to the land designated by the Transvaal Provincial Administration as home for the 750 squatter families.

The eight-member Bloubosrand Residents’ Committee was hastily formed to oppose the move.

BRC spokesman Mr Paul Burrows said the committee met top councillors and council officials last night and were given an undertaking that no squatters would be moved to Bloubosrand for at least 14 days while consultations continued.

The BRC, the Randburg town council and the TPA started urgent discussions at 9am today.

The announcement hit the community like a bombshell and they wanted information and facts, Mr Burrows said.

He added that the council had given the BRC the impression that the TPA had forced its hand. It was not a case of the council “offering” municipal status and land to the squatters, as had been suggested by Mr Hough, Mr Burrows said.

Initially the TPA had earmarked land in the Diepsloot area as a transit camp for the squatters whose time had run out on their existing site in Zevensfontein.

But residents in that area vehemently opposed the move as the proposed temporary site is not provided with suitable facilities or infrastructure.

Bloubosrand Extension 1 is 12km north of the town’s central business district.
Randburg relocation on hold

JOHANNESBURG. — The relocation of the Zevensfontein squatters to Bloubosrand, Randburg, has been put on hold after it was agreed that no resettlement would be allowed for the next two weeks.

Residents of Bloubosrand, the Administrator of the Transvaal, Danie Hough, and the Randburg Town Council decided to postpone the resettlement after an outcry by property owners.

The TPA, supported by the police, will prevent squatters from settling in the area before the continuation of talks between the three parties on Monday. — Sapa.
Critics accuse side-stepping

Squatting comedy of errors

CAROLINE HURRY

The squatter problem to the north of Johannesburg has become a Mad Hatters' Tea Party thanks to the bungled efforts of the "bunch in Pretoria who are trying to act like God".

This was the opinion of Diepsloot Residents Association chairman Stuart Aitchison, whose opinion was shared by most of the residents in the area.

"The reasons the Transvaal Provincial Administration gave for moving these squatters from Zevenfontein were the lack of infrastructure and facilities. These are the very same reasons not to move them to areas like Diepsloot where there are also no facilities," he said.

Trying to get a concrete answer out of the TPA regarding its plans for the squatters this week was like trying to catch a cake of soap in the bath.

TPA side-stepping occurred when the following questions were put by the Saturday Star to public relations officer Gert de Jager:

Can you say why you are moving the squatters from Zevenfontein to areas where there are no facilities?
Are you from The Star?

STUART AITCHISON: "That bunch in Pretoria are trying to act like God."

Yes. Could you answer my question please? Why are you moving these squatters?

No answer.

Does the TPA not wish to comment on this matter?

We are talking among ourselves.

What exactly are you discussing?

The whole situation.

What do you mean? Our negotiations with the squatters.

Yes, but what is your ultimate plan? What do you propose to do?

Well, that's part of the negotiations with the people. We can't say what our plans are.

But you must have some idea what you intend doing about the situation now.

Ag, lady. All that information is in our press releases.

Priorities

The deputy director-general at the TPA's department of community development, Len Dekker, was slightly more forthcoming.

"The TPA has for many years been aware of the problem of providing land and low-income housing for people, but did not always have the financial means to buy the land required.

"Previously our priorities were areas to the west, south and east of Johannesburg, and when we realised the north of Johannesburg was also becoming a priority, we earmarked 13 sites within the Green Belt for evaluation," he said.

"Nothing has been finalised because we are still in the process of identifying, acquiring and developing suitable land. When final decisions are made, we will provide the necessary services."

Dekker said the TPA had been aware for several years that there was a problem with squatters. However, it was not solely the TPA's duty to provide land but also the responsibility of local authorities.

This week Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough finally appointed a task group to evaluate the existing urbanisation strategy for the area west of Midrand and Verwoerdburg north of Randburg and Sandton.

The move followed this week's flurry of errors during which the TPA twice announced formal solutions for the sadly bemused squatters of Zevenfontein — only to cancel both moves when..."
TRA of trying to act like God on Zevonfotion issue

26/2/11 26/14
Long walk: Zevenfontein nights falls with a vigour. The TVA should look at themselves up and pull. The TVA must always be better. The TVA must look at their children. The TVA must look at the state of their drainage system. These people who are just in one place and need drainage for them. They need to build a small drainage system.

We want the Government to provide these people. The Government of this place is not doing anything for these people. They are in a small drainage system. The Government should provide these people with a bad and sanitary place.

We want the Government to provide this place to us. We have been living here for a long time and we do not want to move. We have been living here and we do not want to move. We have been living here and we do not want to move.
ANGRY residents of Bloubosrand, north of Johannesburg, yesterday shouted a deafening "no way" to Government bureaucratic bungling — and underlined their refusal to be ignored by putting up barricades, digging trenches and arming themselves with baseball bats and clubs.

Peoples' power and mass action had arrived in the northern suburbs.

The aim of Bloubosrand's residents was to prevent the dumping of 750 Zevenfontein squatter families on their front doorsteps — and they may have succeeded when it was reported yesterday that the resettlement plan had been "put on hold".

However, the situation was again clouded last night when the TPA denied putting off the relocation of the squatters.

Jan van der Walt, chief director of community development for the Witwatersrand, said there was "no way the plans have been put off. We are simply taking two weeks to prepare the site. Our contractors are busy preparing the land for the squatters. On Monday, the TPA, the Randburg Town Council and the newly formed residents' committee will be meeting the squatters to discuss ways of reconciliation," he said.

Andre Jacobs, chairman of the Randburg Town Council's management committee, said the TPA had expropriated the area of Bloubosrand. It now owned the land and would be relocating the squatters as soon as the necessary arrangements had been made.

He said the TPA had agreed to the following conditions laid down by the Randburg Town Council:

* The TPA had to buy the town from the developers, replan it and provide an infrastructure for it at its own cost.
* To ensure the squatter community was settled in an orderly manner, families would have to purchase building sites and develop them within a certain time or face eviction.
* The TPA would have to exercise general control over the Zevenfontein area before, during and after the transfer to prevent a further influx.

Said Mr Jacobs: "We were faced with a sticky situation on Tuesday evening when (Transvaal Administrator) Danie Hough called us over to his house in Pretoria, where the proposal was put to us.

"There was no way I could have first consulted the residents, but called an urgent council meeting the following morning to lay down the conditions the TPA had agreed to.

"The situation blew up when the residents got to hear of it and I was called on the telephone to come and speak to hundreds of angry people. I would have spoken to them, but my wife threatened to walk out on me if I did. Instead I sent a message asking the people to please calm down.

"I did manage to buy time with the TPA — 14 days to prepare the site — although I'm not sure if that

TPA, including Mr Hough, and members of the police.

Many of the furious Bloubosrand residents stayed off work yesterday, after staying up all night on Thursday night to man the barricades.

In a matter of hours they had organised themselves into watch, so that the entrances to the suburb could be guarded 24 hours a day.

They said that although they wanted to avoid violence, they would take whatever action was necessary to protect the value of their homes.

Some even spoke of refusing to pay their rates and taxes, or of abandoning their homes for the finance houses to worry about.

Bloubosrand houses about 400 families, most of them young, while and first-time home owners.

"We're not racists," said former Zimbabwean John Peetee. "We have Indian and coloured families living here, and they have been made welcome.

"But this is something different. What's proposed here is that 6 000 odd squatters should be settled over the road from us."

Added Mr Bantoek: "I don't think any organisation should be able to rob you of your capital in one fell swoop."

An account is to be opened at the Allied Bank in Northgate today for residents and their supporters to deposit money for an anti-squatter fund.
This is the end of our lifestyle, plot over compliances

Caroline Hruby

12/72

SMR
Still no place to call home

CP Correspondent and Sapa

A SOLUTION seems imminent for the Zevenfontein squatters north of Johannesburg who have been haunted by the TPA's plans to move them to an area where they are not wanted.

The 750 families were to be moved from their present homes to Bloubergrand in Randburg on Friday, July 22.

However, the move was delayed for 14 days amid widespread militant opposition from Bloubergrand residents.

A communiqué released after a joint meeting of the Bloubergrand Action Group, the Randburg Town Council and the Zevenfontein community yesterday pledged to find a solution to the problem as a matter of urgency.

According to the communiqué, the three parties acknowledged the Zevenfontein community as "part of Randburg".

Randburg Mayor Mark Manley, who chaired the meeting, said the discussions were "frank and honest".

The three parties will hold another meeting at the Randburg mayor's office on Tuesday.

In the meantime, a spokesman said, the Zevenfontein community undertook not to move to Zevenfontein "illegally".

Residents continued yesterday to man roadblocks preventing Zevenfontein squatters from settling in the area.

NOT IN MY BACKYARD ... "Not now, not ever." That's the Bloubergrand message.

About 1 000 angry Bloubergrand residents, who first heard that the Zevenfontein squatters were to be moved to their doorstep via news broadcasts on Thursday, rallied to a hastily called meeting in the suburb to discuss the matter.
SQUATTERS: NEW PEACE MOVE

PROTEST... residents show their anger at a Bloubosrand roadblock yesterday

By HEATHER ROBERTSON

A JOINT committee of residents and squatters was formed yesterday to resolve the dispute over the removal of 760 families from Zevenfontein to Bloubosrand in Randburg.

At a meeting in the Randburg Civic Centre, representatives of the Bloubosrand Action Group, the Randburg town council, Randburg management committee and the Zevenfontein squatters met MP Mr Marthaus van Schalkwyk and drew up a seven-point statement of intent. They agreed: 212192

- To create a working committee consisting of Zevenfontein squatters and Bloubosrand residents;
- To obtain information on the number of people that would be relocated and their income levels;
- To negotiate a satisfactory solution for both residents and squatters;
- That Zevenfontein squatters had a right to live in Randburg and that other plots of land would be considered;
- That more time was needed before squatters were relocated as amenities had to be provided;
- That the Zevenfontein squatters would not move into Bloubosrand;

Picture: CRAIG WOODS

- That there would be a follow-up meeting on Tuesday evening.

Randburg mayor Mark Manley said he was "pleased with the constructive attitude of all participants."

Mr Paul Burrows, spokesman for the Bloubosrand Action Group, said it was a pity the TPA had not attended the meeting.

"We're more optimistic now that we've spoken to the squatters," he said.

But he warned that some white residents would "take up arms if the squatters are just dumped here in the next two weeks."

Dumped
Residents up in arms

He announced that Mr Hough and the Randburg management committee would be held "personally responsible" for all legal costs.

Should Mr Hough reject the demands of the committee, Randburg would be "subjected to mass citizen protests".

The BAC, Mr Bantock said, was concerned that it would "lose control of the crowds" manning barricades.

He said the numerous "squatter controversies" countrywide resulted from "inefficient and bad" planning and "cruel social engineering" by the Government.

The BAC demanded the immediate formation of a planning commission — comprising responsible town planners, financiers and concerned citizens — which would operate under the direction of Codesa.

Charles Humphris, councillor for Randburg's ward 13, which includes Bloubosrand, said the problem of landlessness was "something we all have to think about very calmly".

Randburg management committee chairman Andre Jacobs said yesterday's issue would be addressed at high-level talks today to pave the way for a joint working committee meeting tomorrow.
JOHANNESBURG. — Residents of Bloubosrand in Randburg yesterday said they would apply for an urgent Supreme Court interdict to prevent Zevenfontein squatters from settling in Bloubosrand.

The Bloubosrand Action Committee (BAC) — rapidly formed after plans were announced on Thursday to settle the controversial squatter community in Bloubosrand Extension 1 — has demanded the resignation of the Randburg town council.

Ratepayers have been urged to stop paying rates and taxes immediately.

The Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Danie Hough, and the Randburg town council management committee would also personally be held responsible for all legal costs, the BAC said.

In a statement, the BAC said if the administrator ignored their demands, mass citizen protests and a possible bond payment boycott would follow.

“Almost half-a-century of cruel social engineering cannot be remedied by ad hoc government decisions made by non-elected officials who have no understanding or concern for the consequences of their actions.”

The relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters to Bloubosrand had not been discussed with the residents, the BAC said.

“The Randburg town council acceded to the administrator’s demands without public discussion or referring the matter to ratepayers and without undertaking an environmental impact study.

“We believe in freedom of choice and association. We believe all people of different colours and races with similar aspirations to ours and who wish to live in an orderly and civilised society should be free to live among us.”

“We will not allow people of different socio-economic backgrounds to be forcibly integrated into our society,” the BAC said.

‘Health dangers’

Existing plans for Bloubosrand extension called for about 500 sites with about 1600 residents, it said.

“A squatter camp would introduce 2200 families into the area who, by their own admission, have about 10 dependants per family. A mass of nearly 23 000 people would hopelessly overload the sewer system and the residents would revert to the bucket-and-chuck-it system with all the health dangers that entails.”

Residents would not accept unilateral, high-handed decisions by the administrator and would “fight the administrator and his cohorts with every legal means at our disposal.” — Sapa
We’ll fight squatters, says group

JOHANNESBURG. – Bloubosrand residents said they would seek an urgent Supreme Court order to halt the relocation of squatters from Zeerustfontein to an area immediately adjacent to their Randburg suburb.

The announcement, made at an emotion-charged public meeting yesterday called by the Bloubosrand Action Committee (BAC), was the latest salvo in the uproar over the TPA’s planned resettlement of the squatters.

On Friday, residents armed with clubs and baseball bats set up barricades at the suburb’s entrances to underline their opposition to the scheme.

The BAC – which claims to represent 500 families who live south of the proposed informal settlement and 150 plot owners in the immediate north and northwest – sprang up overnight following Thursday’s "bombshell" announcement by Mr Hough on the fate of the Zeerustfontein community.

At the meeting, attended by about 150 people, BAC chairman Peter Bantock also called for the immediate resignation of the entire Randburg Town Council and the holding of an immediate informal referendum in Randburg on the controversy.

To applause, Mr Bantock announced that Mr Hough and the Randburg management committee would be held “personally responsible” for all legal costs flowing from the interdict application.

He warned that should Mr Hough reject the demands of the committee, Randburg would be subjected to mass citizen protests, including petitions and picketing.

The BAC, Mr Bantock said, was concerned that it would “lose control of the crowds” presently manning the barricades in the area.

“We will not be able to contain demands for a bond boycott.”
Squatter ‘threat’ to family’s lives

Supreme Court Reporter
SQUATTERS living in bushes near a Noordhoek nursery threatened the lives of a Johannesburg family soon after they had bought the property for R950 000, the Supreme Court heard yesterday.

This was evidence of Mrs Helen Mayes, who with her husband Barry has brought a R200 000 damages action against Mr Geert Noordhof, who sold them the Noordhof nursery and smallholding.

The Mayes claim Mr Noordhof did not tell them about the presence of squatters in nearby bushes.

Mr and Mrs Mayes further want to be released from the obligation of paying the outstanding balance on the sale.

Mrs Mayes said that before they had concluded the sale Mr Noordhof had assured them there was no squatter problem in the area.

However, after they had taken occupation of the property they noticed many people passing and heading into the bush. Later she found there was a squatter settlement of about 40 shacks.

Her family had been plagued by litter and drunks and she had even seen faction fighting and stabbings. She believed the squatters put people off coming to their nursery.

She said squatters had threatened their lives and had stoned the car of a couple who came to the nursery.

The Mayes sold the property yesterday for R400 000 plus a further R50 000 for the restaurant on the premises.

The hearing continues today.
Randburg squatting deadlock

JOHANNESBURG. — High-level discussions between the Bloubosrand Action Committee (BAC), the TPA and the Randburg Town Council last night failed to resolve the deadlock surrounding the fate of 750 Zevenfontein squatter families.

BAC spokesman, Mr Peter Brown, said the meeting was confrontational and that residents would continue using all legal action — including roadblocks — to keep the squatters out of the area.

The residents rejected a town council proposal to develop a formal low-cost housing site on the land set aside by the TPA.

Transvaal Administrator Mr Danie Hough said that no action would take place until Randburg’s proposal had been studied and affected parties consulted.
Deadlock over squatters

HIGH-level discussions between the Blou- bournd Action Committee, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Rand- burg Town Council last night failed to re- solve the deadlock surrounding the fate of 750 Zevenfontein squatter families.

Committee spokesman Peter Brown said the meeting was confrontational and that residents would continue using all le- gal action — including roadblocks — to keep the squatters out of the area.

The residents rejected a council propos- al to develop a formal low-cost housing site on the land set aside by the TPA. Transvaal administrator Danie Hough promised the meeting no relocation or con- struction activities would take place while the TPA studied Randburg’s proposal and consulted affected parties in the next week. The parties agreed to meet again by

February 10.

Meanwhile, property development com- pany spokesmen said yesterday that the in- dustry was concerned about the precedent being set by the TPA, which had not con- sulted the industry about land reallocation.

National Association of Homebuilders spokesmen Johan Grotius said yesterday the TPA’s decision would have major re- percussions as developers could no longer guarantee clients that future development would not devalue their land.

“We do not just sell a stand, we sell a stand with an undertak- ing that a certain level of development will happen in that area. If it is certainly not encouraging to developers generally as there is no guaran-

Squatters

see that other vacant land will not be reallocated in the same way,” he said.

Gough Cooper Homes MD Rob Ballen- tine said the TPA’s move “increased the risk enormously for developers.” Develop- ers did not know whether to go ahead with a plan when all their work could be dis- mantled without them being consulted. All the rules of developing a township had been set aside by the TPA.

Sapa reports that TPA spokesman Piet Wilken confirmed yesterday that 13 areas to the north and northwest of Sandton, Randburg and Roodepoort had been provi- sionally identified for possible township development. Nothing had been finalised and all relevant parties would be consulted before development took place.

Permanent sites for township develop-

ment north of Sandton and Randburg, and west of Midrand and Vereenigburg, are to be identified by a 15-member task group, which is to report back by March 31.

Included in the group are the city coun- cils of Randburg, Roodepoort, Sandton, Midrand and Vereenigburg, the regional services councils of West Rand and Central Witwatersrand, local area committees of Chartwell, Muldersdrift and Randteg, the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber, the Greenbelt Action Group and Operation Masakhane for the Homeless.

Reacting to criticism about Bloubo- rand, Wilken said the TPA was listening to the views of all parties concerned, adding he was positive a solution would be found.

“We are not the big bully, but people should appreciate the extent of the problem.”

Accommodation for at least 3-million peo- ple would have to be found on the Wit- watersrand by the year 2000, he said.
Come clean on sutter
Bloubosrand home sales ‘collapse’

Squatter row leads to freeze in new bonds

FINANCIAL institutions were refusing to grant new bonds for properties in Bloubosrand in Randburg since the Transvaal Provincial Administration’s (TPA) moves to relocate squatters to the area, estate agents said yesterday.

United Bank GM Kevin Gibb said until the situation in the area became clearer, “we will not be appointing any new bonds”. The proposed squatter settlement could have a major impact on house values.

Other banks were reluctant to comment on their policies and said they would consider each application on merit.

But estate agents operating in Bloubosrand said they had contacted a range of banks and had been told categorically that no further bonds would be granted until the situation was resolved. The agents said some institutions had withdrawn financing that had been previously approved.

The TPA’s plans permanently to relocate 760 squatter families from nearby Zevenfontein to 4ha of Bloubosrand Extension 1 have been put on hold for a week while the provincial authorities consider a scheme to change the status of the site from a shack settlement to that of a formal low-cost housing development.

The TPA says it wants to consult all parties involved following the future in the wake of its announcement that it was expropriating the land to house the squatters.

Residents in the area, who believe their properties would be devalued and crime would increase, have threatened to take legal action against the TPA and to refuse to pay rates. They have demanded the resignation of the Randburg Town Council which agreed to the move.

KATHRYN STRACHAN

Angry home-owners are maintaining 24-hour vigils and manning barricades to prevent squatters moving into the area.

The squatters’ move to Bloubosrand followed mounting opposition to their temporary removal to Dieploot.

United Bank’s Gibb said the situation was very unusual. United would be assessing the low-cost housing proposal and effects on nearby homes.

He said a person who had bought a house in the area with United financing had already dumped the house keys on his desk and abandoned the property in disgust. Other home-owners had threatened to do the same, he said.

Mike Schefermann of Realty Estates said three of his sales had collapsed since Thursday and he had told aspirant sellers there was no sense in trying to market their houses in the current climate. He said financial institutions believed that if the upgrading of the disputed area from squatter settlement to low-cost housing was allowed to proceed, the value of Bloubosrand properties would still be substantially reduced.

Another estate agent in the area, Dee Montéth, said businesses had been good before the Transvaal administrator’s announcement, but no one potential buyer had arrived for a house since Monday. In the past four days she had had four deals worth R400 000 cancelled after banks rejected bond applications.

She said banks were holding back until they had heard the TPA’s final decision, which is expected on Monday.

Bloubosrand Action Committee chair-

Bond freeze

Peter Bantock said a meeting between residents and squatter representatives planned for last night at the Randburg Town Council had been cancelled by the council with no explanation.

Meanwhile, industries in the Kya Sands area, adjacent to the proposed relocation site, have added their voice to the protest.

Bloubosrand Action Committee business liaison officer Gary Noble said yesterday it had received about 50 letters from industries saying they intended to boycott rates and taxes in a protest against the move.

At a meeting with the committee yesterday, industry representatives said they were unable to provide employment for people already living in the area, and could not absorb more people.

Sapa reports that Louis de Waal (DP North Rand) said compromise was the only way forward in the highly emotive Zevenfontein squatter issue.

“That means acceptance that North Rand will have low-cost housing but that time has to be bought, at all costs, to plan and implement this sensibly,” he said.

De Waal said the impact on property owners’ investments could not be ignored.

“If that’s to be done, the state has to budget, at central government level, to make good the losses.”
Banks refuse bonds for Bloubosrand

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Major financial institutions were refusing to grant new bonds for properties in Bloubosrand in Randburg following the TPA's moves to relocate squatters to the area, estate agents said yesterday.

United Bank general manager Mr. Kevin Gibb said until the situation in the area became clearer "we will not be appointing any new bonds". The proposed squatter settlement could have a major impact on house values, he said.

Mr. Gibb said the situation was very unusual. United would be assessing the low-cost housing proposal and assessing what the effects on nearby homes would be.

He said someone who had bought a house in the area with United financing had already dumped the house keys on his desk and abandoned his property in disgust.

Other banks approached were reluctant to comment on their policy in the wake of the controversy and said they would consider each application on its individual merit.

But estate agents operating in Bloubosrand said they had contacted a range of banks and had been told categorically that no further bonds would be granted until the situation was resolved.

The TPA's plans to permanently relocate 750 squatter families from nearby Zevenfontein to Bloubosrand Extension 1 have been officially put on hold for a week, while the provincial authorities consider a scheme to change the status of the site from a shack settlement to that of a formal low-cost housing development.

Mr. Mike Scheefermann of Realty Estates said three of his sales had collapsed since Thursday.

Meanwhile, industries in the Kya Sands area, adjacent to the proposed relocation site, have added their voices to the protest.

Bloubosrand Action Committee business liaison officer Gary Noble said yesterday it had received about 80 letters from industries saying they intended to boycott rates and taxes in protest at the move.

At a meeting with the committee yesterday industry representatives said they were unable to provide employment for people already living in the area, and could not absorb more people, in contrast to TPA's claims.
Urbanisation task group formed

A task group to investigate urbanisation in the area north and northwest of Randburg, Roodepoort, Sandton and west of Midrand was constituted in Pretoria yesterday.

Headed by Paul Waanders, the group, formed in terms of an announcement by Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough last week, consists of representatives of the city councils of Randburg, Roodepoort, Sandton, Midrand and Verwoerdburg, the central and west Witwatersrand regional services councils, the area committees of Chartwell, Maudersdrift and Rantiesig, the TPA, the Department of Regional and Land Affairs, the central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber, Operation Masakhane for the Homeless, the Greenbelt Action Group and the Local Government Affairs Council.

The group's main task will be to evaluate the existing urbanisation strategy for the specified areas as well as the whole PWV region.

The public has been invited to submit proposals to Mr Waanders at (012) 201-2002 or Private Bag X437, Pretoria, 0001 before February 21. The task group's fax number is (012) 21-6500. — Sapa.

- Rates and taxes boycott launched in Bloemfontein — Page 7
Squatters have a right to land - and to be heard

THE homeless Zévenfontein community has constructive plans for the future, but no one wants to hear its side of the issue, according to the national organiser of Operation Massakené for the Homeless, Mr Eric Ngculeza.

In a statement yesterday, Nguleza criticized the authorities and white residents for not listening to the Zévenfontein people.

"They have constructive plans for the future, representing the Zévenfontein people in their negotiations with the authorities," he said.

Ormhle operated countrywide to assist homeless communities. Its main objective was to assist the more than seven million homeless people in South Africa in their bid for adequate housing.

Derogatory

Nguleza objected to the term "squatter", calling it derogatory.

"The people are just homeless. Like other citizens we have a right to land, a right to build and a right to be heard," he said. Omhle was repulsing the rest of South Africa to listen to us and make use of this great opportunity to embrace us with open arms of friendship in the true spirit of the new South Africa instead of thinking up with cricket bans and legalization," he said.
SQUATTING
A test for Solomon

If there is a solution to the squatting problem, nobody has hit upon it. Some relief may be possible through imaginative, decisive and swift planning; and there is evidence that the bureaucrats are stirring at last. But what can be done about thousands of people who build shacks (often virtually overnight) on ground that has not been allocated for settlement?

Not surprisingly, the reason that such ground is not allocated to squatters is precisely that it adjoins the back yards of established residents, many of them affluent.

The present government is probably impotent to act, given the National Party’s embarrassment at its former enthusiasm for forced removals of stable communities.

If the State is neither willing nor able to deal with squatting, established residents most certainly are — as we have seen in the recent demonstrations by communities afraid both for their security and the value of their property.

Meanwhile, the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber has requested the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) to suspend further development at Rietfontein — apart from the first 2 000 stands, as well as the planning of the development. Investigation of the area — and other possible sites for low-cost housing — will now get under way.

Rietfontein lies on the south-west periphery of the PWV area and is a pilot project for future informal housing programmes. However, its remoteness from jobs — 35 km from the city and 10 km from the closest rail transport — has been criticised by a Metropolitan Chamber task team.

Land at Rietfontein is owned by the TPA and is to be developed by it within a “structure plan” being prepared by the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council. It is proposed eventually to accommodate some 600 000 people on 100 000 serviced stands with an average size of 200 m². This development fills part of a longer-term need and will serve as an extension to the Vaal Triangle as well as the greater PWV area.

To date, consulting civil engineer BKS Inc has been appointed by the RSC to design a bulk water main for Rietfontein and to act as construction manager for its execution by labour-intensive methods. The idea is to create job opportunities for local residents, pass on contracting skills and encourage black entrepreneurship.

BKS’s brief was to supply the water for 2 000 erven in Poortjie — the first phase of the Rietfontein development. About 3 000 people (on 500 erven) are now living in Poortjie; ultimately, the R3m pipeline will service 20 000 stands or 100 000 people.

Residents in the area are presently living in temporary shacks. They have moved from various informal settlement areas around Ennerdale and Westonaria and a school has been built for them. In the opinion of one person closely associated with the project, while Rietfontein is far from the Johannesburg CBD, it is at least catering for an existing population.
Bloubosrand group plans protest march

By Michael Sparks and Shirley Woodgate

The Bloubosrand Action Committee yesterday called on Randburg and Sandton residents to join a mass march this afternoon to the Randburg Town Council where they would demand the resignation of the councillors.

The demand stems from dissatisfaction with the manner in which the relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters to Extension 1 has been dealt with by the Randburg council, who recently admitted to knowing of the relocation plans two years ago.

Chairman of the Bloubosrand Action Committee Peter Bantock addressing yesterday's open-air meeting called on people not to pay municipal rates, but said they should continue to pay for utilities which he described as consumables.

"In our area we pay assessment rates. In the past week our property has been devalued to about zero. Since there is no longer any value to our property, there is no longer any reason to pay rates," Mr Bantock said to cheers from the crowd.

Many of the about 450-strong crowd signed the petition calling for the resignation of the councillors.

Mr Bantock emphasised that the BAC was not fighting the squatter's relocation socio-economic not racist reasons.

"People should be able to gravitate towards an area of their own socio-economic standing, they should not force people of vastly different classes together. Otherwise it is a catalyst for conflict," he said.

Mr Bantock said the BAC had received permission for the protest march which will start at 3 pm today from the Pick 'n Pay parking area behind Randburg's Sanlam Centre.

Mr Bantock pointed out that BAC had agreed that money collected from residents that was left over once the situation had been resolved would be donated to the upgrading of the Zevenfontein community.

Yesterday Randburg Town Council management committee chairman Andre Jacobs said it had been made clear that the council was developing low-cost housing at Bloubosrand and that only squatters who could afford to pay for it would be accepted.

At that stage, the squatters had indicated that 20 percent were unable to pay as they were unemployed.

At a separate press conference, Operation Masakhane for the Homeless (Ohmle) said the condition of payment was unacceptable.

Outlining proposed house models costing as little as R7 300, Ohmle national organiser Eric Ngieza claimed that 90 percent of the 1 005 families living in Zevenfontein were employed and eligible to be transferred to Bloubosrand.

"The Independent Development Trust offers a subsidy for first-time home buyers, which means everyone can be permanently housed in that area.

"But," he added, "it will not be acceptable if Randburg accepts only those who can pay."
The Squatter Story

In two sides of the Squatter Story

The Kuilman family of Biloela had...
The Transit Authority and MetroBetter are not keen to move where they are unacceptable.

According to the mayor, the transit authority's decision to move the Transcurrency administration and headquarters to another location have been made to improve the services and facilities for commuters.

The Transcurrency administration and headquarters are currently located in the downtown area, but the authorities have decided to move to a more accessible location to serve the growing population.

The new location will have better facilities and services, including improved parking and mobility options. The authorities have also promised to consult with the public to ensure that the new location meets the needs of commuters.

The decision has been welcomed by many commuters, who believe that the new location will improve their travel experience. However, some business owners in the downtown area have expressed concern about the potential impact on local businesses.

The authorities have assured the public that they will work with local businesses to mitigate any negative effects of the move. They have also promised to keep the public informed throughout the relocation process.

The decision to move the Transcurrency administration and headquarters is part of a larger effort to improve the quality of life for residents of the city. The authorities have been working on a range of initiatives to enhance public transportation, including the development of new routes and the expansion of existing ones.

The city has also been working to improve its development strategy to ensure that it meets the needs of its residents. The authorities have promised to consult with the public to ensure that the new development strategy is inclusive and responsive to the needs of all residents.

The decision to move the Transcurrency administration and headquarters is a positive step towards improving the quality of life for residents of the city. The authorities have promised to continue working to improve the city's services and facilities to ensure that it remains a vibrant and welcoming place for all residents.
Bloubosrand residents to march on council

ANGRY Bloubosrand residents are to hold a mass march to the Randburg Civic Centre today, following the Randburg Town Council's announcement yesterday that it would stand by its agreement to allow the Zevenfontein squatters to move to a 4ha site at Bloubosrand.

Bloubosrand Action Committee spokesman Paul Burrows said yesterday he believed about 4,000 people would be demonstrating their opposition to the move. He believed many Randburg residents would attend as the whole community would be affected by the relocations.

Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough is considering a proposal to develop a low-cost housing site at Bloubosrand to accommodate the Zevenfontein squatters and is expected to make a decision on the matter before Monday.

At a press conference yesterday, Randburg management committee chairman Andre Jacobs accused the Bloubosrand homeowners of reacting irresponsibly and said the council still believed it had identified the most suitable site for relocation.

He said the council was proposing this site — sandwiched between an affluent area and a middle-class area — because it was not prepared to develop apartheid-style "locations" far removed from the town and its employment opportunities and facilities.

SAPA reports he said the developments would be only for people who could afford houses in the area, and would not accommodate informal settlements.

Jacobs said initial indications showed that about 20% of the present Zevenfontein squatter community would not be able to afford houses in the development.

The Federation of Ratepayers Associations, which was consulted, supported the council, Jacobs said.

Residents who say their properties will be severely devalued and crime will escalate have stopped paying their rates and have called for the council's resignation.

The Zevenfontein squatters stated yesterday that "no amount of coercion or intimidation will stop us from settling and living in harmony at Bloubosrand".

Operation Masakhane for the Homeless national organiser Eric Ngeleza told a news conference in Johannesburg yesterday the squatters were eager to pay rent and service charges and wanted to improve their living standard.

He said about 90% of the homeless people were employed.
Zevenfontein squatters near Randburg have become a focus in a contentious power struggle involving provincial authorities and property owners.

"Residents have completely lost hope," said Zevenfontein Executive Committee chairman, Daniel Sindorwe, this week as the squatters awaited final confirmation of the Randburg City Council's proposed low-cost housing scheme in Bloombraad Ext 1, eight kilometres away.

Residents of the middle-class suburb of Bloombraad just metres away from the proposed low-cost housing site, have emphatically stated they will not accept the council's proposal. That stand, they say, is "non-negotiable." Officials of the parties concerned have been locked in discussions for the whole week in an attempt to resolve the situation — which several of the parties involved say is primarily due to the incompetence of the Transvaal Provincial Administration. The next meeting is on Monday.

Clareville residents and the Retvalle community of whose land the squatters are temporarily being accommodated are still insisting the squatters be removed.

For the squatters, the situdation has become intolerable. There are no facilities — no water piped in, no sewage removal. There is no school for the children. And there is constant harassment, they complain, by Clareville residents. Sindorwe said the cars were not being allowed through over the weekend and they had to take a pregnant woman by wheelchair to the hospital.

Asked where they would be moving to, a group of squatters on Tuesday said they had been told by the TCPA they would be moving to Bloombraad Ext 1. And told the Bloombraad homeowners didn't want them there, they struggled and said they would have to wait and see.

Since news of the squatters being moved to Ext 1 first came out last Thursday, Bloombraad residents have been ramping roadblocks — or "checkpoints" — around the look at six strategic points in and around the residential area.

Residents said they set up the checkpoints because while the TCPA and other parties had undertaken not to move the squatters, the TCPA could not be trusted to keep its end of the bargain.

The city's management committee chairman, Andile Jekenis, said: "It is not legal for them to set up roadblocks on public roads, but we have decided to have a blind eye because the situation is an evolving one at the moment. Just as long as they don't totally barricade the roads, it's fine."

Police were present at the roadblocks this week but deputy district commissioner for Randburg police, Colonel Bimile Buyen, said they were just "doing their normal policing.

The Bloombraad residents are first-time home buyers who have expressed fear about losing their homes because of the drop in property values that has occurred since the controversy started.

"It's not a racial issue — it's a question of economics," they insisted, pointing out that a growing number of blacks, coloureds and Indians were buying middle-class houses in the area and were always willing to pay.

"It's not that we don't want them here," said Adam Kruger, an accountant in Johannesburg. "If only they could give them proper housing, I bought my place in October and the decision I took is going to affect the rest of my life.

Kruger and his family had bought a house worth R150 000. Paying R2000 a month off his bond, he said the value of his house had already dropped by 40-50 percent.

"My wife and I are planning on having children — but how can you plan on something that isn't going to have any future?"

Deadlock as squatter power struggle continues
Bureaucratic bungling and lack of planning has left the Zevenfontein squatters with no hope.

By LINDA RULASHE
Community school project ‘sabotaged’

HUNDREDS of children in the fast-growing settlement of Orange Farm in the Vaal are without schools and a Department of Education and Training (DET) official is charged with having interfered with a community project aimed at addressing the need.

Local community leader, Edna Mlengeni, said she planned to build a prefabricated school with five classrooms for R51 532. The community was prepared to raise the money through monthly fees from each pupil, she said.

In January, the Transvaal Provincial Administration granted her a site at Extension Seven for the school.

In the meantime, she managed to accommodate the pupils at more than 20 show houses belonging to a private company.

The DET provided her with educational instruments and seven teachers, and the pupils started with their classes last Monday after the community had arranged that the parents would contribute an amount of R20 each every month.

Mlengeni said this week that a DET inspector, Shadrack Modise, from the Vaal region, had visited the show-house school and told pupils not to pay their monthly fees as the school was not recognised by the DET. He could not be reached for comment.
Marching in the northern suburbs streets
MINING land and land being held for speculative purposes should be used for low-cost housing, the ANC said in a statement yesterday.

Urging the creation of a forum to establish a housing policy and to identify suitable land, the ANC said these steps were vital to prevent conflicts such as that involving the Zevenfontein squatters.

The ANC, the statement said, believed that planning should be a public process enabling parties such as civic, local authorities, ratepayers, the private sector and the general public to take part in decisions that affected them.

“All this should be underpinned by the principle that the needs of the urban homeless must be affordably met.”

The State, it said, was obliged to seek out land suitable for residential sites and encourage the use of vacant land being held for speculative purposes.

“Furthermore, the assumption that mining land is untouchable should be challenged, as such vacant land is often well suited for residential purposes.” — Sapa.
This is my home

JOHN PERLMAN

ALFRED MOYO can't understand why some people think he should go and live in Soweto or Alexandra.

The 47-year-old housepainter has lived on farms and plots north of Johannesburg his entire life, the last three years at Zevenfontein.

"I was born in Honeydew, on one of the farms. Where my parents were both working," says Mr Moyo. "Then my father died and I had to find out how to live for myself."

Mr Moyo, who started working as a clerk, says he thought about looking for a place in a township, but knew there was little point.

"I knew if I tried to go there the law would stand in my way. The whites would not let anyone go and live in the locations."

Even if I had married a woman from there, we would not have been able to live together. So I told myself I would have to live according to the laws of the farms.

Over time, though, the laws of the farms began to change. "In the old days, the plot in these areas was more than 200 acres," Mr Moyo says. "But as the place developed, the plots got smaller. Then the owners would say they didn't want too many people there."

Mr Moyo says more than half the people at Zevenfontein grew up in the area. "There are some who were born elsewhere, but they have spent most of their lives on these plots and farms."

Olehile Motseki (54) was not born in the area. He left a farm at Ottosdal, Transvaal, when he was a young man to seek work in Johannesburg.

"Ottosdal was a small place, there was no work," he explains. He too never wanted to live in a township, partly because his work on roadbuilding gangs often took him away and partly because he felt it was no place to raise a family.

"Those places are too rough," says Mr Motseki.

He settled in a small room on a plot, but was forced to move when the owners objected to his family being there. "They said there was not enough room to have children running around."

That is what brought Mr Motseki to Zevenfontein. Both he and Mr Moyo lost possessions when some of the shacks were flattened by bulldozers last month. Mr Motseki lost his job when he failed to turn up at work the day after the demolition.

Both men say they do not mind being moved, provided they can remain in the area. "If they must move us, that's fine, but it mustn't be far," says Mr Motseki.

"We want to live here because most of us work in Randburg," says Mr Moyo. "If they could develop this place, put in sewerage and so on, it would be good to stay here."

"But if that is not possible, then Randburg should find a place where its people can build low-cost houses and we can pay rent like in any township."

Mr Motseki insists that the Zevenfontein community is law-abiding: "We have a committee to run things and there has never been any fighting or any stealing."

Photographs: JOHN HOGG

OLEHILE MOTSEKI: Lost his possessions when bulldozers flattened the shacks. He also lost his job when he missed work the day after the demolition.

His children go to a nearby school, as do Mr Moyo's. A number of residents own motor vehicles, including Mr Motseki who has a sturdy-looking bakkie.

And both men say the majority of Zevenfontein residents are in stable jobs. "I think more than 80 percent of the people here are working," says Mr Moyo. "Those young men you see in the daytime work in the hotels at night." Mr Moyo knows there is great white opposition to the continued existence of Zevenfontein, but says he feels "neither angry nor sad about it and expects that attitude will change."

"All we want is a place to live and I think they know we have nowhere to go. I don't really see why they would want to give us a hassle."
Whites march as squatting row grows

JOHANNESBURG.—Angry white Bloemfontein residents opposed to the planned resettlement of the Zevenfontein, squatting community on an adjacent strip of land, yesterday staged a protest march and then demanded the resignation of the Randburg town council.

A petition with about 2,000 signatures asking for the council's resignation and about 4,000 demanding an end to the proposed low-cost housing development, was handed to the Randburg town secretary, Mr Willem van Graan.

Black bystander Mrs Olga Ramushe said: "We brought them up and now they hate us. We worked hard for them and get nothing out of it."

The Bloemfontein development will only be for people who can afford houses in the area. A town council spokesman said this week that initial indications showed about 20% of the Zevenfontein squatter community would not be able to afford houses.
Land by R700 000
Squatters, developed

Land plus the R200 000

1161

30

5700 000
Angry Bloubos marchers halt traffic

Johannesburg. — Angry white Bloubosrand residents opposed to the planned resettlement of the Zevenfontein squatter community on an adjacent strip of land have demanded the resignation of the Randburg Town Council.

A protest march through the Randburg CBD by 500 to 700 placard-carrying residents halted traffic and angered blacks.

A petition with about 2,000 signatures demanding the council's resignation and about 4,000 demanding an end to the proposed low-cost housing development was handed to Randburg town secretary Mr. Willem van Graan.

Thirty "pieces of silver" were then thrown in front of Mr. Van Graan to the wild cheering of the residents and chants of "Judas, Judas".

A letter to the council was read out by the Bloubosrand Action Committee (BAC), who organised the march.

"On behalf of the BAC, representing the ratepayers of Randburg, please accept this petition requesting the Randburg Town Council to resign.

"The signatories consider that the Town Council gravely mismanaged the handling of the Zevenfontein issue and have no confidence at all in the Town Council's ability to professionally manage the affairs of ratepayers or represent them fairly and honestly," the letter said.

Blacks watching the march were disappointed.

Mr. Michael Mongel, who works in Randburg, said he felt "very bad" about the residents' attitude.

"This is the time for co-operation. We must work together to find a solution. We can't afford to build big houses like they do, but we must live somewhere. Low-cost housing is a start," he said with bitterness. — Sapa.
We’ll stay put, say families

By MARTIN NTSELENGOE

ANGRY Elandsfontein families in the western Transvaal, who face eviction after being conned into paying Joseph Matsihe R32 000 for sites, are refusing to leave.

They have engaged a legal representative who has already written a letter to chief John Mathope, Matsihe's cousin, advising him that the families are occupying their sites lawfully and that any legal proceedings that he may intend bringing against them would be vigorously opposed.

The families were earlier given until January 1 to leave Elandsfontein.

Some families have already left and are now living in Phutsiga near Rustenburg.

Those who remained, led by Julius Molawa, have vowed to fight the evictions to the bitter end.
Promises lured squatters

From Page 1

names on the list, specified the size of their families and were allocated land on which to erect a shack.

"But they told me my shack would be temporary and that I would get a proper house soon," said a newcomer of three weeks.

She said a fellow outpatient at the Hillbrow hospital told her in late December that she could get accommodation at Zevenfontein and put herself in line for a new house.

Another squatter said: "When I came here a man and a fat lady put my name on a list and said if I stayed they would talk to the whites and get me a house."

A squatter who has been living in the camp since last August said residents summoned her to put her name on a list in early November.

"A man and a fat lady wanted to know how many children I had and said that I would get a two, three or four-roomed house," she said.

A farm labourer said he had "heard that we wouldn't have to live there, but that, as long as we had a shack and our name was on the list, we would get a house."

The TPA demolished 200 shacks found to be empty on January 28, a TPA official told the Sunday Times this week.

Since then, farm labourers have recruited unemployed relatives and friends to live in the remaining shacks and prevent them from being demolished.

An unemployed 21-year-old interviewed in a Zevenfontein shack on Friday said he was guarding his brother's shack. His brother, who worked elsewhere but came to Zevenfontein to erect the shack two weeks ago, had instructed him to "stay around in case they brought the forms for the new houses," he said.

Now in 20's $30
A TALE OF TWO FAMILIES IN THE MIDDLE OF A LAND BATTLE

No food, water or toilets — only illness and fear

LETTIE BEUKES, 32, is polite, well-spoken and neatly dressed. Her little girls — with braided hair, shy smiles and shoes and socks — stand quietly with her in the dusty queue at the mobile water tank at Zevenfontein squatter camp.

They’ve been there in the sun since early and it’s now 5pm.

“The tank didn’t come yesterday and only came this morning. There wasn’t enough and we didn’t get any. I hope they’ll come again,” said Miss Beukes, an unemployed domestic worker.

It is not only because of the heat that Mrs Beukes wants water — her daughters, Brenda, 3, and Maggie, 18 months, both have diarrhoea and keep dehydrating.

Zevenfontein is not a great place to live, says Miss Beukes.

There are no toilets and no running water for the 900-odd families living cheek-by-jowl in tin shanties in the veld.

“There are so many germs my kids keep getting sick. There is no fresh stuff. Sometimes I have to use the tank river water.”

Pregnant

But, says Miss Beukes, she’s not going anywhere. “We don’t have a place to go. I came here one year ago when I was fired because I was pregnant.”

“I heard about Zevenfontein from my friend and we left Shadrack, my boyfriend, came here. He works for a plumbing company in Randburg and earns R150 a fortnight.

“Last week the police gave us notices to say we must be out in two weeks. I don’t sleep at night. I’m so worried — not for myself so much, but for my children because I love them.”

A TALE OF TWO FAMILIES IN THE MIDDLE OF A LAND BATTLE

WAITING FOR WATER . . . Lettie Beukes, who says her sick children, Brenda, 3, and Maggie, 18 months, keep dehydrating. Picture: DAVID SANDISON

Fears

The Shadrack family of four in a shack by the road will be flattened again in the night because they live in the area for more than 30 years.

Mr Beukes, the only one employed, has spent the past 10 years making good his home because he stays at home to guard the children while his wife works as a cleaner. Mr Beukes, who is 34, has five children: two boys and three girls.

He says his children are always hungry and cannot afford medical attention.

“I heard they were going to evict us but I don’t know where else to go. I can’t afford other accommodation. All I can afford is the town. My job doesn’t provide enough.”

Mr Beukes says they have been given notices to leave and he has given up hope of getting a move in or house.

“I will go to court but I know they won’t do anything. It will just be a matter of how long they can make it last.”

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BLIOUBOSRAND’S BROThERS IN ARMS

MIDDLECLASS sensibilities flew out of the window in Bloubosrand this week.

Within a week the outlying Randburg suburb was transformed into a battleground for territorial rights.

Young married men from 560-odd homes loaded the guns they kept hidden in their sock and handkerchief drawers. Some, like Stuart Smith, seat their toddlers to relatives “just in case”.

They took leave from work, mounted a control centre, hired a bunch of two-way radios and are keeping an eagle eye on the 44ha open patch earmarked for Zevenfontein’s squatters — land that is only metres away from their pristine new houses.

Neighbours who were strangers are suddenly brothers and buddies in arms in an around-the-clock military-style operation aimed at defending their castles.

Bridge

They communicate vigorously by two-way radio. They urgently summon, not John, Joe or Bert, but Echo One, Two or Three.

They have dug trenches across the roads, and it is rumoured, mined a low-level bridge leading into the suburb.

The women, including the wives of black Bloubosrand homeowners, rotate in shifts preparing food for the men on patrol.

Yuppie accountants with clipped English accents and Paul Simon T-shirts have thrown up roadblocks to keep out squatters who might creep in at night with corrugated iron and cardboard.

Any night of the week Carole Vogel’s husband Ewoud, 34, can be found taking his turn manning one of the eight roadblocks blockading the suburb.

If the truth be told, Mr Vogel, a high school teacher and father of three, is somewhat bemused by the events of the last 10 days — by the council decision to ram thousands of squatters into a narrow strip of land literally around his corner and also by the transformation within his suburb.

“Look we don’t have a Ventersdorp-type mentality here, but we have a lot of young chaps who have done military service who are putting their training into practice,” he said.

“We discourage people from displaying weapons. The AWB offered 300 men and we declined.

“But if the authorities bring the squatters in, there is no telling what residents will do. One little mistake could turn this thing into a bloodbath.”

Said Mrs Vogel, 26: “When we came here three years ago, it was for good. We built our dream house and made what we thought was a good investment.

“My parents bought the plot next door to build their retirement house. We were not thinking about Australia or Canada. We sunk everything into this house.

“Before this happened the house was worth about R140,000. Now I doubt we could get enough to cover the bond.

“I feel sorry for the squatters, but I am 26 times sorrier for myself — I have much more to lose.”

Mr Vogel added: “We’re trapped. We’ll have to upgrade our security and change our lifestyle. Our other option is to leave the house to the bank.

“People welcomed me even though I am black. My husband and I don’t want squatters on our doorstep,” she said.

_cancelled_

Said Bloubosrand Action Committee spokesman Peter Bancock: “Two weeks ago property values were rising faster than most places in South Africa. Last Sunday not a single person turned up to see our show homes. The banks won’t give loans for this area, newcomers have cancelled their contracts.

“Our houses were worth between R130,000 and R170,000 on average. Now they’re not worth 10c.

“We are not insensitive to the fact that squatters are people with emotions, but we will not negotiate sub-economic houses for this area. We don’t want health problems or a speculated increase in crime.

“We don’t want a crippled property market.”
Rough Ride Ahead... Dawn registered, Its not child's play Down and Dirty....

Phyllis

It's survival of the fittest, says angry

Dawn Barhuzen Reports

horse-belt Libreahl

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Is this new SA's?

By Collette Cane

CITY PRESS, Friday, 9 July 1992

PAGE 8

ZBEZENPONTJIN

ASK HOMELESS
Turnaround in decision over Randburg squatters

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The Zevenfontein squatters will not be moving into Bloubosrand unless they can pay for formal affordable housing, says the Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Danie Hough.

In announcing this reversal of the TPA’s decision to move the squatters to the area in northern Randburg, Mr Hough said the TPA had “not given in to pressure”.

“We are sensitive as far as all interested parties are concerned and we consulted as far as possible.” He was speaking at a Press conference last night at the Randburg Civic Centre after a lengthy meeting between the TPA, the Randburg Town Council and the Bloubosrand Action Committee. But the fate of the Zevenfontein squatters remains undecided.

Mr Hough said they would stay where they were for the time being but their living conditions would be improved.

Meanwhile, development in Bloubosrand will go ahead, but the council and residents have agreed on the development of formal affordable housing.

Any Zevenfontein squatters who could afford the new housing could move there, Mr Peter Bantock, chairman of the Bloubosrand Action Committee told the Press Conference.

He said the residents had achieved their objectives in obtaining a turnaround of the TPA’s strategy.
Squatting battle settled

By Jacqueline Myburgh

The Zevenfontein squatters would not be moving into Bloubosrand unless they were able to pay for formal affordable housing, Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough said last night.

In announcing this reversal of the Transvaal Provincial Administration's decision to move the squatters to 44 ha in northern Randburg, Mr Hough said the TPA had not submitted to pressure from Bloubosrand residents. "We are simply sensitive as far as all interested parties are concerned."

He was speaking at a press conference after a lengthy meeting between the TPA, the Randburg Town Council and the Bloubosrand Action Committee.

The fate of the Zevenfontein squatters remains undecided, but Bloubosrand residents have pledged to help finance their development.

Mr Hough said the squatters would stay in Zevenfontein for the moment, but their resettlement — in an area not yet identified — had to be completed by July 31.

The TPA had been granted power of attorney over the Zevenfontein property, he said, enabling it to administer the area. It was vitally important that living conditions there be upgraded — even for just a few weeks.

Mr Hough said Chartwell residents had sanctioned this decision by the TPA.

Strategy

He said a task group appointed to evaluate the existing urbanisation strategy for this area would report back to the TPA not later than March 2 on proposed plans for the squatters.

Development in Bloubosrand will go ahead, but the council and residents last night agreed on development of formal affordable housing.

Any Zevenfontein squatters who could afford the new housing could move there, said Peter Bantock, chairman of the Bloubosrand Action Committee.

He later told more than 1 000 Bloubosrand residents they would "never, never, ever again" be faced with the prospect of "informal low-cost housing" on their doorsteps.

Residents gathered on an open piece of land at about 8 pm to hear the results of the meeting with the TPA.

Champagne flowed and the crowd cheered when Mr Bantock said the action committee would be meeting the Zevenfontein squat leaders today to discuss their involvement in the development of the squatters.

Randburg Management Committee chairman Andre Jacobs said earlier that the council, together with the police, would strenuously prevent any attempts to erect squatter settlements in the Bloubosrand area.

● Picture — Page 3
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TPA drops plan to move squatters

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) announced yesterday it had dropped plans to relocate the Zevenfontein squatters at Bloubosrand in Randburg.

Bloubosrand Action Group chairman Peter Bantock hailed the TPA's decision as a victory for the group and for Randburg residents who had opposed the move.

The TPA said 10 days ago that the more than 750 squatter families at Zevenfontein, north of Fourways, would be moved to Bloubosrand 28km away after an agreement was reached with Randburg Town Council.

The squatters have been at the centre of controversy since the TPA announced last year it was to move them to Diepsloot, provoking anger from local residents and the Greenbelt Action Group (GAG).

Zevenfontein landowners, represented by the Chartwell North Action Group, threatened to evict the squatters, leading to the TPA's decision to move them to Bloubosrand.

The TPA said yesterday the squatters would be allowed to stay at Zevenfontein, where rudimentary services would be provided until July. A decision would then be made about where to house them. The decision to allow them to stay was made with the approval of the Chartwell group.

Transvaal administrator Daniel Hough did not deny yesterday that the TPA had made an about-turn on the issue, but did deny that the change of heart was a result

Squatters

of pressure from the Bloubosrand residents.

At a joint news conference after consultations between the TPA, Randburg Town Council and the Bloubosrand Action Group, it was also announced that the Bloubosrand site originally earmarked for the squatters would be developed into "affordable housing", with the addition of full service facilities, tarred roads, primary and secondary education facilities and a police station.

Neither Bantock nor Randburg council management committee chairman André Jacobs would define what "affordable housing" meant, nor were they able to give an estimated price for housing units, but they confirmed that "affordable housing" was more expensive than the "low-cost housing" option mooted by the council for the area last week.

The Zevenfontein squatters would be able to buy houses in Bloubosrand if they could afford them, although they would not get first priority in the selection process, Hough said.
Hugh's decision

Squatters mug on

By Brian Hulme

The Star Wednesday February 12, 1992
Call for task force to identify land

By Julienne du Toit

The Urban Foundation yesterday called for the State President, with his Codesa partners, to appoint a task force to identify land for the Zevanfontein and other squatter communities in the PWV region.

Executive director of urbanisation Ann Bernstein said the task force should be headed by a Supreme Court judge with two deputies representing land owners and the landless.

The task force should report back to the State President within a six-month deadline.

She said the task force should receive input from all interested parties. "It is critical that issues of such national importance as the identification of land for future urban growth are no longer left in the hands of the officials," she said.

The TPA’s task group would review only a part of the PWV region, and would not resolve the problem of land identification, Ms Bernstein warned.

Some positive solutions would have to be found, or else the consequences could be stark, said Urban Foundation executive director of housing Jill Strelitz. "There will either be a give-and-take situation, or people will be taking things into their own hands, as they have done already."

Ms Bernstein explained that land owners opposing the settlement of Zevanfontein squatters were not necessarily racist.

"It is two different income groups meeting in an urban landscape," she said.

There should be no more unilateral ad hoc decisions. The poorer people were vital to the economy of the PWV area and each municipality should make compromises to accommodate them, said Ms Strelitz.
On whose doorstep can squatters be dumped?
Task force for squatter land urged

JOHANNESBURG. — The Urban Foundation has proposed that the President — in consultation with his key Codesa negotiating partners — appoint a representative task force to identify land for future low income settlement in the PWV region.

The UF was responding, at a news conference here yesterday, to the controversies surrounding the Zevenfontein squatters.

UF urbanisation executive director Ms Ann Bernstein said the Transvaal Provincial Administration-appointed task force investigating an urbanisation strategy was limited to only one part of the PWV region so could not plan for the wider region.

She said this would result in other communities behaving in the same way as the Bloubosrand community had.

Ms Bernstein said: "It is in the interests of everyone in the PWV area for urban growth to be handled in a planned and equitable manner."

Not doing so had resulted in conflicts such as Zevenfontein being mis-interpreted as a racial issue rather than a consequence of not dealing with urban growth.

Meanwhile, she welcomed the decisions allowing the Zevenfontein community to stay where they were temporarily and providing basic services.

Ms Bernstein proposed the task force should be headed by a Supreme Court judge assisted by two deputies representing land owners and the landless. She emphasised that the task force should be representative of all key stakeholders in the PWV.

Ms Bernstein believed the Bloubosrand community's objection to the squatters' relocation to that area was based on class rather than racial issues. Any middle class neighbourhood would be concerned over the development of housing for low income people near its area, she said.

UF housing policy executive director Ms Jill Strelitz cited the Hout Bay squatters as an example where property prices first plummetted but eventually stabilised after the influx of squatters to the area. — Sapa
The Urban Foundation wants the State President to intervene in the Zevenfontein issue.

UF calls on De Klerk to act on land issue

SOWETO 12/2/92

THE Urban Foundation yesterday called on the State President to intervene on the Zevenfontein squatters issue by appointing a task force to look into the land issue in the FWV area.

It proposed that President FW de Klerk and his partners in CODESA appoint the force under a Supreme Court judge to identify land for future low-income settlement in the region within six months.

"The judge should be assisted by two deputies representing land owners and the landless," said the foundation's Mrs Ann Bernstein.

"As far back as 1986 we have proposed non-racial land planning with allowance for the growth factor."

She said the provision of land and the opportunity for settlement for millions of the disadvantaged was an urgent national priority.

Bernstein said while they welcomed Monday's decision to allow Zevenfontein squatters to stay until July, they were "concerned that the TPA task group would not resolve the challenge of land identification".
SQUATTING FM 14/2/92

Facing facts

The row over the Zevenfontein squatters ended with this week's backdown by the TPA. The Bloubosbrand Action Group, which had set up barricades against an influx of squatters to Randburg, hailed the decision as a victory, while government "policy" on squatting was seen to be virtually non-existent.

The so-called squatter problem — where and how to house hundreds of thousands of people — will not go away. The issues are so important that the Urban Foundation has proposed that the State President, in consultation with his key Codesa partners, appoint a task force headed by a Supreme Court judge to identify land for low-income settlement on the PWV.

It is proposed that the judge be assisted by two deputies, representing land owners and

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FM 14/2/92

the landless. In addition, key stakeholders such as local authorities, employers, workers and developers should participate. It is imperative, says the foundation, that stakeholders be bound into a process where they cannot constantly be negative about the location of low-income housing. "They should be required to come forward with competing, positive proposals for the future of the region and the location of housing, both formal and informal." It is "critical" that the issue no longer be left in the hands of officials.

Since the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Amendment Act of 1988, the Urban Foundation has on a number of occasions put forward its proposals, which have not been acted on by government. This has resulted in serious but unnecessary conflict, which is interpreted as a racial issue when in fact it represents "a failure to understand and deal with the issues of urban growth."

The medium-term solution in the PWV, says the foundation, is the adoption of a sound housing policy that ensures the delivery of well-located housing (formal and informal, such as managed site-and-service schemes) at the rate required and within the limits of affordability of the homeless.

This will take time and, inevitably, spontaneous informal settlements will continue. Conflict resolution mechanisms are, therefore, urgently needed.
Midrand backs call on squatting

THE Midrand Town Council yesterday came out in support of the Urban Foundation's call for a broad-based working group to tackle the squatter problem in the PWV region.

But management committee chairman David Hidden also called for regional forums across the country to solve the problem on a nationwide basis.

"The current perception that the accommodation of homeless people is a North Rand issue only is not merely incorrect, but extremely dangerous," Hidden said in a statement.

The Midrand council had taken on the challenge of housing nearly 120 000 people, he said.

Many of these people worked on the East Rand and incurred excessive travel costs to get to their places of employment and back.

"This situation has arisen as a result of the lack of provision of accommodation for workers in established industrial areas," he said.

Hidden said he was concerned that other regions in SA were "simply sitting back and keeping an extremely low profile" during the crisis.

"It is unrealistic to expect that the 7-million people who need to be informally housed could be accommodated in the northern PWV area."

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz

"Here, sweet baboo... I brought you a Valentine."

"I'm not your sweet baboo!"

"Well, take it anyway... you blockhead!"

"I love Valentine's Day... it's so romantic..."

Venter says yes to Perlman

OPERATION Hunger director Ina Perlman said yesterday her organisation had received a letter from National Health Minister Nia Venter granting it permission to apply for aid on a national basis.

The letter brings to an end the public row which erupted this week between Perlman and Venter, during which Perlman accused Venter's ministry of delaying relief aid while people went hungry.

Perlman had accused the ministry of not replying to a letter Operation Hunger had sent in December asking to be allowed to prepare an application to be granted aid money nationally.

Venter in turn accused Perlman of using public pressure to obtain funds. Perlman said the organisation's application would be submitted today.
THE Sevenfontein squatter community would not be allowed to move to Bloxbosrand Extension unless they could afford to build formal low-cost housing in the area.

This was decided at a meeting between the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Randburg Town Council and the Bloxbosrand Action Committee yesterday.

The Administrator of the Transvaal, Mr Danie Hough, said it had been agreed that decent living conditions - clean water, toilet facilities and refuse removal - would be introduced at the squatter camp.

He also said it had been agreed that the squatter community would be resettled on a permanent and legal basis before July 31 this year.

The decision as to where they would be relocated depended on the pending proposals of a task group formed by the TPA to investigate possible sites for the development of low-cost housing projects. Proposals had to be submitted by March 2, he said.
the epiphany in the living room

Philipp von Nickel
the old fashion house

Polonder and the

The Propos of the


From page 1 - History of Gedung, Background, Support, and Operation.
Planners divided on how to house 3m

“CONSULTATION” may be the buzzword on the lips of urban planners in the Johannesburg area, but when it comes down to brass tacks it is clear they are still talking past each other.

Last week’s furor over Bloubosrand highlighted the pressing need to identify suitable land for low-income housing to accommodate the PWV’s 3 million homeless.

The criterion for this — whether it should be market-related or based on need — is becoming a source of conflict between authorities and other bodies.

And no one is willing to say which land has been earmarked for future housing development.

Each has his own idea of how the chronic housing shortage should be addressed, but finding common ground is a problem.

Workable solution

While the Transvaal Provincial Administration is looking at the outskirts of Johannesburg for land, civic associations are increasingly turning their eyes inwards, particularly to prime mining land just south of the city.

The Bloubosrand furor also illustrated the need for established residents, as well as the homeless, to have their say if a workable solution is to be found.

After the announcement that the low-income housing project planned for the area would not go ahead, suggestions for a solution flew thick and fast.

The Urban Foundation claimed that land identification could no longer be trusted to officials and called for a task group of all interested parties to identify suitable land.

This was followed by a Metropolitan Chamber — the “Codex of the central Rand” — announcement that such a task group had already been established.

A chamber spokesman told Saturday Star the Urban Foundation’s announcement was “naive, ill-considered and an attempt to capture the limelight”.

Despite all criticism, the TPA believes it is doing a great job addressing the huge housing shortage.

It had been talking to everybody and would be providing about 43 000 new sites south of Johannesburg this year, liaison officer Magda du Toit said this week.

Around the Johannesburg area, the TPA had settled 90 000 people in the last book year and made almost 100 000 stands available in recent years, she said.

But detractors say this is not fast enough and that, although the TPA may be talking to everyone, it is not necessarily listening to everybody.

Major partners in the Metropolitan Chamber, the Civic Association of Johannesburg (CAJ), believe land identification should not be based on the market value of the land, but rather on the suitability and need for housing.

The TPA is buying up land for housing in areas which lie outside Johannesburg’s 20 km radius because it is cheaper.

But, according to CAJ general-secretary Cas Coovadia, this will prove more expensive in the long run in terms of transport costs.

He believes the starting point for any planning should be based on people’s need for housing. His movement believes that any land identified as suitable should be used and that legislation needs to be enacted to make this possible.

If the mining companies are not willing to make their land — which is largely unused — available for housing, then some way should be found to force them to do so.

“Either the mining houses put their social responsibility priorities higher up, or we bring in agents to ensure it becomes affordable for the people,” Mr Coovadia said.

One way would be to drastically raise the rates on unused land, he added.

Another chamber member, Mark Swilling, said present legislation did not make it possible for creative alternatives. Of particular hindrance were municipal by-laws.

“We are talking about economic survival here. Johannesburg is the goose that lays the golden egg. If we do not get our planning for the future right now, we could be messing up the development of the whole subcontinent’s economy.

“I don’t think the market should be allowed to stand in the way of economic growth. Over-regulation is preventing the city from breathing and moving where it wants to go.”

Holistic

Mr Swilling said he believed the TPA was trying to do its job within constraints “and those are formidable”.

But, he said, the framework provided by the Metropolitan Chamber would be the solution to the TPA’s headache.

Ann Bernstein, executive director of the Urban Foundation, said the TPA’s approach was still working on an ad hoc basis — housing needed to be looked at holistically if the problem were to be solved.

“What we are saying is that you cannot, in a situation of rapid urbanisation where you have a large demand for land and an enormous backlog, survive without an overall plan.

“What we are facing is the failure of past policies and the failure of present policies too,” Ms Bernstein said.

Mr Coovadia said it was still too early to say if the TPA-chamber task-group would be successful or not.

“Its terms of reference have still not been worked out, but we definitely do not want to become a rubber stamp for the TPA,” he added.
No more cannon fodder!

By COLLETTE CAINE

The people of Zevenfontein and other homeless communities will not be used as cannon fodder in the battle against racism.

So says Eric Ngeleza, national organiser of Operation Massakhane for the Homeless (Omhle).

Ngeleza represents the Zevenfontein people in the recent debate over their move to Bloubosrand.

He is the sole representative of the homeless on the newly established task force set up by Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough to identify land in the PWV region for the settlement of the region’s millions of homeless people.

Ngeleza is also the only black person on the 30-man task force, which has representatives from the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), five city councils, two regional council offices, five local residents’ associations and pressure groups.

At present, the only other voice for the millions of black people who will be affected by its decisions is that of the delegate from the Central Witwatersrand Metropolitan Chamber.

Other organisations representing black community interests might join the task force later.

The group must come up with recommendations for the sites in North of Sandton and west of Wildrand by the end of March. An interim report dealing with the resettlement of Zevenfontein must be ready by March 2.

Ngeleza says although Omhle is disappointed that plans for the move to Bloubosrand were changed, it will not take on white racists in its fight to see homeless people settled on their own land.

“Omhle won’t allow its members to get involved in conflicts over identifying new land. We don’t want our people to be cannon fodder in any battle to change the minds of mad racists.”

Ngeleza said he felt optimistic about the ability of the task force to contribute to solving the massive homelessness problem in the region, although there was still a lot to be discussed and clarified.

■ A prayer service will be held at Zevenfontein this morning to pray for the future of the community.

■ ANC deputy president Walter Sisulu and leading clergymen are scheduled to visit Zevenfontein today.
Anxious but hopeful... Zevenfontein squatters and ANC supporters from other PWV townships stand silent while praying for residents of the camp who still face an uncertain future.

Picture: Etienne Rothbart.

Prayers for squatters

About 250 ANC supporters yesterday attended a prayer meeting in Zevenfontein in solidarity with squatters living there. The supporters were brought in by four buses from townships in the PWV area.

After prayers, Dan Mosholi, chairman of Operation Masakhane for the Homeless, made a plea for a "change in heart" among Sandton and Randburg residents.

"We blacks and whites must come together and solve these problems," he said.

The fate of the squatters is still uncertain. The Transvaal Provincial Administration cancelled a plan to resettle them on land adjacent to Bloubosrand after strong resistance to the idea from white residents in the suburb. — Staff Reporter.
squatter crisis
to ease the growing
business must act

JOHN WEVEF
17.12.42

The squatter problem must be solved, and the government must take steps to ease the growing crisis. The squatters are living in unsanitary and overcrowded conditions, and their living standards are extremely low. The government must provide adequate housing and facilities for the squatters, and it must also take steps to prevent the spread of disease and crime. In addition, the government must work to improve the economic situation of the squatters, and it must provide them with the resources they need to improve their lives. This will require a significant investment of time and resources, but it is essential if we are to provide a better future for these families.
AWB plans to demolish shacks at squatter camp

VENTERSDORP. — The AWB's Wenkommando has agreed to demolish shacks at the Swanieville squatters camp near Krugersdorp.

Yesterday the AWB said it had a written agreement with the owner of the farm, Mr S G Swanepoel, to break down shacks.

In keeping with the law, the AWB said, a request had been made for the police to be present. When contacted, the rightwing organisation refused to disclose the date of the planned demolition but promised to give sufficient warning before embarking on the action.

The AWB said the request to demolish the shacks had come from Mr Swanepoel who had a "bona fide case" because "his property is being occupied by about 30,000 illegal squatters and is in fact being taken over without any compensation."

The AWB said it had irrefutable proof that Mr Swanepoel's farm was being "cut up by the ANC and sold to ANC and communist members."

A meeting had been held on February 11 with the Deputy Minister of Law and Order, Mr Johan Scheepers, the AWB and Mr Swanepoel to discuss this "unbelievable situation", the AWB said.

The deputy minister could not meet Mr Swanepoel's demands and have the squatters removed, the AWB said.

— Sapa 8/10/72
AWB to bust
shacks at
Swanieville

THE AWB's
Wenkommundo has been
called to demolish shacks
at the Swanieville squatter
camp in Kagiso, near
Krugersdorp, by the owner
of the farm.

The AWB yesterday
confirmed it had a written
agreement with Mr SG
Swanepeol to break down
the shack.

The organisation said
"in keeping with the law",
a request had been made
for the police to be present.

When pressed for fur-
ther comment, the organi-
sation refused to disclose
the date of the planned
demolition.

It promised, however,
to give sufficient warning
before taking action.

Swanieville was the
scene of violence on May
12 last year when more
than 30 people were killed
in an attack by about 1 000
Kagiso hostel dwellers.

The AWB said the re-
quest to demolish the
shacks came from
Swanepeol who had a
"bona fida case" because
"his property is being occu-
pied by about 30 000 illegal
squatters and is in fact be-
ing taken over without any
compensation".

"Swanepeol could not be
reached for comment last
night."

It also said the issue was
discussed at a meeting held
on February 11 between it-
self, Deputy Minister of
Law and Order Mr Johan
Scheepers and Swanepeol.

Scheepers could not
meet Swanepeol's demands
to have the squatters
removed, the AWB said.
Township a no-no

THE town council of Louis Trichardt has objected to the re-establishment of Tshikota township.

In a resolution taken on January 28 the council said Tshikota would be an informal town which would affect the standards of the neighbouring suburb.

Tshikota, less than 1 km from the town's suburbs, was demolished more than 10 years ago.

This angered the residents who vowed to return.

Campaigns were started two years ago to re-establish the township, and following a massive boycott of the town in 1990, the Administrator of the Transvaal agreed to upgrade the area for reoccupation.
AWB plans to demolish Swanieville shacks

THE AWB has a written agreement with the owner of the farm on which the Swanieville squatter camp near Krugersdorp is situated to use its Wenkommando to break down shacks housing 30,000 people, says AWB spokesman Cliff Barnard.

Barnard said the AWB general staff meeting last weekend agreed to break down the Swanieville shacks following a meeting between farm owner Swanie Swanepoel, AWB leader Eugene Terre Blanche and Deputy Law and Order Minister Johan Scheepers last week. Scheepers refused to have the squatters moved.

The AWB said Swanepoel’s land had been taken over by the squatters without any compensation and was now being divided into plots by the ANC. The plots were being sold to members of the ANC and SACP.

A spokesman for the police riot unit in Krugersdorp said “a lot of water is going to flow into the sea before squatters get moved from Swanieville.” He said the police would not stand by and allow the Wenkommando to break up the shacks at Swanieville.

“There are only between 500 and 600 shacks at Swanieville with nowhere near 30,000 people there,” he said.

“These people were allowed on to the land by Swanepoel who wanted to make money from them. Now he wants to get rid of them.

“If the squatters are going to be moved, it will be the result of lengthy negotiations and because a peaceful solution has been found.”

The AWB said it would ask the police to be present when it broke down the camp.
AWB to demolish Reef squatter camp

VENTERSDORP. — The Afrikaanse Weerstands beweging's Weenkomsmando has agreed to demolish shacks at the Swanepoel squatters' camp near Krugersdorp.

The AWB yesterday said it had a written agreement with the owner of the farm, Mr S G Swanepoel.

In keeping with the law, the AWB said, a request had been made for the police to be present. It refused to disclose the date of the planned demolition but said it would give sufficient warning.

The AWB said the request to demolish the shacks had come from Mr Swanepoel.

"He has a bona fide case because his property is being occupied by about 30,000 illegal squatters and is in fact being taken over without any compensation."

The AWB said it had irrefutable proof that Mr Swanepoel's farm was being "cut up by the ANC and sold to ANC and communist members."

A meeting had been held on February 11 with Deputy Minister of Law and Order Mr Johan Scheepers, the AWB and Mr Swanepoel to discuss this "unbelievable situation", the AWB said.

The deputy minister could not meet Mr Swanepoel's demands and have the squatters removed, the AWB said.

— Sapa
The AWB agrees to clear squatter area

Bid to stop demolition of

homes

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homes
The article discusses the challenges faced by schools and the government in implementing an effective education crisis plan. The article highlights the need for collaboration between schools and the government to address the educational needs of students. The article also mentions the importance of monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the crisis plan to ensure its success.

The article concludes with a call to action, encouraging stakeholders to work together to create a robust and effective education crisis plan. The article stresses the importance of continuous improvement and adaptation to address the evolving needs of students and the educational system.
The Government last night warned the AWB to stay out of the Swanievilla squatting row at Krugersdorp.

Deputy Law and Order Minister Johan Schepers said the police would not allow the AWB to destroy shacks on the farm at the request of owner Sarel Swanepoel.

"I am convinced that arriving at a solution to this problem will be made more difficult by the involvement of any third party, including the AWB."

The police will not tolerate any irregular conduct.

"I therefore urgently call on Mr Eugene TerreBlanche not to allow the AWB to become involved in any action that could possibly result in confrontation and violence," he said.

Mr Swanepoel told The Star yesterday the ANC had "taken over my farm and my rents. That was 18 months ago. There are 28 000 to 28 000 squatters."

The authorities have not given me clearance for a black housing project and they refuse to act on the squatting situation that has developed as a result.

"So I went in the end to the AWB. Where else was I supposed to go?"

They were the only ones who said they would help me, and I have sent that message to the State President.

"There is going to be a bloodbath. I can't even go on to my own land any more."

"The last time I went to the squatters was 18 months ago — I was cut by a knife thrown at me and a security guard with me was beaten to death, but no one has been arrested."

Mr Swanepoel warned that Star journalists would face a hostile reception at Swanievilla. It did not happen.

Part of the row is whether the people there — The Star estimated about 15 000 — are squatters at all.

They say they moved into Swanievilla One and Two camps over the past two years at Mr Swanepoel's invitation because he promised cheap but good housing and toilets, plenty of water, a school and creche, and a clinic.

During a three-hour visit yesterday The Star heard about these promises repeatedly.

Middle-aged Agnes Mlambo, whose husband died recently, is expecting her six children, ranging from seven years old to 25, to move into her one-roomed mud and dagga shack on an 8 m by 10 m plot she says Mr Swanepoel marked out.

A member of the Swanievilla Two residents' committee, she told simply but articulately about the empty promised she was made.

Like others, she says she had to pay R100 to get a plot, then R30 a month in rent "for no facilities at all."

As she spoke another woman chipped in. "Here is proof" — and produced a receipt for R100, marked "rent." The signature was not clear.

The atmosphere was calm and friendly, and there were chuckles at Mr Swanepoel's ANC claims.

One was that ANC officials
Minister warns AWB

were selling his stands for R200 each at a barber shop in Swanle ville One. The owner of the shop, Stephen Segwabe, his hair slicked and shiny, simply laughed.

Residents said they had refused to pay rents from December last year. They would resume when Mr Swanepoel delivered on his promises.

Across a dip of open veld, Swanle ville One has a pro-ANC reputation, 27 residents were massacred there last May. It was more tense, and an ANC presence was obvious.

No one would talk without "the comrades" say-so. A group of young men, apparently ANC officials, said briefly but politely that they would answer questions at a press conference today. But they confirmed residents were also boycotting rent to Mr Swanepoel.

Neither section of Swanle ville had the listless air common to squatter camps, and residents said many people had jobs in the area.

"But some of us have come from as far as the Transkei because of Mr Swanepoel's promises," was the parting shot as we drove away.
Police ‘won’t allow AWB shack attack’

THE police would not allow the AWB’s Venkommande to take the law into its own hands at Swanieville squatter settlement, Deputy Law and Order Minister Mr Johan Scheepers said yesterday.

He was reacting to reports that the AWB had been asked to destroy squatter homes at Swanieville.

He emphasised that, like the owner of the land, the squatters were entitled to protection.

“The SA Police will fulfil their duty to both,” he said. (3 10)

The minister said police would not tolerate any “irregular conduct”, and urged AWB leader Mr Eugene Terre’Blanche “not to allow the AWB to become involved in any action that could result in confrontation and violence.” — Sapa
THE MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Order, the Minister of Law and Order may, by order, permit the person arrested to communicate with a solicitor or legal practitioner or, in the case of a child, a guardian or person caring for the child, and may specify the terms and conditions of such communication.

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(1) Subject to this Order, the Minister of National Health may, by order, permit the person arrested to communicate with a medical practitioner or other health professional and may specify the terms and conditions of such communication.

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(1) Subject to this Order, the Minister of Local Government may, by order, permit the person arrested to communicate with an officer of the local government and may specify the terms and conditions of such communication.

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

(1) Subject to this Order, the Minister of National Defence may, by order, permit the person arrested to communicate with a military or naval officer and may specify the terms and conditions of such communication.

THE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES

(1) Subject to this Order, the Minister of Natural Resources may, by order, permit the person arrested to communicate with an officer of the natural resources department and may specify the terms and conditions of such communication.

THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

(1) Subject to this Order, the Minister of Public Safety may, by order, permit the person arrested to communicate with an officer of the public safety department and may specify the terms and conditions of such communication.

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE

(1) Subject to this Order, the Minister of Revenue may, by order, permit the person arrested to communicate with an officer of the revenue department and may specify the terms and conditions of such communication.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES

(1) Subject to this Order, the Minister of Social Services may, by order, permit the person arrested to communicate with an officer of the social services department and may specify the terms and conditions of such communication.
Why I called in the AWB - Swanieville owner

THE owner of the controversial Swanieville farm near Kagiso yesterday told why he approached the AWB to demolish the shacks in the area.

The Government last night warned the organisation it would not allow it to go ahead with its threat to pull down the shacks.

This was after the AWB announced it had been given permission by owner of the farm, Mr SG Swanepoel, to pull down the shacks.

Swanepoel said the African National Congress had "taken over my farm and my rents".

There are 26 000 to 28 000 squatters.

"The authorities have not given me clearance for a black housing project and they refuse to act on the squatting situation that has developed as a result."

"So I went to the end to the AWB. Where else was I supposed to go? They were the only ones who said they would help me, and I have sent that message to the State President. There is going to be a bloodbath."

"I can't even go onto my own land any more. The last time I went to the squatters was 18 months ago. I was cut by a knife thrown at me and a security guard with me was beaten to death, but no one has been arrested."

He warned journalists would face a hostile reception at Swanieville.

Deputy Law and Order Minister Mr Johan Scheepers said the situation, which he said had been created by Swanepoel himself, would be made more difficult by the involvement of any third party, including the AWB.

"The police will not tolerate any irregular conduct. I therefore urgently call on Mr (Eugene) TorriBianche not to allow the AWB to become involved in any action that could possibly result in confrontation and violence," he said.

Part of the row is whether the people there estimated about 15 000 - are squatters at all.

They say they moved into Swanieville over the past two years at Swanepoel's invitation because he had promised cheap but good housing and toilets, plenty of water and a school.

Mrs Agnes Mlambo, whose husband died recently, is expecting her six children, ranging from seven to 25, to move into her one-roomed mud shack allocated to her by Swanepoel.

Like others, she says she had to pay R100 to get a plot, then R30 a month in rent "for no facilities at all".
"Ransom' by CCB man

Political Staff

A former agent of the Defence Force's notorious Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB) is holding the SADF to ransom because the whole of the CCB's R3 million pension fund has for some reason been paid over to him.

The member is demanding certain indemnities before paying over the pension fund to the SADF.

And the SA Navy has still not managed to recover a fishing trawler worth R2.5 million from another CCB agent.

These bizarre stories in the continuing saga of the CCB were revealed in Auditor-General Peter Wronsky's report on state finances during the 1990/1991 financial year, tabled in parliament yesterday.

Mr Wronsky's report details the difficulties that the government is still experiencing in trying to bury the ghost of the CCB, which was officially disbanded in July last year.

And it also discloses theft and irregular use of State money in other projects of the multi-billion rand Special Defence Account from which the CCB was funded.

It reveals that that after 23 of the CCB's original agents refused to accept the first retrenchment package offered to them - worth a total of R3.1 million - a better one was devised by the State Attorney and an independent actuary.

Twenty of the 23 remaining agents accepted this package which was then also offered to the agents who had accepted the first package.

Mr Wronsky said the total value of the CCB pension fund - about R3 million - had been paid over by an insurance company to one of the three CCB agents who had refused the second retrenchment package.

Swanieville squatter solution in sight

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG - The Transvaal Provincial Administration has stepped in to avert clashes between the AWB and squatters at Swanieville near Krugersdorp, and is to expropriate two portions of the farm which is home to about 1 500 squatter families.

After a long dispute between the farmer, Mr S G Swanepoel, and the squatter community, he (Mr Swanepoel) this week called on the AWB to destroy the squatter shacks of the "20 000 to 22 000" people who he said had barred him from his own land.

Mr Swanepoel initially advertised for tenants to rent low-cost housing from him.
Four Swanieville squatters arrested

Johannesburg.—Four residents of the Swanieville squatter camp — including the chairman of the residents' committee, Mr Mathole Motsega — were arrested yesterday and charged with assault and abduction.

This is the latest development in an escalating conflict involving about 15,000 squatters, landowner Mr Sarel Swanepoel, security guards, the AWB, the ANC and the Deputy Minister of Law and Order, Mr Johan Scheepers.

Police arrested 10 people in Swanieville yesterday; released 11 and charged the remaining four.

They are alleged to have beaten up two security guards employed by Mr Swanepoel to hand out the eviction notices and locked them in a house.

The men will appear in the Krugersdorp Magistrate's Court today.
Swanieville squatters charged with assault

FOUR Swanieville squatter camp residents were arrested and charged with assault and abduction yesterday.

The charges are in connection with the alleged assault of two men serving eviction notices on the squatters.

Farm owner Sarel Swanevool claimed earlier he had been forced to seek the AWB's help in evicting the 15000 squatters from his land.

He also claimed the ANC had taken over the farm and was collecting rent from the squatters - a claim the ANC denied. The AWB was warned by Deputy Law and Order Minister Johan Schepers not to get involved.

The residents have been boycotting rents since December 1990 after services and facilities they claimed were promised did not materialise.

To evict them, Swanevool hired security guards to help him serve eviction notices.

Police arrested 15 people in Swanieville yesterday and later released 11.

The remaining four were charged in connection with allegedly beating up two security guards and locking them in a house.

The four men will appear in the Krugersdorp Magistrate's Court today.

Police spokesman Lt Wikus Weber said the security guards claimed they were able to call the police only after they escaped from the house.
Thugs ‘blackmail’ squatters

By MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville and Saotsville Residents' Organisation and the local branch of the ANC have met to resolve the growing crisis at Jeffsville squatter camp where residents allege they are being blackmailed and assaulted.

A group of residents told Sowetan they were being harassed by "gangsters" who destroyed their shacks, stole their property and threatened them with assault for refusing to pay a R15 levy on refuse, water and toilets.

Some residents' shacks were demolished with pick handles and hammers and most of their furniture stolen.

Police confirmed they were investigating charges of malicious damage to property after a resident had complained.

The leader of the Jeffsville squatter camp, Mr Jeff Ramothale, denied allegations that he had taken money from residents.

Residents paid R15 a month for water, toilets, rubbish removal and R5 for daily and night patrols in the camp, he said.

Disgruntled residents said the patrols only operated until 9pm.

"We do not even need these patrols because we have

never been threatened," they said.

Some members of the ANC committee, appointed during the official launch there on Saturday, said they had been instructed to leave the area by the "gangsters," who disapproved of the organisation and had threatened to demolish their shacks if they did not leave.

Asro's chairman, Mr Reeves Mahlisi, yesterday confirmed that they and the local branch of the ANC would meet the Jeffsville squatter camp committee to try and settle the matter.

Angry squatters say they were forced by the "gangsters" to buy black refuse bags from them at 50 cents each.

"If they find a different refuse bag at your door on the day of collection, they leave the rubbish," they said.

Rubbish was only collected fortnightly. Residents appealed to Asro to intervene and administer the area properly.

"These people are making our lives more miserable. We came here for help but instead we are being abused," said residents.
Swanieville owner to be compensated

Swanieville landowner Lasel Swaepoel would receive compensation for some of the land expropriated by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, TPA chief director of physical planning and development P.P. van den Hoven said yesterday.

A refund would be provided by the TPA subject to approval, for the land to be developed as a permanent urban settlement, currently known as Swanieville 2.

The TPA averted a potential crisis yesterday with the announcement that it would expropriate 36ha. Swanieville 2, outside Krugersdorp and would declare another 36ha. Swanieville 1, a temporary transit area.

Swaepoel had threatened this week to have the AWB remove 250 squatters who had been staging a rent boycott since December 1979.

The four Swanieville residents who were arrested on Wednesday and charged with assault and abduction appeared in the Krugersdorp magistrate's court yesterday. They were remanded pending legal representation.
Any solution to the squatter problem must come from national consensus

The unsavoury events surrounding the Zwenfontein squatter have at least served to crystallise the profound dimensions of the problem of squatting itself. There are certain salient implications:

- The inevitable messiness of urbanisation — a worldwide phenomenon — has a race-class tinge in SA which could have ugly political consequences.
- While it is pointed out that there are black home-owners in Bloosoordt — the town which refuses to have the 750 Zwenfontein families move in next to it — the overwhelming majority of the privileged are white and the overwhelming majority of the non-privileged are black. This fact alone will exaggerate divisions between the major constitutional negotiators and their constituencies.
- The distinction between privileged and non-privileged is not merely the outcome of a divergence between economic growth and population growth. Influx control, group areas policy, labour regulations and, indeed, the entire brutal apparatus of apartheid created iron barriers to a natural absorption of blacks into economic activity.
- While the Jim Crow laws have been struck from the statutes, the vast distorting effects of grand apartheid will linger well into the next century; and
- As a result, many whites are realising for the first time that reform will have a real impact on their lives. Meanwhile, probably most blacks believe — if only instinctively — that true reform means socialism. Socialism in turn means a redistribution of wealth — land, jobs, income — regardless of its record of failure elsewhere.

Needless to say, this would destroy the very concept of private property.

So a dangerous gap in perceptions has arisen. Politicians of whatever stripe will take advantage of this because that is their nature. One of the events which helped undermine the credibility of apartheid — which, after all, worked bureaucratically very well into the Eighties — was the destruction of the myth that blacks would ultimately oscillate from or return to their homelands. As the pressures built up against apartheid — in the growth of family squatter camps like Crossroads in the Cape, the rise of black unions and increasing disregard of the Group Areas Act — repeated attempts were made to institute "reforms" which would defuse the looming failure of segregation. The Rikrest Commission of 1979, for example, sought to create rights for urban "insiders" against rural or homeless "outsiders" and contributed to the intellectual mess in which reform policy languished until F W de Klerk cut the knot in February 1990.

The demographic reality which underlies the public relations platitudes of the new SA — multiracial drinking in advertisements for example — is stark. According to the Urban Foundation — which was pivotal in persuading government to abandon influx control in the mid-Eighties — 16,2m blacks live in our cities while 12m live in rural areas. And almost half or 7m of SA's urban black population — in the PWV 43%, in Durban 60% — is accommodated in informal housing.

As the foundation defines it, informal housing is "shelter usually constructed with unconventional building materials acquired informally — that is, outside of the formal housing delivery mechanisms. In the urban areas, two broad types are recognised. The first is spontaneous informal housing — produced outside the framework of formal township planning and development — which often lacks services, though there are exceptions where services have been installed as part of an upgrading programme. Building materials also vary considerably but sometimes include more orthodox types such as concrete blocks and clay bricks."

The foundation makes the point that "informal housing and 'squattting' are not synonymous. 'Squatting' refers to the illegal occupation of land/or buildings. Thus participants in authorised site-and-service schemes are... not squatters. Legal definitions differ from country to country. In SA, the definition of 'squatters' and the enforcement of 'squattting' legislation has been influenced by political considerations that go beyond the simple protection of property rights."

Blacks form the vast majority of SA's total population — 78% in 1990. The almost 50% of blacks in urban informal housing is comparable to Third World cities like Cairo, Luasa, Delhi and Ankara. Percentages are even higher than this in Addis Ababa, Dar es Salaam, Luanda and Bogota.

According to the Urban Foundation, total black populations in metropolitan areas will grow threefold between 1985 and 2010. While the abolition of influx control has undoubtedly had an influence on migrant flows, the foundation argues that two-thirds of black population hikes over this period will be due to natural growth. Furthermore, it points out, the growth of informal housing in the cities is probably fuelled more by the overflow of people unable to find housing in formal townships than by migration.

In the PWV region, most of the growth in informal housing has been in the form of backyard shacks — largely out of sight to whites. Hidden, too, has been the trebling of the number of spontaneous free-standing settlements between 1987 and 1989. These are close to, or within formal townships. Blacks with houses are more aware of squatters than whites.

The Urban Foundation estimates that as much as 85% of all the PWV's informal housing is within proclaimed townships in the area.

The situation is different in Durban, where informal housing is highly visible outside formal townships. Indeed, the growth of spontaneous settlements in and around Durban has been spectacular. Its rate of population growth in the Seventies paralleled the fastest growing cities in the world, doubling between 1970 and 1980 from 1m to 2m.

Alas for those who seek the myth of the Fairest Cape, Cape Town has now overtaken Durban as the fastest-growing metropolitan area in SA.
Estimates are that between 5,000 and 10,000 squatters are moving into the area monthly. The projection is that while blacks were 20% of greater Cape Town’s total population of 2,24m in 1985, they will comprise 33.3% of the total population of 4m in 2010. This is despite the attempt to enforce a white and coloured labour preference policy throughout the apartheid era and the creation of the statelets of Ciskei and Transkei. Impoverishment and drought in the eastern Cape push the people in.

Because government never officially believed that the “black tide” would one day prevail over apartheid, it never prepared for it — except negatively. The Cape townships were never meant to spill out of Langa, Nyanga and Guguletu — and new housing was frozen in Soweto in the Sixties for many years. This means that the inevitable conflict between those who have a secure roof over their heads and those who do not has been exacerbated by an artificial shortage of public housing. Hence the phenomenon of “warlordism” — whereby the haves resist the intrusion of the have-nots — and the equally strong if as yet not as violent reaction of threatened white ratepayers such as those in Bloosoord. The Durban townships show this ominous escalating into civil war.

The Urban Foundation notes that “the proximity of KwaZulu to the metropolitan core (10 km-15 km) and the relatively easy access that poor people have to tribal land within the ‘homeland’ area, account in part for the scale of free-standing settlement around Durban by comparison with other metropolitan areas. Major settlements emerged as a result of land invasions in 1985. Most Natal-KwaZulu settlements are characterised by excessive, overlapping structures. Many different local authorities have jurisdiction over parts of the settlements. The ongoing and violent conflict in Natal has had profound repercussions on people living in informal conditions. Shacklords and strongmen are numerous in such settlements.” The fear of course is that these terrible conditions could replicate themselves on a national scale.

A further contribution of apartheid to the deplorable circumstances of the homeless was what might be called the smiling face of social engineering — the creation through incentives and subsidies of “border industries” and industrial decentralisation generally. This industrial wing of apartheid was based on the Land Acts which defined geography racially so that 13% of the land — in fragmented fashion — was apportioned to blacks and 87% to whites. The uglier face of this policy was the pass laws. The money wasted on this industrial folly could of course have been spent on housing — but never was. Now it has all gone.

Government’s reactive response to worldwide condemnation of the failure of this programme in the Cape was to build Khayelitsha, legalize old Crossroads and give tacit permission to occupiers to stay on in the Brown’s Farm and Miller’s Camp areas as migrant labour. But equally, the midnight removals which helped fuel world anger against apartheid were acts of desperation.

Less often considered is the effect such actions — and the attitudes which underly them — had on whites. By pushing blacks away and seeking to hide them in remote townships with minimal services, government since 1948 has led white South Africans to believe that an abundance of decent land and housing is available in perpetuity to them and their children. A casino mentality in the matter of property prices naturally evolved. Not only did one have a right to a house — but that it should go up in value! Perceiving this, the architects of the ANC Freedom Charter chose to state — in preparation for a war of liberation — that the land belongs to those who live and work on it. This is a direct statement of the socialist principle in land apportionment. It has a deep emotional resonance for the disposessed and is reflected in land invasion, disrespect for private property, rents and service boycotts and, more recently, in squatting.

Given the industrial history of SA, the problem or phenomenon of squatting should have been addressed as far back as the Twenties. Because it was not, the current debate about the need to identify and allocate land for controlled squatting comes too late to avert conflicts of interest, of which the one over Zevenfontein is but the latest.

The crisis is threefold:

- There is simply not enough money to house everyone formally.
- Bitterness fuelled by history operates on both sides of the divide — whites feel their prosperity and security being eroded while blacks demand land as a right;
- A terrible political vacuum has arisen at all levels of local authority, which means that — as in the case of the Randburg municipality — when decisions are taken, they are as swiftly and ignominiously withdrawn because no-one wants to be blamed for things going wrong.

The Urban Foundation’s recommendation that the State President — in consultation with Codesa — set up a task force to identify land for low-income settlement in the PWV touches the heart of the problem. And certainly a Supreme Court judge as arbiter would give such authorities some legitimacy. But, unfortunately, the political vacuum at local level is there to perpetuate downward from a national political vacuum.

Regional problem-solving committees will ultimately only gain legitimacy and credibility once the land issue has been addressed by what amounts to a government of national unity — a broader-based consensus than De Klerk and his “partners” whose interests may not coincide. A good start is that the deliberations at Codesa appear to be moving towards the establishment of just such an entity: an interim government drawing talent from both sides of SA’s ancient race-class divide though excluding radicals on both the Right and Left.

Such a government would need to take responsibility for unpopular decisions — on the economy, on the land question and on so. It is only at such a level that the issue of private property can be decided.

The importance of moving as swiftly as possible towards an interim government as a stage in the resolution of the predicament of the squatters is the prospect of World Bank aid — particularly for housing and education. An aide-memoire written by the World Bank’s Urban Sector Mission in December 1991 contains the implication that the Bank would only be interested in supporting low-cost housing development in SA if it takes place within roughly a 23 km radius of city centres.

Meanwhile, local authorities are waiting for direction which is not forthcoming — and the Randburg councillors can hardly be blamed for vacillation in what is after all a period of transition. It might help if it was remembered that no-one chooses to be a squatter.
Early retirement for Mr Chips

There is concern over both the timing and content of the latest measures.

On the eve of the Potchefstroom by-election, government chose to spring its latest education measures upon an unsuspecting populace. At first blush they seem designed to please no-one — and worse, to favour the segregationists in the short term while being eminently reversible in the not too distant future.

All of which raises the question: just what is it about white education that strikes such fear in government's heart? Why, after all he's done to normalise society, can't F W de Klerk simply scrap the last vestige of statutory apartheid and normalise education as well?

Fear of a rightwing backlash no longer makes sense. Opening schools at this stage is hardly likely to push many more Nat supporters into the Conservative camp. Indeed, the prospect of retrenchments — part of the latest package for the schools — will most likely swing the anti-government vote in Potch.

Perhaps the answer lies in de Klerk's caucus, where heavy emphasis is placed on the maintenance of "norms and standards" and "cultural values" in education. After giving away political power, it's all they will have left. But the battle over these values is being fought out in the schools — where children and parents do not know from one year to the next what to expect.

Rather than force the issue, government opted this week for a massive cop-out. Under the guise of cutting costs — which is certainly necessary — white parents are to be given the right to maintain apartheid schools. That will be the effect of the implementation of what amounts to a status quo decree on all white schools — even those which voted recently for the nonracial option.

At the same time, at least 4 000 white teachers will be retrenched or take early retirement due to the introduction on August 1 of new pupil:teacher ratios. The figure could rise to a maximum of about 11 000 if most schools decide not to accept the new plan, but this is extremely unlikely.

The rationalisation will save about 17% in real terms of the white education budget, which was just under R5bn last year. Details of the new pupil:teacher ratios are not yet available, but they will undoubtedly mean bigger classes. The cost of retrenchments has not yet been calculated, but could be well over R100m. Officials point out that it will be a one-off cost.

It's possible that government will use the teacher retrenchment exercise as a barometer to test attitudes in other parts of the civil service towards reducing staff by offering attractive retrenchment packages. If so, many more thousands of white public-sector workers would be likely to take advantage of such generosity — and the costs would be unquantifiable at this stage. It may be recalled that at various stages of the progress of Rhodesia to Zimbabwe, the price of buying out the whites — a favourite idea of Henry Kissinger — rose steeply.

In terms of the plan announced this week by white education Minister Piet Marais, all white State schools currently operating as "status quo" (whites only) and "Model B" (maximum 49% black enrolment) will automatically become "Model C" schools on April 1.

In terms of this, all the physical infrastructure — including land and buildings — will be transferred to the governing bodies free of charge. The value of property has to be transferred has not been calculated. However, the transfer contracts include a revisionary clause which means that if the properties are no longer used in the interests of education they revert to the State.

Government will pay teachers' salaries, not operating costs, which will have to be recovered by the governing bodies through compulsory school fees. Any "topping up" of teachers' salaries will presumably also have to be paid for by the governing bodies — not in itself a bad idea.

Model C was never an attractive option when government's "model" scheme was introduced in 1990 because of the financial implications for parents. Now they are being given no real choice, though Marais says a "more favourable" but as yet undisclosed funding package will be available to them as well as those schools already operating as Model Cs.

He says the proposed compulsory fees will probably be between R400 and R1000 a year, but his estimate could be far too low if schools want to maintain their current level of facilities and employ additional teachers. A number of State schools already ask for voluntary school fees of R1 200 a year and more to pay for extra teachers and other facilities not provided by the State.

But the most sinister aspect of Marais' plan is that governing bodies can decide admissions policies. There are currently 1 233 status quo schools, most of them Afrikaans-medium. There seems little doubt that the vast majority will, for the time being, decide to stay white. The 692 Model B schools will be able to increase their black enrolment if they wish — as the majority of them had planned to do at the beginning of the whole exercise of moving away from being whites-only institutions.

There is provision for schools to maintain their current status — as Model Bs, for example — if at least two-thirds of parents opt to do so, but this has severe financial disadvantages.

Marais says that under the new scheme, schools that decide to maintain their status quo or Model B status will be allocated the same pro rata funds as Model C schools but will have to use them for teachers' salaries and operating costs. They will also have a less favourable pupil:teacher ratio than Model C schools, which means there will be less money available for salaries — so either fewer teachers will be employed than are needed, or parents will have to contribute towards their pay. In effect, this would amount to something approaching Model C.

The new pupil:teacher ratios will obviously determine the amount of cash for salaries.
Revamp for squatters

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration plans improvements to Swanleville squatter camp near Krugersdorp.

The TPA said two sections of the farm Rietvallei and bordering property have been zoned for urban development. Another section of the farm has been declared a temporary thoroughfare.

Earlier, an application by farmer Mr S Swanepoel for urban development rights on this part of the farm was refused because it bordered on a sewerage works. - Sapa.
Mr Hidden said, "It is totally unreasonable to expect ratepayers to accommodate illegal immigrants who do not have employment, and therefore turn to crime."

"The biggest concern is the ratepayers," he said.

Anthony Duligan, chairman of the Greenbelt Action Group, which will be part of a task team formed by the Town Council to manage the areas north and north-west of Sandton, Randburg and Midrand, said the Randburg council deserved support.

"The Blosboom project is a pioneering effort in which the principle of bringing people closer to their work is being applied for the first time."

Brave

"The Randburg council deserves our support for being brave enough to face the challenge, even though it is being roasted by the Bloemfontein community."

"The squatter problem in Randburg is not just related to the greenbelt; it is a larger, national problem."

"Certain people have had to face the reality more forcibly than others, such as the Waverley community in the south and areas in the Cape and Natal."

"People living north of Johannesburg have been spared this problem until now. Now the squattting situation is becoming an issue throughout the PWV area."

"Sandton is going to have to face this problem sooner or later, as they also have no formalised black community."

"At last the TPA seems to be coming to grips with the situation."

"But this is going to be a long, uphill battle. The new South Africa spells more chaos for the upper-income groups," Mr Duligan said.

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CAROLINE HURRY

MIDRAND management committee members are furious with the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Government over what they describe as an "absolutely shocking lack of leadership and planning" over the squatter problem.

"We now have a crisis on our hands. The squatters are not political foot soldiers to be kicked around by the TPA or the one hand and the other," said management committee chairman Dave Helden.

"However, we endorse the TPA's statement that every local authority should look after the accommodation requirements of the people without employment in their municipalities.

"At least 80 percent of the Zevenfontein squatters work in Randburg, yet the Randburg Town Council has not even started making provision for them."

"Instead the council is trying to extend its borders into the greenbelt area. This won't work!"

Illegal

"At Ivory Park in Midrand, we've been forced to take in illegal immigrants from Mozambique and Swaziland," Mr Helden added.

"Also, of the 60 percent of employed people at Ivory Park, 80 percent work on farms. There are 4 800 families who need to accommodate," he said.

"Arrangements have to be made to accommodate the homeless employed in the region."
Interdict stalls farm evictions

BY DAN DHLAMINI

THE Welverdiend families near Lichtenburg who were to be ejected by the AWB and armed farmers last week got an 11th-hour reprieve following a Supreme Court interdict.

The leader of the families, Paul Tuite Masie, 64, who is represented by Legal Resources Centre's MH Hathorn, has instituted an interdict against farmer Willem Mouton, his wife Elize and Law and Order Minister Henkus Kriel.

This follows the demolition of 25 dwellings on December 18 by Mouton.

In his affidavit Masie said the families had been living on the farm all their lives. He said when Mouton purchased the farm he had good relations with the community, but things changed in 1990 when he started issuing notices that they should leave the farm.
Squatters vow not to leave area

HUNDREDS of squatters at Angelo-Driefontein, near Boksburg, yesterday vowed that they would ignore a memorandum urging them to vacate the area by February 28.

A notice from a legal firm on behalf of the owner of the property informed the squatters that land for their resettlement was available at Zonk'zizwe squatter camp.

The notice said the owner was prepared to resettle them there at his own costs.

They were told to vacate the premises by Friday, February 28.

However, a statement by a committee representing the squatters rejected the notice, saying a meeting held by on Sunday had agreed that the letter was invalid as it had not been signed and could, therefore, have been drawn up by anyone.

"All the squatters are going to remain on this farm. Alternative accommodation must be sought in the Reiger Park Delmore area."

The committee said the squatters would refuse to heed the notice. - Sapa.
Old buses for homeless

Almost 80 squatter families in the Johannesburg area are going to be accommodated in luxury German "informal housing," courtesy of the Johannesburg City Council.

The housing takes the form of 78 Mercedes-Benz single-deck buses that have proven too expensive to refurbish.

The Council agreed last night that the buses, which are 20 years old and have a value of R1,000 each, should be donated for distribution among the homeless.

Councillor Harold Rudolph said he found it sad that society had degenerated so that people were starting to live in redundant buses. — Staff Reporter.
Relief for homeless

MORE than 560 houses are under construction for homeless blacks in Windmill Park, in the Conservative Party-controlled town of Boksburg.

Leading home loan specialists EP Building Society, in conjunction with Goldstein Housing, were aiming to produce a "prestigious" home development in the area from March.

Within the boundaries of the "white controlled" suburb, all the surroundings in the area would be developed to accommodate blacks, Indians and coloureds.

Goldstein managing director Mr Mannetjes Ford said he hoped that the project would help alleviate the housing crisis. The project was "unique" and would provide for the needs of the residents.

He said that a shopping complex to cater for the informal and formal sectors, taxi ranks, a petrol station and other recreational facilities were underway.

He also hoped that the building of these structures would help create jobs for the unemployed as well as the small black builders who would be given an opportunity to construct the projects.

The society's manager, Mr Keith Adam, said that his company would give financial help to prospective homeowners at "reasonable" prices.

Entry forms for the competition are available when visiting the area. Closing date is November 30.
Massacre: SAP cleared

CT 27/1/92 Political Staff
A full investigation had found that there was no evidence the police were involved in the attack on squatters in Swanieville when 23 people were killed, the Minister of Law and Order, Mr. Hernus Kriel, said yesterday.

His statement, given in reply to a question tabled in Parliament by Mr. David Dalling (DP, Sandton), effectively rejects claims by the ANC and human rights organisations that the police aided hostel dwellers in the attacks or had failed to stop them.
Squatters to move into 'Bus City'

ABOUT 80 squatter families in the Johannesburg area are to be accommodated in luxury German "informal housing" - courtesy of the Johannesburg City Council.

The "housing" takes the form of 78 Mercedes-Benz single-deck buses that have proved too expensive to refurbish.

The council agreed on Tuesday night that the buses, which are 20 years old and are valued at R1 000 each, should be donated to a non-profit organisation for distribution among the homeless in the city.

City councillor Mr Harold Rudolph said while he admired the sentiment behind the donation of the buses, he found it sad that society had degenerated to such an extent that people were starting to live in redundant buses.

"There are people who live in the streets with no shelter," councillor Mrs Judith Briggs pointed out.

Mr Paul Asherson said he agreed with Rudolph but was heartened that the council's transport department had decided to help the homeless rather than gain R78 000 by selling the buses.
Zeppelinin squatters

Want to put down roots...

Peter Weitman

is a place to call home.

The squatters' rights

are not to be taken
lightly.
Guidelines governing the use of undermined land are under review by a government-appointed committee. Recommendations, to continue —

PROPERTY

be published soon, could result in restrictions on developing such land being eased considerably. In this way, more land could be made available for building and development on the Witwatersrand.

The owners of the land — set above mining activities of the past or present — include Rand Mines Properties, Sage Properties, Johannesburg and other councils as well as private individuals.

Over the past 15 years, Steffen, Robertson & Kirsten Consulting Engineers (SRK) has been involved in more than 70 undermining projects. The firm worked on the Standard Bank head office in Simmonds Street, Johannesburg — the first major development to take place across mine workings.

SRK says, judging from its experience and from an analysis of the behaviour of undermined land, relaxing the guidelines restricting development is justified if a thorough, responsible approach is adopted.

SRK partner Dick Stacey says: “Relaxation could help to ease the severe shortage of land for development close to the CBDs of Johannesburg, Krugersdorp, Roodepoort, Germiston, Springs and other centres.”

He adds: “The land in question lies over the main gold-bearing reefs of the Witwatersrand, which traverse the full length of the area in an east-west direction. Mining began in the late 19th Century and has resulted in extensive areas of undermined land from Randfontein to Springs.

“Because of the possibility of ground movements from mining operations, the erection of buildings on this ground is strictly controlled by the Government Mining Engineer. For example, no buildings, roads, railways or any structure whatever may be built without written permission when the depth of the mine workings is less than 90 m.”

When SRK investigated the Standard Bank site — which lies over the Main Reef Leader and South Reef — it designed remedial measures to allow development. These centred on constructing in-stope concrete pillars to create a rigid “arch” near the surface to safeguard against collapse or instability in the mine workings at greater depth. At other sites only nominal, low-cost stabilising measures have been necessary.

Stacey believes some of the land could be used for formal and informal housing but “property owners and developers may not be keen on informal housing as it may not be as lucrative to develop as industrial and commercial property. However, balanced development is desirable.”

SRK believes “where the requirement for stabilising measures is negligible, and the cost would be correspondingly small.”
Launched of Oukasie trust

THE Oukasie Development Trust will be launched this Sunday at Oukasie, a squatter camp outside Brits near Pretoria.

"When the Independent Development Trust announced its capital subsidy scheme, the community decided to appeal for capital subsidy support through the formation of the Oukasie Development Trust," local civic chairman Phepane Ngale said in a statement yesterday.

The launch will start at 9am with a procession, followed by a meeting to be addressed by Geoff Budlender of the Legal Resources Centre, the Rev Peter Motshe of the SA Council of Churches and Levy Mmabolo, new chairman of the Oukasie Development Trust. — Sapa."
Kriel clears cops in squatter attack

THERE was no evidence of police involvement in an attack on Swanievile squatters, the Minister of Law and Order Mr Hernus Kriel said in Parliament on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question by Mr Dave Dalling (DP Sandton), he said a full investigation was conducted into allegations of police aiding hostel dwellers in Swanievile in the Western Transvaal.

A total of 12 people were arrested in connection with 28 counts of murder and one count of public violence in connection with the attack.

After 1 000 Zulus armed with traditional weapons were stopped in the squatter camp, police stopped another 200 armed Zulus about 800m from the camp.

These 200 were escorted past Kagiso township to their hostels in an attempt to keep rival groups apart. - Sapa.
Police raid Pretoria squatters

POLICE allegedly assaulted squatters and broke the doors of an administration building and a doctor's consulting room during a raid at a camp in Soshanguve near Pretoria yesterday.

Witnesses said the incident happened about 8.30am when police confronted squatters at the Pomolong squatter camp in Section R.

A spokesman for the Association for the Homeless, Mr Johannes Mhlongo, said police broke down the doors at the “white house”, an administration building used by the association, without any reasons and started to conduct a search.

He said six people, including a woman, were assaulted by the police.

“Police also broke the door of Dr TR Maphati’s consulting room and removed medicines and a stretcher,” Mhlongo alleged.

He claimed police were rude and called them “kaffirs” before forcing them to lie on the floor while they searched the building.

He also alleged that police seized documents and goods.

Pretoria police liaison officer Captain Mariettjie Louw yesterday confirmed the search, saying the raid followed reports that there were alleged illegal activities taking place at the “white house”. She denied all allegations made by Mhlongo.

She said police had a search warrant.

Louw admitted that a door was broken down to gain access to the building.

Louw said police seized unlicensed firearms. Police took medical equipment for safety reasons because they could not repair the damaged door and feared that certain drugs might be stolen and abused.

These items are in safe storage. No one was arrested. - Sowetan Reporter.
Report on squatters

The interim report of a task group investigating urbanisation to the north and north-west of Johannesburg has been completed, the Transvaal Provincial Administration said yesterday. The report investigated the development of low-cost housing to the north and north-west suburbs of Randburg, Roodepoort, Sandton and Krugersdorp. It specifically looked at resettlement of Zevenfontein squatter community. The report is to be discussed by the Zevenfontein Squatter Liaison Committee, local governments and parties affected by the Zevenfontein community resettlement.
THE road from Pretoria winds for half an hour through lush white suburbs and farms before depositing motorists, with a bump, in a dustbowl of mud shacks stretching to the horizon.

This is Winterveld, a bleak 40-year-old slum of up to one million black inhabitants that is never seen by most residents of the prim white capital city 50 km to the south.

The 500sq km settlement symbolises the daunting welfare challenge bequeathed to the new South Africa after years of apartheid race segregation.

"Winterveld is a forgotten place, a dumping ground, an in-between-land," said Rosetta Simelane of the Rural Advice Centre.

"These homeless people are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. The new South Africa must provide for squatters like these," said local priest the Rev Smangalisio Mkhatsiwa.

Aid workers describe Winterveld as among the ugliest of apartheid’s offspring, the unforeseen product of a policy of forcibly removing blacks from areas designated for whites.

The slum, once winter grazing land for the cattle of white farmers, grew from the 1950s onwards as an overflow area for designated “black” towns which mushroomed too quickly for apartheid’s developers.

Child mortality is 50 percent in some parts, unemployment 70 percent, sewerage and electricity non-existent.

Local black farmers, despairing of poor soil and lack of water, turned their fields into shacks for squatters, many of them illegal immigrants harassed constantly by police.

Winterveld’s warren of shanties is also a notorious hideout for criminals on the run.

South Africa, apparently eager to abdicate responsibility for Winterveld, asked the black homeland of Bophuthatswana to absorb the slum as part of its fragmented territory in return for nominal “independence” in 1977.

Funds

Bophuthatswana complied, but the homeland, one of 10 tribal territories where more than half of South Africa’s blacks live, never lavished funds on Winterveld because few residents are Tswana, the homeland’s designated ethnic group, residents say.

Farmer Rachel Taukuula (73) said she walked five km to scavenge for water in a dried up stream. Her maize field is withered. “Every Sunday we pray for rain,” she said.

Joseph Matona (75) said his crops had failed for years due to the poor Winterveld soil. He earns a total of R15 a month from three squatter shacks on his property.

Welfare agency Operation Hunger says 2 million South Africans blacks in places like Winterveld could be starving by May unless the government speeds up relief to replace food supplies hit by drought.

The agency, which feeds 1.8 million people daily nationwide, says that because of lack of funds it can only help 16 000 people in Winterveld. It says most of the slum’s people qualify for its programmes.

In a clearing, barefoot children watch warily for snakes as they sit under trees to escape the baking 40deg C heat at the “Eureka” bush school.

Headmistress Mrs Constance Gwabeni said most of her charges were children of some of the estimated one million Mozambicans who for years have fled to South Africa to escape war at home.

“In the middle of a lesson some fall asleep because they have had no food,” she said. “Our main problem is the snakes, and the wind which blows the dust on to the children’s clothes.”

Zimbabweans and Zaireans, as well as South Africans from all over the country, come to Winterveld because it is near jobs in the main industrial centres, ignoring the squallor and endemic malnutrition-linked diseases like tuberculosis.

“At least here there is sometimes food in the shops and people are not killing each other,” said Muta (49), a Mozambican who bribed his way back over the frontier to Winterveld after police caught and forcibly returned him to Mozambique last year.

He lives with his wife and five children in a three-roomed mud-brick house. A sixth child died at birth.

Late last year, 40 years after the slum’s birth, a Winterveld Development Programme was formed with the support of the state-backed Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Political reforms

Details of the project have yet to be worked out and the possible reincorporation of Bophuthatswana into South Africa under political reforms could complicate the process, experts say.

Aid worker Ms Joan Pearton said blacks were leaving for nearby Soshanguve township in “white” South Africa where they had a better chance of buying land. But a continuing influx from elsewhere kept Winterveld’s population stable.

“The residents have always struggled to survive,” she said.

“IT remains a dumping ground. People throw their old folk away in Winterveld. They come and build shacks, install their parents and then disappear back to Soweto.” - Sapa-Reuters.
Each Cigarette a Masterpiece

A man was killed in a shack yesterday. Police found the body of a victim of yesterday morning's attack when they arrived at a house on the outskirts of town. The man was shot dead by unknown gunmen at the scene Sunday night in three other attack locations.

BY KENOSI MODISANE

MAN WANTS MUSLIMS AND THOSE OTHERS

Police thought the body of a victim of yesterday's morning's attack when they arrived at a house on the outskirts of town. The man was shot dead by unknown gunmen at the scene Sunday night in three other attack locations.

BY KENOSI MODISANE
Cholera rumour quashed

**KATHRYN STRACHAN**

REPORTS of a cholera outbreak in the Zevenfontein squatter community were yesterday dismissed by Bryanston DP MP Rupert Lorimer as right-wing rumours spread to create fear among whites ahead of the March 17 referendum.

Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) representative Zakkie Lombard and squatter spokesman Pinky Molei confirmed there were no incidences of cholera. TPA liaison officer Magda du Toit said the administration’s clinic had found eight cases of diarrhoea.

Lorimer said it was surprising there had not been a cholera outbreak, given the squatters’ living conditions. Better toilet facilities and more water were needed to ensure that disease did not break out, he said.

The biggest problem was that the camp, being so near the Klein Jukkas river, posed the threat of sewage seeping into the water — which put the squatters at great risk of contracting diseases such as cholera, he said.

The TPA said the Department of National Health and the Randburg Town Council were being called in.

Inkatha and police hold talks on violence

**THE Inkatha Freedom Party** held discussions with the police yesterday, Soweto police liaison officer Lt-Col Tienie Haigryn has confirmed. He said if the party wished to release a statement on the matter, “then we have no comment”.

Inkatha central committee member Themba Khoza released a statement last night saying further discussions would be held within six days.

“The SA Police undertook to invite an ANC delegation to attend,” he said.

Khoza said yesterday’s meeting was called after the latest attack on Soweto train commuters and the “shooting of IFP members by the police at Inhlanzane station on February 27”.

Khoza was referring to an incident when a group of armed men, apparently from the Jabulani single-sex hostel, attempted to board a train at the Inhlanzane railway station.

Police refused to allow the men on the train, and then used teargas to disperse the group. Three people were injured. — Sapa.
**Cholera rumour quashed**

KATHRYN STRACHAN

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The Chamber of the House: One

[Informalations]

[Intransitions]

1. [Transformation] in September 1993, the position of the member of the Chamber of the House was taken by the acting chairman of the Committee on House Business. In the absence of the member of the Committee, the acting chairman was responsible for the conduct of the meeting. The acting chairman was to ensure that the proceedings of the meeting were conducted in a fair and impartial manner. The acting chairman was to ensure that the minutes of the meeting were accurate and complete. The acting chairman was to ensure that the meeting was conducted in a dignified and respectful manner. The acting chairman was to ensure that the meeting was conducted in a manner that was consistent with the rules of the House.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

18 MARCH 1992

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Speaker's Direction - Business of the Day

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. van Rooyen) has informed me that the House is in recess until 10 o'clock Wednesday next, when Members will present their reports for the week ending Wednesday, 27th March 1974.

At 10 o'clock, Mr. Speaker, the House will stand in recess to enable Members to present their reports for the week ending Wednesday, 27th March 1974.

The Speaker concluded the business of the day.

[The House adjourned at 10 o'clock on Wednesday, 27th March 1974.]
Call to Tsakane homeless

HUNDREDS of homeless families who have applied for the Independent Development Trust serviced sites in Tsakane on the East Rand have been asked to approach the local town council offices immediately.

The council's public relations officer, Mr Jerry Tecki, yesterday said that they had interviewed more than 700 families regarding the sites. But only have 366 have signed documents.

The council was facing difficulty tracing the rest of the applicants after they were interviewed in order for them to sign the necessary documents before the March 27 deadline.

Mandela Village

Tecki said that the sites would be made available to families from "Mandela Village" and other parts of the black residential area in need of homes.

He appealed to residents to come to the local authorities' offices to complete their forms.

Land ownership leading to homes is the biggest threat in the IDT's assault on poverty, the spokesman said, adding, of the R1.5-billion allocated so far, more than R898.7 million has gone to housing countrywide.

About R750-million has been set aside for the capital subsidy scheme, the biggest programme for the development of nearly 100 000 new serviced sites that will accommodate about 700 000 people.

The capital subsidy scheme accounts just for over half of all IDT funds set aside so far. It covers 108 projects, of which nearly two-thirds will be new settlements.

The money will pay for the development of serviced sites for a total of 99 000 of South Africa's poorest families. An average cost of R7 500 a site has been set.
Project with managing director, Mike Lead on
JCI in talks to find solution for squatters

By Peter Wellman.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment has been a background player in negotiations over a permanent home for the squatters at Zevenfontein, near Fourways, the Transvaal Provincial Administration has revealed.

JCI has a township and golf course development in the area, Dainfern, and has been talking "constructively" to the TPA and other interested groups, a TPA official said.

JCI senior manager of township development Chris Speirs said: "Most land we might have tends to be south-west of the Johannesburg-Randfontein industrial belt, and most Zevenfontein residents have jobs in their area ... transport costs would be so onerous as to be discounted."

The Zevenfontein land owner, who has asked not to be identified, has allowed the squatters to remain there until July, and the TPA has undertaken to find them a permanent home by then.
Squatter proposal: Scepticism

By PETER DENNEHY

MILNERTON council’s proposal to move the town’s squatter community to the most northerly of four possible alternative sites was met with scepticism yesterday.

The squatters are now living at the Marconi Beam site on Koeberg Road. The council says it plans to move them to Frankendale, north of their present area.

The chairman of the Milnerton Ratepayers’ Association, Mr Klaus Borgelt, said he did not believe that Frankendale would be the eventual site.

He said the new site had been rejected by the provincial administration and the Regional Services Council.

Mr Joaoste Cole of the Surplus People’s Project (SPP) said the new site was unsuitable because it was too far from the people’s work.

The SPP tried to get a response from a squatter representative, but this was not forthcoming yesterday.

Mr Borgelt said the council had been responding to the concerns of many of its residents.

A group of ratepayers recently called on the entire Milnerton Town Council to resign because, on legal advice, it broadened a study of possible future squatter sites to include their present site.

Mr Alastair Rendall of the Development Action Group said the way decision had been reached reflected the pattern of the past, “where unrepresentative local authorities made decisions over the lives of impoverished, struggling, homeless people.”

It was no longer acceptable to shift low-income people to the periphery of the city.

He called for a co-ordinated metropolitan housing strategy to prevent ad hoc short-term solutions, which resulted in too many people being crowded onto the few pieces of land made available.

Mr Rendall did welcome Milnerton town clerk Mr Pieter Gerber’s willingness to investigate, with interested parties, other areas in the municipality where smaller communities could be located.
Zevenfontein squatters to move to Cosmo City

Informed sources indicated that 65 percent of the squatter families voted to go to Cosmo City and 25 percent chose Diepsloot, in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, for permanent settlement of the 750 families. But numbers at Zevenfontein have now reliably been reported to have fallen to between 13,500 and 14,000 residents, which would equate to about 6,000 people.

However, a TPA spokesperson said this was unlikely as the farm where they were allowed to stay until the end of July was under constant TPA and South African Police surveillance to contain the influx of people. The squatters themselves had agreed to monitor the situation, as they were aware that they would not be allowed if their numbers were not contained. This information comes ahead of today's deadline for the report of the TPA appointed task group on January 15 (including local authorities, the TPA and the Operation Masskhane for the Homeless) to investigate the relocation of squatters.

The task group is believed to be evaluating the report before taking a decision by next week.

Chartwell Local Area Committee chairman Mr. Graham Dean was sceptical of the findings, saying the Zevenfontein squatters were only canvassed on a few occasions and it was difficult to get an accurate response to questions about future resettlement.

Chartwell LAC backed a move to Alexandra, Tembisa or Ivory Park, which would be socially acceptable as the squatters could be absorbed into the community, rather than being dumped kilometres from infrastructure and sporting, educational and recreational facilities.

Greenbelt Action Group chairman Mr. Anthony Dugan said it was worrying that the sub-committee set up by the TPA's task force had spent an estimated 750 hours alone on the relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters, which takes, he said, to resettle a small group of people, how will the scope with the larger issue? he asked.
Zevenfontein squatters look towards Cosmo City to settle

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The Zevenfontein squatters have opted for relocation to Cosmo City near North Riding, after their move to Bicub'srand was blocked last month.

Informed sources indicate that 75 percent of the squatters families voted to go to Cosmo City and 25 percent chose Diepsloot, which the Transvaal Provincial Administration originally intended for permanent settlement of the 750 families.

But numbers at Zevenfontein have now reliably been reported to have risen to between 13,000 and 14,000 families, which would amount to about 84,000 individuals.

But a TPA spokesman said this was unlikely as the farm where they were allowed to stay until the end of July was under constant TPA and South African Police surveillance to contain the influx of people.

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Cosmo City first choice of Zevenfontein squatters

By Shirley Woodgate

The Zevenfontein squatters have opted for relocation to Cosmo City near North Riding after their move to Bloedssprand was blocked last month.

Informed sources indicate that 75 percent of the squatter families voted to go to Cosmo City and the remainder chose Diepsloot, which the Transvaal Provincial Administration originally intended for permanent settlement of the 750 families.

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However, a TPA spokesman said this was unlikely as the farm where they were allowed to stay until the end of July was under constant TPA and SAF surveillance to contain the influx of people.

The squatters had also agreed to monitor the situation as they were aware they would not get stands if their numbers were not contained.

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Greenbelt Action Group chairman Anthony Duigan said it was worrying that the subcommittee set up by the TPA's task force had spent an estimated 700 hours on the relocation of the squatters.

"If it takes so long to rehouse a small group of people, how will they cope with the larger issue?" he asked.
Policeman killed in squatter camp trap

A POLICE warrant officer was lured into a squatter camp and murdered yesterday, Witwatersrand police spokesman Capt. Eugene Opperman said.

W/O M.G Nxumalo, of the uniform branch at Thokoza, was murdered after being called to the Phola Park squatter camp on the East Rand, Opperman said.

Soon after Nxumalo's arrival in Phola Park, an unidentified caller apparently telephoned the Thokoza police station, and said the policeman was being held hostage.

No demands were made and the caller hung up immediately.

Opperman said the internal stability unit then "satuated Phola Park and found W/O Nxumalo's vehicle abandoned in the squatter camp".

Just before 4pm the policeman's bullet-ridden body was found in an open field near the squatter camp. Nxumalo had been shot several times with an AK-47 rifle.

"The SA Police expresses its disappointment and shock at the way policeman are being lured into certain areas under false pretences and then brutally murdered," Opperman said.

He said police investigations were continuing. -- Sapa.
Squatter report is due

A TPA task group has completed a report investigating the resettlement of squatters north and north-west of Johannesburg.

The report, compiled by representatives of local authorities, the TPA, interest groups and Operation Mazeekhane, will be studied by Administrator Danie Hough and the TPA executive committee.

The TPA said a decision on the resettlement of the Zevfontein squatters would be taken by the weekend or early next week.

The TPA said reports that the community would be moved to Cosmo City near North Riding were speculation, but it was a possibility.
Visitors will find no electronic control panels fitted into bedside tables to switch TV and radio channels. The Eskom electricity grid hasn't reach here yet.

Instead, fastened on the hardboard wall of the kitchen, there is an ingenious gadget linked by a coil of electric wires to a set of small batteries. Once they have learnt the tricks, visitors can slide a device that looks like a matchbox across the top of a small homemade cardboard panel marked with simple handwritten instructions.

As one moves the matchbox, so an electric light turns on in the tiny sitting room, or in an even tinier bedroom, or in the cramped kitchen... as long as the batteries last out. The next move switches on a portable radio — and music blares out of a broken guitar that has been converted into an extension loudspeaker and hangs on the wall alongside the front door.

Maria Tsotatsi claps her hands with joy.

"It's our number one hi-fi system," she giggles with obvious pride in her handiwork's inventiveness. "My husband made it and all the neighbours think it's wonderful."

A house-proud Maria insists we peek into all the rooms in her new home, fashioned out of a variety of materials from timber poles to hardboard and asbestos panels.

"In fact, my husband built the whole wobble 'n' all," she tags her foot on the spotless floor. "It's the very first home of our own. Best of all, we own it lock stock and barrel — the land, the house, everything."

Husband Jonas, hit by the recession, is unemployed at the moment and has taken the bus to Johannesburg to hunt for a job. "We're holding thumbs he'll be lucky," says Maria. "But just in case..."

Maria strides outside, under the Moleleki Sun garden shade, and down to the road side. Four timber poles support a roof and a shop counter. Maria claps her hands with more glee. "When we have somehow saved a few more rands, we're going into business — selling cosmetics. I'm sure we'll do well."

The exuberance was shared by Johanna Radebe, a neighbour who was on hands and knees happily polishing the mirror finish of the gleaming red concrete floor of the kitchen outside her timber house. Her three-year-old son Tankiso played with new chums.

Mrs Radebe, a single mother, admits she was almost weeping when she learnt a few weeks ago that she had been selected to become the owner of one of the 1 500 house stands being allocated at no cost to homeless families in the area.

From meagre savings as a hawkers, she had scraped together R150 to pay workers to lay concrete house foundations, R730 to buy timber and R450 to pay a team of builders to erect her new home.

Mrs Radebe was undaunted by the fact that her savings were almost exhausted. "Now I have the chance to start a permanent business," she says. "In a few days I shall open a vegetable stall here at home. Lots of neighbours tell me they will be regular customers."

The Tsotatsis and Radebes make typical profiles of the hundreds of low-income black families moving into Moleleki, a brand-new grassroots housing project being developed outside Germiston to help relieve the plight of homelessness on the East Rand.

In turn, Moleleki makes a typical profile of the nationwide network of new housing projects launched by the Independent Development Trust under its scheme to provide 100 000 house plots, all fitted out with basic running water and sanitation services, to homeless black families on the bottom ranges of the low-income ladder.

With each serviced site subsidised to the tune of R750, successful applicants are handed the house plots, plus the deeds proving full legal ownership, at no cost at all. The whole idea is that they then have freedom to erect whatever kind of shelter they choose — within their limited budgets.

Since each applicant must have proved that the main breadwinner was struggling to survive on R1 000 a month at most, and the family had never owned a home of its own until now, it may mean little more than a shack can be afforded at first.

But as dozens of interviews showed, the thrill of actual ownership of the plot acts as a powerful inspiration for hopes of improvements, even permanent brick- and-mortar homes in time.

"Our only disappointment is that the IDT cannot reach even more homeless families because of limits on our budget," says Mike Morkel, the IDT consultant who co-ordinates all 40 similar projects being tackled in the Transvaal.

"At Moleleki, our budget could stretch no further than 1 500 serviced stands of 200 to 250 square metres each, with tarred main roads and gravel minor roads. In fact, in less than three weeks we were inundated with 3 000 applications from families whose low incomes qualified them for assistance.

"As elsewhere, we called in the local community to decide on allocations — the Katlehong City Council, the Katlehong Civic Association, church leaders and so on. They worked out a points system to grade families by the degree of real need. It was all very democratic —"
The problem reports MICHAEL CHERSTER.

The East Rand is a microcosm of the nation's housing crisis. It also underscores the triple scale of
the problem. The East Rand has one of the largest concentrations of
R750 million programme. Funded by the
Rand Housing Trust to tackle the
housing needs for 500 homeless families.

A new housing project to provide subsidised

TRUST

DEVELOPMENT

INDEPENDENT

Find their place in the sun

Homeless rejoice as they

No. The Mother's Sun is not
Van Tonder threatens violence over squatters

BOERESTAAT Party leader Robert van Tonder has threatened violent opposition if the Transvaal Provincial Administration attempts to move the Zevenfontein squatters into his area.

Cosmo City, one of the possible sites being considered by the TPA, is located just a few kilometres from Van Tonder’s large property at Northriding, north of Randburg.

Van Tonder, who has lived in the area for 30 years and is chairman of the local residents’ action group, said eight vigilante groups had been formed in the area which were ready to meet the squatters with the kind of force that would make Bloemfontein attempts to keep them out look feeble.

There are indications that the Zevenfontein community has reconsidered its initial choice of moving to Cosmo City after hearing where the proposed site was.

Community representative Pinky Mokhena said the squatters had asked the TPA not to make public its final decision on where to move the squatters until the community had had time to consider it.

TPA representative Magda du Toit said the TPA was taking Van Tonder’s presence into account in deciding the eventual site. The TPA may also decide against the area, as it cannot afford another high-profile political battle over the fate of the

Zevenfontein community.

Van Tonder said none of the squatters worked in his area and emphasised that municipalities such as Randburg and Sandton should accommodate their workforce within their own boundaries.

He said Cosmo City was an affluent area and the residents would sue the TPA for billions in compensation for the drop in property values if the move took place.

At a residents protest meeting in the area on Tuesday night, the DP, NP and “leftists” had all co-operated with him in discussing plans to keep the squatters out, Van Tonder said.

He said residents in the area had appealed to Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough late last year to make the area between Randburg, Midrand and Hartebeespoort dam a separate municipality, called the Garden Triangle. The move was initiated when it became clear that Randburg, Sandton and the TPA were planning to create squat camps in the area.

Du Toit said a task group would report back this month on the appeal for a separate municipality.

The other option favoured by the Zevenfontein community was Waterfall near Megawati Park.

Invitation withdrawn

FARMERS in Zimbabwe had withdrawn an invitation to SA Agriculture Minister Kraai van Niekerk to visit Harare to address a conference, Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Van Niekerk was set for a visit to the Zimbabwe government, as suggested in news reports.

A spokesman said the Minister had been invited to address the Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers’ Union but the invitation had been withdrawn.

Zimbabwe needs to import around 2-million tons of maize in the next year, and most of it will be delivered from or through SA.

Foreign Affairs also confirmed that there were long queues at Beit Bridge on the Zimbabwe-SA border due to the growing number of trucks taking maize into Zimbabwe.

Customs facilities on the SA side would be upgraded soon, but there were no plans to widen the bridge or build another crossing.
Squatters to know fate soon

By Peter Wellman

Zevenfontein's squatters will know by the middle of the month where their new home is to be. Star 3497

Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough on Wednesday postponed a decision until the end of next week because his executive committee had found that one possible site had not been investigated by his task team, a TPA spokesman said.

The spokesman said Mr Hough and the Zevenfontein community had narrowed the options from an original 19 to three — all north of Johannesburg in the Fourways vicinity. He needs to know exactly which spot is preferred.

"There are several big unused tracts of land out there," the spokesman said.

Feasibility and costs also needed to be looked at, he added.

The owner of Zevenfontein has given the squatters until July 1 to move out, and the TPA has agreed to meet this deadline.

The TPA has promised to provide water and toilets, and to help the community move to the new area."
Squatters still uncertain

ZEVENFONTEIN'S squatters will know by the middle of the month where their new home is to be.

Transvaal administrator Danie Hough on Wednesday postponed a decision until the end of next week because his executive committee had found one possible site had not been investigated by his task team, a Transvaal Provincial Administration spokesman said last night.

The Administrator and the Zevenufontein community had narrowed the options to three from an original 19, said the spokesman – all north of Johannesburg in the Fourways vicinity.

"He needs to know exactly which spot is preferred. There are several big unused tracts of land out there," said the spokesman.

The feasibility and cost of establishing a township on the site also needed to be looked at, he said.

Officials said one site favoured by the squatters, near Cosmo City, was not suitable.

It had no road access and could not be protected easily because it was in a hollow below hilltops.

The squatters have been given until July 1 to move out by their present landowner, and the TPA has agreed to meet this deadline.

The TPA has promised to provide water and toilets and to help the community move to the new area.

For instance, officials had taken squatter representatives to see the Cosmo City site for themselves.
Two sites for squatters suggested

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has received a report recommending Cosmos City and Diepsloot, both north of Johannesburg, as the best sites for final relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters.

Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough is expected to make an announcement soon, based on the recommendations in the report by a TPA-appointed task group.

Greenbelt Action Group spokesman Anthony Duigan, who represented his organisation on the task group, said the problem of the Zevenfontein squatters was far from resolved as residents from both areas had made it clear that they would forcefully resist any attempt to relocate the squatters to their areas.

According to Duigan, the task group could not come to any agreement on a site. The matter had to be referred to a subgroup — made up of two townplanners and representatives of the Zevenfontein community. It was possible, despite all the deliberations of the task group, that Hough could announce a site that had not been recommended by the task group, Duigan said. The squatters, however, would have to agree on the final settlement.

According to Duigan, the task group — established to investigate the problem of urbanisation — had four “heated” meet-

Squatters

ings. He said the initial problem of Zevenfontein had dominated the meetings and nothing else had been achieved so far.

Of the 19 sites investigated by the task group, most were far from the squatters' places of work or would meet resistance from local residents.

About 1 000 Diepsloot residents and those from surrounding areas showed their opposition to the report in a public protest in the area yesterday afternoon.

Boerestaat leader Robert van Tonder, who lives in Cosmos City, has made it clear that residents would react violently if the squatters were sent there.

Diepsloot Residents' Committee chairman Stuart Aitchison said the TPA had approached the problem in a haphazard way and had failed to set up proper regional planning structures.

Aitchison said Diepsloot had made provision for the people employed in the area. As most of the squatters worked in Randburg and Sandton, it was up to the municipalities to find them housing.
More protest over moving Zevemontein squatters

By Zingisa Mkhuna 7/4/91

About 1,500 residents of Diepsloot, north-west of Johannesburg, held a roadside protest on Sunday against the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA)'s proposed resettlement of Zevemontein squatters in the area.

The TPA initially wanted to resettle the squatters in Boksburg, but the plan was abandoned after resistance from the residents and reservations on the part of the squatters.

The Diepsloot residents formed a 1.5 km-long line next to the road hoisting placards and asking people to sign a petition. Some of the placards read: "No to filth", "Hands off Diepsloot" and "Transfering Problems Again".

Anthony Duigan, of the Greenbelt Action Group, echoed the feelings of most residents when he said that the squatters needed to be housed closer to where they worked.

"The problem is that once you talk shacks, then people see squalor and filth. Also, we are not talking small families, we are talking about 1,400 to 1,500 families — families that will change the whole shape of this area," Mr Duigan said.

"Everybody that works in this area is accommodated here, and there are many other people that live with them. There is also no municipality in Diepsloot to provide the infrastructure for squatters," he added.

The chairman of the Diepsloot Residents and Landowners Association (DRLA), Stuart Albison, said the protest was to make the public aware how people felt about the issue.

"Here in Diepsloot we provide housing for the people that we employ. The problem of the Zevemontein squatters belongs to the Randburg and Sandton town councils, because those people work in these areas."

"Why does the TPA want to dump the squatters on a barren piece of land. What is the difference between Zevemontein and here?" he asked.
Battle line ... Diepsloot residents demonstrate their opposition to the Transvaal Provincial Administration’s plan to resettle 1,500 squatter families from Zevenfontein in their area.

Picture: Stephen Davimes
Van Tonder's threat must be dealt with urges MP

BOERESTAAT Party leader Mr Robert van Tonder's threat of violence against squatters should be dealt with strongly, Mr Rupert Lorimer (DP Bryanston) said yesterday.

"Threats of violence should be dealt with through the legal system. Whites should realise that leaving squatters in such appalling conditions will only lead to more violence," he told the Extended Public Committee on Transvaal Provincial Affairs in Pretoria.

He was referring to the Sevenfontein squatters, who were to be resettled in Randburg until a public outcry by residents put paid to the plans.

"The reaction of whites to squatter resettlement is violent, hysterical and extreme. Surely there is greater security in resettling people in an orderly fashion."

The Transvaal Provincial Administration's annual report released yesterday said squatting in the Transvaal had reached abnormally proportions.

Cases increased from 317,277 families in March 1990 to 341,631 in March last year. Of these, 26,688 families had been resettled.

"The backlog has been financed by Government loans from privatisation to the amount of R103 million," the report said.
Pretoria—The TPA would act against people who exploited the squatter issue, MPJ John Mavuso said yesterday.

Addressing the extended public committee, he said urbanisation had to be dealt with rationally or SA would never have peace.

"Whatever the reason for urbanisation, the fact is that we have countless homeless in the Transvaal who need to be resettled." Resettling squatters was not only the task of government. It was also the duty of society to ensure its successful and orderly management.

"This lends itself to exploitation. Organisations and communities are manipulating these people to serve their interests."

"To those people I wish to say the TPA has reached a stage where it will take action against those who exploit these people." It was even more disturbing that those liberals, who for years campaigned for the rights of the homeless, were suddenly up in arms because black squatters were encroaching on their suburbs.

"They're afraid that this will affect the value of their property.

They say these people are murderers and thieves. This smacks of colonialism.

"To these bigots I warn, the arrival of the new SA means more than just a different colour state president. Bigotry must disappear from our vocabulary." — Sapa.
Squatters must be housed, insists MEC

The Transvaal Provincial Administration would act against people who exploited the squatting issue, MEC John Mavuso said yesterday.

Addressing the extended public committee on Transvaal affairs, he said urbanisation had to be dealt with rationally or South Africa would never have peace.

"Whatever the reason for urbanisation, the fact is that we have countless homeless in the Transvaal who need to be resettled," he said.

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"To these bigots I warn the arrival of the new South Africa means more than just a different colour state president. Bigotry must disappear from our vocabulary," Mr Mavuso said.

The TPA's policy of urbanisation rested on two principals:

- If managed properly it would strengthen South Africa;
- Mere allocation of land did not solve anything. People had to be housed near to employment and those who could afford it would have to pay for their own housing.

"Urbanisation is inevitable in South Africa. Unless we tackle the problem in a practical manner we will never succeed in solving the problem," Mr Mavuso said.

Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder's threat of violence against squatters should be dealt with strongly, Rupert Lormier (DP Bryanston) told the committee.

"Threats of violence should be dealt with through the legal system. White South Africans should realise that leaving squatters in such appalling conditions will only lead to more violence," he said.

He was referring to the Zevendome squatters who were to have been resettled in the Randburg area until a public outcry by residents put paid to the plans.

"The reaction of whites to squatter resettlement is violent, hysterical and extreme. Surely there is greater security in resettling people in an orderly fashion," Mr Lormier said.

The TPA's annual report released yesterday said squatting in the Transvaal had reached abnormal proportions.

The number of cases had increased from 317 277 families in March 1989 to 341 631 in March last year. Of these, 26 688 families had been resettled.

"The backlog... has been financed by means of Government votes from privatisation proceedings to the amount of R103 million.

"Progress has been made with the acquisition of land for the eventual settlement of more than 100 000 families on sites provided with rudimentary services. With the resources available everything was done to give each individual the opportunity to obtain their own dwelling-place in order to prevent illegal squatting," the TPA report said. — Sapa.
Fear stalks families at Zonke'izizwe

EVERY evening, 83-year-old Maria Sibanda watches her terrified neighbours seek sanctuary at the council offices overlooking Zonke’izizwe squatter camp.

When the neighbours desert their shacks, Sibanda and her three grandchildren huddle together and stay in the shack where they saw their mother murdered by a rampaging mob on Monday night.

"Cuddling 18-month-old orphan Siphiwe to her chest, Mrs Sibanda explained: "I am very scared, but I cannot leave this house until my daughter is buried.""

"Since Monday night, when about 100 men armed with guns, knives and makeshift weapons stormed through the street on the end of the squatter settlement, killing four people and injuring at least 13, terrified families have taken refuge at the Transvaal Provincial Administration offices."

"I just have to stay here. If they come again, I will surely die," the old woman said.

"Sibanda said the family was asleep when they heard a commotion outside just before midnight."

"They dashed into our house and found me, demanding to see the man of the house."

Sibanda said one of the men found the children sleeping in another room. "He grabbed the children and another man said in Xhosa: 'Don't kill them, just burn them.'"

"When the children's mother, Sara, tried to protect them, the attackers stabbed and hacked her to death."

Between two piles of rubble which were once homes across the street from Sibanda, is the shack of Mishak Modise.

Modise's brother Rufas was murdered when two men burst into the house and found him hiding in a cupboard. They stabbed him to death while his brother and 90-year-old mother-in-law, Elisa Manumde cowered under a bed.

Police are investigating the possibility that Monday night's attack was related to a massacre in Crossroads squatter camp about 5km away, in which 21 people were killed last Friday."
Green stance 'a facade for racism'

KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) yesterday accused residents in areas north of Johannesburg, who have opposed plans to settle the controversial Sevenfontein squatters in their areas, of using environmental issues to hide their racism.

TPA deputy director-general Len Dekker said environmentalism had become "a blatant facade for keeping blacks out. As the blacks come nearer, so they become greener."

He said the Greenbelt Action Group (GAG) had appealed to people's emotions and misled them, as the area south of the R28 to Krugersdorp was just "open veld".

He said there was a misconception among residents that if they made enough noise about the squatters being moved to their area, the move would not go ahead.

The TPA had taken environmental issues into account in identifying areas for future development, and it had found very little "green" area left south of the R28.

In the light of this it had been decided that this area would be earmarked for settlement. The natural areas north of the road would be preserved, however.

Although urbanisation would take place there, Dekker warned it would not be the only area to face changes.

The TPA needed another 60 000ha to settle a further 3-million people in the next decade, and many other areas would have to "come to terms with the hard realities of the new SA."

He urged residents to stop being emotional about the problem of squatters. All local authorities would have to make provision for low cost housing, as it was "not possible to hide these people behind bushes," he said.
Landowners deny racist claims by TPA officials

Sowetan Correspondent

The Greenbelt Action Group is demanding a public apology from two Transvaal administration officials following allegations of racism against landowners who oppose squatter settlements in the north-western PWV.

GAG secretary Ms Jill Willemans says she will report the matter to State President Mr FW de Klerk if both MEC Mr John Mavuso and deputy director of Community Development Mr Leo Dekker do not apologise.

Willemans said allegations by Mavuso and Dekker that plot owners were using conservation to camouflage racist fears were a smokescreen for the TPA’s mismanagement regarding urbanisation.

She said black landowners in the region attended GAG meetings while thousands of black workers were already housed on plots where they worked.

There were two multiracial schools at Diepsloot, one of the areas considered as a permanent home for the Zevenfontein squatters, she said.

Dismissing Dekker’s claim that land between the Pretoria-Krugerskop highway was valid and could not be considered a green belt worth preserving, Willemans asked:

“What about Holderfontein Conference Centre, River Sands Farm, multimillion rand chicken farms, film studio, peach farms and established trout farms?”

Claiming the TPA had bungled the Zevenfontein squatter issue, Willemans said none of the reports costing the taxpayer thousands of rands had been properly used.

Planning was still abysmal, solutions were totally absent and neither housing or work opportunities were being offered to the squatters some six years after GAG started its costly campaign against Norweto, she said.
War of words as tension rises over Diepsloot issue

By Shirley Woodgate

Tension mounted yesterday after top officials levelled allegations of racism against landowners opposing black settlement north-west of Johannesburg.

Residents have demanded the immediate resignation of Administrator Danie Hough, MEC John Mavuso and deputy director for Community Development Len Dekker.

In referring to the landowners, Mr Mavuso spoke of bigotry and Mr Dekker said they were using conservation to camouflage racist fears.

The row centres on the pending Transvaal Provincial Administration decision on sites for housing the Zevenfontein squatters as well as millions of homeless people in the region.

The resignation call by Diepsloot Residents and Landowners Association chairman Stuart Alitchison, on grounds of sheer incompetence, is being backed by a grounds swell of smallholders.

Mr Alitchison warned of the possibility of civil riot in Diepsloot if the TPA tried to move the Zevenfontein squatters there.

"The people are not prepared to sit idly and watch their livelihood and life investments being sacrificed on the altar of the TPA's ineptitude and authoritarianism," he said.

He stressed that Diepsloot applied in 1989 to become a fully fledged free settlement area.

Mismanagement

Greenbelt Action Group secretary Jill Wileman said the allegations of racism were a smokescreen for TPA mismanagement of urbanisation.

Boerestaat Party and Garden Triangle Action Group leader Robert van Tonder, whose property borders Cosmo City, which is high on the list of areas earmarked for informal settlement, denied Mr Dekker's claim that all residents had been consulted.

He threatened court action unless his application for the establishment of a new municipality had been settled by Mr Hough before land was identified for squatters.

Peter Hewitt, spokesman for the Jukkei-Crocodile River Catchment Area Property Owners, rejected the racist label, claiming blacks already outnumbered whites in his area by about 30 to one.

"Unlike the real racists who moved blacks up to 35 km away from their work, to Soweto and Lenasia, we have always housed our own workers," he said.

"The Zevenfontein squatters are a domestic Randburg and Sandton issue, since that is where they work."

"It is time the TPA started scientific planning, proper administration and detailed plans for compensation where expropriation takes place before people are resettled. It must look at proper employment for the homeless and stop resorting to name-calling if it wants to halt resistance".
R2.2m school for squatter children

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Minister of Education and Training Mr Sam de Beer and Independent Development Trust (IDT) chairman Mr Jan Steyn yesterday joined ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela in opening the Rolihlahla Primary School in the squatter town of Etwatwa East, near Daveyton.

According to Mr De Beer the construction of the R2.2-million school was symbolic of the co-operation his department had been seeking between the state, the private sector and the community.

Mr Steyn said the school served as a model for the IDT's nationwide R300m school building programme, which was aimed at reducing the backlog of 50,000 classrooms.

The school — which bears Mr Mandela's middle name — was a new venture because there would be two primary school sessions a day, after which the premises would be offered to the community as an adult learning centre.

The school would eventually have two headmasters, two sets of teachers and two intakes of pupils. Already 1,700 pupils have been registered, but numbers will double when more staff are hired.

The IDT donated R1.8m, the Etwatwa Civic Association pledged R200,000, and the Nedcor Chairman's Trust donated R220,000 towards the costs of the school.

Mr Steyn called on national, regional and local leaders across the political spectrum to commit themselves to working towards the eradication of poverty and deprivation.

"We need to give the unhoused, the under-educated and those who do not have access to health care hope of a better future," he said.

Mr Mandela told the crowd of 5,000 that political tolerance was essential. "Let us bury the past so that the damage done to South Africa is minimised."

Mr De Beer said in many cases teachers had been breaking down the process of education through their defiance campaigns.
Phola Park residents lay charges

Staff Reporters

A total of 58 Phola Park residents yesterday laid charges of assault and attempted murder at the Tokoza police station against members of 32 Battalion.

Residents, some with bandaged limbs and others walking with crutches, were transported from the Phola Park committee office to the station by bus.

The charges follow allegations of an attack on the night-time camp last week which left one woman dead and several other people seriously injured.

Residents said yesterday the badly decomposed body of a man believed to be the second fatality in the attack was found in a shack in the camp this week.

"Affidavits were handed over to the Tokoza Station Commander Major S.P. Funani by Simon Tsotetsi of the ANC's Violence Commission and legal representative Vusi Sithole.

Certificates

Major Funani said police would go through all the affidavits to determine the exact charges. He said people who made allegations of attempted murder would have to submit medical certificates to support their claims.

The South African Council of Churches yesterday repeated its recent call for the SADF, liberation armies and the SAP to be placed under a joint command "as soon as possible" in order to ensure peace in this country.

The church body was reacting to last Wednesday's raid at the Mandela squatter camp in Bekkersdal by a SADF unit when residents were allegedly assaulted, shot at and had their property destroyed.

One resident, Korea Mathe, accused the soldiers of ransacking his shack and stealing R500. The SACC noted that the SADF "aggression" came against the backdrop of more than a year of peace.

Bekkersdal residents are now demanding the immediate withdrawal of the army. The demand was made jointly by the ANC, Azapo, PAC and Bekkersdal Civic Association.

The allegations have been denied by SADF spokesman Major Andries Jordaan.
Winnie attacks police over squatter camp deaths

WINNIE Mandela, making her first public appearance since she resigned from her senior ANC job, accused "terrorist" security forces of shooting dead two people at a squatter camp in Soweto, Soweto, shootings yesterday.

A hard-hitting conclusion to one of the worst weeks in her political career, the estranged wife of ANC president Nelson Mandela visited Soweto's Power Park camp yesterday and told a cheering crowd of squatters: "Today is a day of worship, but we are spending it trying to defend ourselves against a terrorist government that has unleashed its forces to attack defenceless men and women in their sleep.

"I heard the shooting at one o'clock from my house.

"We will do everything in our power to defend ourselves."

Police confirmed that two squatters had been killed soon after 1.15am at the camp in the Orlando district, near Mandela's home. A third person, a police officer, was shot dead in the clash.

A Vianews camera crew reported that Mandela waved a plastic bag full of spent shells which residents said were from shots fired by the police.

She said: "All of these are to kill you in your sleep. The police tried to deflate your spirit of fighting."

"They want it to appear as if we are fighting among ourselves. This is the lie we are supposed to live with."

When Mandela arrived at the squatter camp police were still searching for arms among the shacks.

She told them the police were angry and that they ought to leave. They did.

Police spokesman Joseph Ngobeni said unidentified gunmen had attacked a police patrol at 1.15am. One policeman was killed and another wounded.

Police then entered the camp to look for the attackers.

Mandela resigned from her post as head of the ANC's social welfare department on Wednesday, saying allegations that she was linked to the killing of activists in Soweto during 1982 had created a difficult situation for the ANC.

She is on bail pending an appeal against her conviction and six-year jail sentence for kidnaping four youths and being an accessory to assaults on them.

On Monday Nelson Mandela citing unspecified differences announced that they were separating after 33 years of marriage. - Sapa-Reuters.
Ploy to block settlement

By Jo-Anne Collinge

In a new ploy to block official establishment of a shack settlement in the peri-urban area near Randburg and Sandton, the Garden Triangle Action Group has petitioned the Transvaal Provincial Administration to establish a new municipality.

The group's chairman, Robert van Tonder, made it clear in a covering letter to Administrator Danie Hough that this could delay the proclamation of any "less formal" settlement for the Zevenfontein squatters near Fourways.

Mr van Tonder - also leader of the Boerestaat Party - said he was being urged to appoint a commission to investigate forming a new municipality.

Mr van Tonder said the petition was handed over last week and was supported by 50 people.
Victims attend identity parade

By Zingisa Mkhuma

More than 70 squatters who say they are victims of an attack on the Phola Park squatter camp by members of 32 Battalion, attended an identification parade involving an undisclosed number of soldiers yesterday.

The press was barred from the official proceedings which were held inside the Tokoza Auditorium. Only members of the Independent Board of Enquiry (IBE) and lawyers for the victims were allowed in.

Some squatters, including a 14-year-old girl, attended the proceedings wearing bandages on their arms and legs. Some of them walked on crutches.

A spokesman for the IBE, Sally Sealy, said there were 101 victims of the attack which left two dead, but many of them could not identify their assailants because it was dark when the attack occurred.

More than 70 people were treated in hospital for their injuries. They have accused members of the SADF's 32 Battalion of going on a "rampage" after they had allegedly that a shot was fired at them from the squatter camp.

A woman was killed and several others were raped and injured in the raid which took place on April 5, said squatters.

The police said they were investigating charges of murder, rape, assault, malicious damage to property, theft and attempted murder.
Phola Park victims identify 9 raiders

By Mekele Kotolo
Pretoria Bureau

Phola Park residents have positively identified nine soldiers who allegedly took part in assaults by members of the SADF's 32 Battalion during a raid on the East Rand squatter camp two weeks ago, the Goldstone Commission heard in Pretoria yesterday.

This information was released by P A Hattingh, SC, representing the South African Police at a preliminary hearing of the commission, investigating allegations of assault, rape and damage to property by soldiers on the night of April 8.

The full inquiry is scheduled to start on Monday.

Mr Hattingh said of the estimated 240 members of 32 Battalion at an identification parade in Tokozoa on Tuesday, 32 were identified by 45 residents as having participated in the alleged attack.

He said it was found only nine of the 32 soldiers had been at Phola Park on the day of the alleged attack.

Advocate Hattingh added that police were investigating 37 charges including charges of rape, assault, and malicious damage.

Researcher at the Independent Board of Inquiry Into Informal Repression Sally Sealey said she had visited Phola Park on April 9 at the request of the ANC attorneys of the victims, and Lawyers for Human Rights.

Ms Sealey said eye-witnesses had told her between three and six army vehicles had entered the camp at about 9 pm.

She rejected SADF claims that they were shot at by unknown persons from the direction of the squatter camp prior to the raid, saying all those interviewed and those who submitted statements said they did not hear any gunshots "prior to the arrival of the SADF in Phola Park".

She said the raid was mainly conducted by black soldiers who wore "browns" and spoke Fanagalo and Portuguese.

Together with some leaders of the Tokozoa civic association, they transported injured people to hospital and later accompanied about 60 of them to Tokozoa Police Station to lay charges, she said.

Major Petrus van Eeden of the SADF said he did not believe his men could have committed the alleged rapes and assaults.

He conceded, however, that some troops could have been heavy-handed with residents after shots had allegedly been fired from Phola Park at the SADF patrol.

Phola Park: claims to be probed — Page 3
Tenants trek to better sites in Soweto

Soweto 24/11/1982

SA Press Association

MORE than 200 residents of the Tiadi squatter camp will be resettled at serviced sites at Doornkop, also in Soweto.

The secretary of the Tiadi Camp Committee, Mr. Henry Pastwana, said yesterday the squatter camp was set up in 1986 as a temporary measure. The move to Doornkop comes years after negotiations with the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Celebrate

"We were told that we would only remain there for about three months," he said. They negotiated with the Soweto Council and then with the TPA before the alternative sites were made available.

Toilets and water would be provided at the new sites. But the residents would have to build their own homes.

The trek will involve 213 shack residents, excluding 89 families who have already moved to Doornkop.

To celebrate the move, the camp committee has decided to hold a farewell party on Sunday.

"Those who have already left will be coming back to Tiadi for the party, just to say hello to the camp," said a joyful Pastwana.
We're just a bit heavy handed, says captain

THERE was no sign of assault on the two vehicles of the 32 Battalion soldiers that were stationed at the Cinnabane Commission Investigation into the alleged massacre in Phola Park on 15 November three weeks ago.

Responding to allegations of assault, Capt. Mokgadi, 32 Battalion, said his troops were just being “heavily handed” on the night of 8 April when Phola Park residents were allegedly raped and stigmatised. One person killed and several were injured. Damage was also done to properties.

He said, “While not on ground” (sic), the troops said they had been “heavily handed” and that the troopers had only killed a person who was not a victim. He believed the assault was something like kicking a person with a恸 foot.

Despite the incident, which resulted in several injured residents being admitted to Nasipheti Hospital, Herwanns supported the action of his troops.

“The troops have been good for the area,” he said. The reason, he continued, could include a person resisting arrest and trying to escape.

“Everyone’s happy with my soldiers’ behaviour,” he said.

According to evidence given by the captain, his men were acting on a tip given to him by an unarmy informant who said a gun was hidden in one of the houses in Phola Park.

The captain initially looked elsewhere when asked about the exact location and circumstances surrounding a series of gunshots from the camp, which then prompted soldiers to return fire.

Despite not being able to identify where the shots were coming from, the soldiers had immediately fired back in the dark. Hermanns said the soldiers had been acting within the law by exercising their right to defend themselves.

“Soldiers don’t act unless they do, and the court case of the victims, Stephen Joseph SC. ‘Yes, I did,’ replied Hermanns.

Is it not wrong to fire on a criminal running away in a crowd?” Hermanns admitted it was.

Joseph then retorted that, on April 8, Hermanns probably knew that if they had missed the man firing shots, there would be a great chance that they would have hit a hailstorm instead.

Joseph asked why he didn’t withdraw his troops and wait for the police when the camp was being attacked. Hermanns said: “We couldn’t withdraw as the troops were being fired on and there was no protection for my men.”

Joseph replied: “That you were safe enough to enter houses and ask residents questions?"

According to the captain’s evidence, the first shots of the day were fired from the camp around 9pm. Twenty-five soldiers were sent into the camp on foot, accompanied by a Pask.

Early in the morning, Hermanns had told the commission sub-committee that most of his troopers spoke Portuguese and the Phola Park resident spoke Xhosa.

“The main reason for the shooting was that shots were fired at the soldiers by residents,” Hermanns said.

Joseph then asked how the soldiers could then communicate with the residents, who were not informed of their rights when their hands were taken into custody.

Hermanns replied: “I believe that some of the residents were English and Afrikaans speaking.”

Joseph asked how the captain had expected the residents — whom Joseph described as “some of the least fortunate people of our country” — to be proficient in three languages.

Hermanns was asked repeatedly about the authenticity of a statement submitted to the commission. The statement did not have one signed about the 200 rounds of ammunition that were fired that night, and did not deal with Hermanns’ admission that the soldiers had acted in a heavy-handed manner.

He explained that his legal advisors had chosen not to include those aspects in the statement.

Interim results for the six months to 29 February 1992

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<td>Earnings per share cents</td>
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<td>Based on Gencor underlying assets - at end of February</td>
<td>2 209</td>
<td>1 178</td>
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Source: Gencor and Beherend. Beherend is an investment holding company with a 54.7% interest in Gencor Limited. Shareholders are referred to Gencor’s interim results which are also published today.

Interim dividend

An interim dividend in respect of the year ending 31 August 1992 of 14.3 cents per ordinary share was declared on 20 January 1992, payable on 20 May 1992 to shareholders registered on 31 January 1992.

An interim report giving more detailed information will be mailed to shareholders. Copies may be obtained from the Secretary at the address given below.

On behalf of the board
M H Dafting
B P Gilbertson

23 April 1992

Gencor Beherend Beperk
(Reg. No. 5301008006)
General Mining Building
6 Holland Street
Johannesburg 2001
(P.O. Box 61820)
Marshalltown, 2107)
The homeless come to pray ... and stay to scoff

THERE'S an honest way to pray - for a free, hot meal and a place to sleep for the homeless in the city; a working knowledge of the "Big Book" (even though many can hardly read it); plus participation in two-hour Bible study sessions.

For the street "clique" who are not religiously inclined, it's a choice of moving to pray or going hungry. The alternative is discreet scavenging in dustbins.

Shelters for the 60,000 unemployed women and more than 800 children navigating the streets of Johannesburg will come on to the municipal agenda in the next few months, when the Johannesburg City Council completes a study into the possibility of buying vacant buildings to house the city's homeless. "Our idea is to rehabilitate these people back into society systematically," says Reenie Baas, of the council's planning and development section.

The scheme is to accommodate people first and, when special job creation programmes have been initiated, to provide them with employment.

"Hi, don't take pictures of me, I owe too many people money," grows frilly, sticking her lip in her hat, then lifting up a shelter's soup kitchen quiets. The Men-Akie mission homes shelter, run on strict moral and religious disciplines, is a project of the Dutch Reformed Church and hands out a meal at 11 a.m. daily, for "honest, homeless and junkies."

Marnie de Jager says the mission, which receives government subsidy, "works among all destitute people, regardless of colour. We cannot provide for their spiritual needs alone - we want to address their basic needs first. We even have a resident psychologist here."

On Tuesday it hands out a food parcel to some 200 families, this is rounded off with a "family meal" on Thursday. The down-and-out crowd arrive before the meal is ready, which means time for a bit of additional Bible study at the Men-Akie shelter. The aroma of the food makes concentration difficult for the "companions and sisters."

The Johannesburg City Council is looking at a way to house tens of thousands of city homeless ... some time in the future. BEATHUR BAKER looks at what's available in the meantime.

Most of the city shelters are religious, self-sufficient or running on donations and guided by the firm but kindly hands of a frail father or a formidable and experienced drug addict or alcoholic who "save the light in time."

Rules in most institutions are strict and seldom vary from one to the other. For example:

- No food is served unless the required amount of money or time is donated.
- All food and clothing is distributed to the homeless and junkies who come to the shelter.
- No alcohol or drugs are allowed.
- There is no smoking or drinking on the premises.
- "Brothers and sisters" are strictly kept apart.

- Anyone arriving after closing time is locked out until you, if you open the door step. The "tutie" who dares to swim drunk or brown to denied food and access.

- Often inmates are required to carry out domestic chores in the shelter.

The Christian Coffee Bar and Shelter in downtown Johannesburg accommodates about 50 people and conditions are far from being a big job, disordered state of salvation.

In a cosmopolitan mix of locals people and those from neighbouring states, we find two pregnant women and several others with young children. All have been in the shelter for more than a year because "it is free and the children are fed every day." The women share the three bedrooms and the men sleep on the floor in the church. The crowd is good natured.

"They're very different from the scared, often addicted drunks whose return to society is difficult after years of drinking methedrine, spirits or wine - for those who can maintain a more expensive addiction - or those who are addicted to Wellcoda or a manduka "pipe." There are those who are comforters, taken up late and often despite numerous efforts at rehabilitation. Many centres do not sustain treatment to include after-care and supervision, and people with no next-of-kin have nowhere to go when they come out of these places.

A shelter in Berea with a homely feel about it caters for destitute teenage pregnant and drug Addicts. Run in a spacious, pretty two-storey house, the shelter can accommodate up to 10 people a night, providing them with food and a counselling service. It's funded by public donations, run by Jean and Andre Mabola - the husband and wife team who initiated and the project - and overseen by a management committee.

Their outreach programme is directed at the needs of the teen preganency - some as young at 12 - and includes finding girls on the street and encouraging them to learn their families.

"These girls find reintegration into society very difficult in the very people who commit them most harmfully are the ones who pay for their services," said De Plessis.

Gerhard, an all-male shelter in Berea, takes in all kinds of homeless men but was initiated especially looking at the destitute, homeless alcoholic who often has no place to sleep, says administrative officer David Soti. The house, indistinguishable from others on the street, provides - along with a meal and a bed for the night - a counselling service and a bit of camaraderie over coffee.

A more regular than-most resident, still on the streets but now "banging his head together", has learned a lot from his stay in the shelter: "When you haven't got a job or family and no home, the Devil gets you to the streets. This is where you feel you can count on them."
All we want is a tap of our own

Chicken Farm squatters spend four hours a day collecting water from a distant source. Households in nearby suburbs receive 20 000 litres a month — on tap.

By FERIAL HAFFAJEE

It’s not even nine on a weekday morning, and already the women from Chicken Farm are streaming to the only tap near the squatter camp to collect water in 20 litre drums.

The sprawling camp is situated in Soweto’s Pinetown, near Baragwanath Hospital. For many it is the second trip of the morning and it isn’t an easy one. The 1km walk to the tap is along a pathway pockmarked with ridges and bumps, long grass and stones.

Pinky Mathole fetches her water in a wheelbarrow borrowed from a neighbour. She collects five 20 litre drum-fulls four times a day.

She gets to the tap at seven in the morning and often waits up to an hour for her water because it’s peak time as workers collect water for a wash or early-morning coffee. When we saw her, she was fetching a second round of water to “scrub the floors, pots and the kettle”. Later she will come back for another load, this time “to wash myself and the child”.

The final haul comes at five when she fetches water for the evening’s cooking, tea and for her husband to wash in.

Mathole, and most of her neighbours, spend up to four hours a day collecting water. Even this is not enough.

“The World Health Organisation estimates that basic health criteria can only be met when every person has access to at least 50 litres of drinkable water every day,” said Henk Coetze, of the Group for Environmental Monitoring.

The tap is a meeting place for the women, who gossip while they enjoy the “luxury” of washing with as much water as they like. The children play in the mud and mimic their mothers, filling their Coke bottles and baking powder tins with water.

The tap that Chicken Farm residents use was not meant for them; it belongs to the nearby scrapyard. There is a tap in the camp but nobody uses it since all it yields is a trickle.

By contrast, the average suburban household of four and six people receives about 20 000 litres a month tapped directly to their homes.

The council has installed about 40 mobile toilets in the camp. But, says Kenneth Mlahangu, “individuals keep it for themselves”. Three or four families claim a toilet by putting a lock on the door and writing their names all over it.

Mlahangu, who is unemployed and unmarried, is one of a few men at the tap. Fetching water is women’s work, says Mlahangu as he guides his wheelbarrow along the path.

One of his drums topples to the ground and spills the water he has taken half an hour to collect, but he merely shrugs his shoulders.

The struggle for water has brought with it a thriving little industry. Professional carriers fetch the water for residents. Using “nationalised” trolleys from nearby Highgate shopping centre, they charge R4 for 100 litres of water delivered to your door. This is 25 times more than piped water supplied to Johannesburg’s suburbs where R4 buys 2 500 litres.

Seven million South Africans live in shack settlements and half of these are in the PWV area in the Transvaal.

Trying to get answers from the authorities on who is responsible for supplying water to squatter areas is as much of a problem. The government departments of National Health and Water Affairs said it was not their responsibility and referred the questions to the Transvaal Provincial Administration. The TPA said responsibility rested with the local authorities but they referred the question back to the TPA.

“Shack settlements are regarded as transit areas and infrastructural costs are discouraged,” says Henk Coetze, of the Group for Environmental Monitoring.

Studies of 12 000 families on the West Rand, carried out by the Department of Community Development, showed that 23.8 percent had no water source, 2.6 percent collected water, 49.7 percent collected water from neighbouring townships and 24.8 percent were supplied by TPA water trucks.

Almost 80 percent of the families surveyed used pit latrines, 17 percent had toilets and 2.9 percent used the bucket system.

However, “many squatters, including those from Chicken Farm, get their water from rivers. But, South Africa’s rivers are among the most polluted in Africa,” says Coetze.

The PWV settlements draw water mainly from the Vaal River where contamination begins at its headwaters in the eastern Transvaal where streams increase as it flows through the Witwatersrand. Tests by the Rand Water Board in the catchment area of the Vaal Dam found organic compounds which “far exceed European standards for surface water”, said the PWV Water Board official.

The Rand Water Board told The Weekly Mail that inadequate maintenance and overloading of toilets in Soweto caused burst sewage pipes and contamination of ground water.

Water is often the pawn in struggles between residents and local authorities. Often, water is cut to force residents into compliance with local government regulations. When water is supplied by local authorities there are far more problems, such as the high cost and interrupted service, that more and more civilians in squatter camps are demanding that local authorities be bypassed and that the government be solely entrusted with this responsibility.

Meanwhile, Mathole’s wish is for “a toilet and a pump in my own yard”. She says that as it is as far from her reach as the sparkling swimming pools in the suburbs where some of her friends work.
SQUATTERS — T. V. L.

1992

MAY — DEC.
Tutu leads 40 bishops on visit to Phola Park

By Michael Sparks

Purple robes contrasting sharply with the drab shacks and dusty, rutted roads of Phola Park, Archbishop Desmond Tutu led 40 bishops on a visit to the strife-torn township yesterday in a show of solidarity with residents.

The bishops, who were having their bi-annual synod meeting in Kempton Park, did a pastoral walk-about, stepping over mud pools in their flowing gowns and speaking to residents, including some victims of the recent violence there.

Archbishop Tutu, in an impromptu address outside one resident’s home, said: “I am amazed to see the spirit of the people... It is amazing to see how people can keep their structures clean under these conditions. I honour you for refusing to be turned into animals.”

Addressing a crowd of 150 residents who crammed into a small, dusty yard between the shacks, he asked: “Are we going to be free?” He added that the answer needed to be heard in Pretoria. The crowd responded with great enthusiasm.

Before visiting Phola Park, Archbishop Tutu addressed churchgoers at nearby St Peter’s Church in Natalpark, saying it was good to be back in the parish where he first worked after becoming a priest.

He said all the bishops belonged with the suffering residents during their time of pain.

“We have come to say we are with you. We thought we were going to celebrate the coming of freedom. But that has been shattered by the evil of violence and killing and death.”

He added: “Yes, it appears as if evil is winning. We have come to remind you that is not so.”

Laying some of the blame at the door of the SAP, Archbishop Tutu said: “During the state of emergency you could not scratch yourself without the police knowing it. Now the police say they don’t know which people have an AK-47.”
Squatters may be taught to build low-cost houses

KATHRYN STRACHAN

The first national meeting attended by 800 leaders of SA's 7-million homeless people at the weekend agreed on a plan to teach squatters to build their own homes.

Keith Montsi, spokesman for Operation Masakhane for the Homeless (OMhale), which hosted the meeting in Johannesburg, said yesterday delegates realized government was unable to provide sufficient housing, and the only way ahead was to help squatters be self-sufficient by training them to build their own homes.

The drive was focused specifically on training people to build houses in timber which cost a fraction of brick-and-mortar houses, he said. A timber house of 45m² cost only R2 000.

Montsi said 300 squatters had already attended six-week courses run by the SA Lumber Millers Association since the end of last year, and the plan now was to extend the programme to equip many more people with building skills.

One of the main factors that increased house prices was the cost involved in transporting building materials to settlement sites, particularly in rural areas. The conference decided on a plan to establish timber depots at resettlement camps to eliminate transport costs, and to provide squatters with timber far cheaper than that provided by wholesalers.

The Japanese embassy had been approached to fund the project, and requests would also be made to other foreign governments, said Montsi. They would also be asked to fund projects such as schools and clinics which would be built by people who had been trained on the course.

On the issue of identifying land for settlement, OMhale would approach other provincial administrations to set up task groups similar to that of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, which included members of homeless communities in its ranks.

DARIUS SANAI reports the SA Housing Trust had embarked on a "strategic planning exercise" aimed at evaluating the organization's relevance in a changing SA, spokesman Gideon van der Westhuizen said yesterday.

Van der Westhuizen said the exercise was aimed at "looking where we are going": "We are trying to take on a new form to render a viable service under the changing political circumstances," he said.

Senior directors of the government-subsidised trust were meeting this week in the first part of the exercise, and no specific decisions had yet been made.

The ideas mooted would be tabled at a "strategic planning workshop", which would then formulate new policies.

Van der Westhuizen said various experts, including HSRC director Laurence Schlemmer, would be making presentations and advising the trust's board during its deliberations.
Phola Park residents were angered and frightened during an intensive police search of the East Rand squatter camp yesterday in which three men were arrested and an AK-47 with ammunition was confiscated.

While tense residents gathered in groups, a convoy of police vans and Casspars drove through the camp, searching homes and the surrounding bushes for arms caches, fugitives and drugs.

A helicopter circled over the camp for more than three hours. A man wearing a balaclava was seen pointing out shack doors.

Witwatersrand police liaison officer Warrant-Officer Andy Pieke said members of the East Rand Murder and Robbery Squad went to the area to find suspects involved in various criminal offences, including the spate of attacks on policemen.

A 69-year-old man, known only as Majolo, said about six policemen had broken into the three shacks where he, his wife and five primary school children live.

Beds were overturned and panels torn down, furniture was broken and picture frames were left shattered on the floor.

Wall units and their contents were thrown around the rooms, and drawers containing clothes were emptied.

Residents complained that police wearing civilian clothes had not shown them search warrants, refused to identify themselves and did not respect their property.

A social worker, employed by the Catholic Church in the area, said: "Residents believed the old residents' committee was inefficient and corrupt, but since the new committee has been in power, the camp has had trouble with the police."

She and others in the camp believed an elderly committee member had become a police informer.

ANC branch vice-chairman Sally Pietersen accused police of harassing residents.

Warrant-Officer Pieke said it was a "normal crime-prevention exercise." If property had been damaged, it should be reported and the matter would be investigated.

Phola Park made news headlines recently following allegations that members of 32 Battalion murdered a resident and raped or assaulted dozens of others.

Captain Mark Hermanso, commander of the accused platoon, told a committee of the Goldstone Commission last week that some of his men had admitted slapping and punching residents, but said this did not constitute an assault.
mandela is

This image contains a black and white photograph of a group of people engaged in a physical altercation. The image is from a newspaper article featuring the headline "COP RAID FELL MANDRA IN TO DRAWN INTO 30 OF JUNE 196" and the byline "by JON MOKAL and SADIA". The article discusses a police raid on a quarter camp. The article's content is not fully visible due to the nature of the photograph and the quality of the image.
Police raid founds Park Paloma squatters

Cops raid Park Paloma

BY ABBEY MAKEE and JOHN

March 2, 1992

In the East End yesterday, police raided the multi-unit shacks at Park Paloma squatter camp. The raid came after a month-long legal battle between the residents and the pharmacy

CITY OF ANGRISH *** Nine-month-old Leopoldine loses prematurely

The mother was seven months pregnant when she went into labor. The baby weighed 2.5 pounds. The family was told the baby would not survive. The baby died five minutes after birth.

The Medical Examiner has ruled the death a "stillbirth." The family was told the baby would not survive. The baby died five minutes after birth.

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The future of the Zevenfontein Community has stirred up a lot of debate and emotion, largely based on misconceptions and yesterday's realities.

The decision of the "free" future will, however, have to provide a fair and equitable solution for all concerned - based on today's realities, urbanisation needs and policies.

The reality demands a fair and just dispensation for all. Planned and orderly urbanisation requires the development of some 390 000 sites in the greater PWV region before the year 2000. This requires a balanced approach to urbanisation - high and low-cost/informal housing, extensive residential areas and job opportunities, with due consideration for the natural environment.

But how did the Zevenfontein issue arise? In brief:

- Part of this low-income community had, for some time, legally resided as tenants on a portion of the farm Zevenfontein. Last June the owner gave them notice to vacate the land.
- The Zevenfontein Community appealed for land to be allocated for their permanent settlement within the same region where the majority of them work.
- The TPA immediately initiated a series of meetings with various concerned parties. It soon became clear that emotions clouded the issue to such an extent, that consensus was impossible. As a result, the Administrator of the Transvaal appointed a special representative Task Group. Their brief was to:
  - Evaluate the existing urbanisation strategy for the north-western PWV region.
  - Identify areas for orderly urbanisation, specifically for low-cost housing in this region.
  - Make recommendations to the Administrator on the resettlement of the Zevenfontein Community.

Participation in and access to the Task Group was open to all. The Task Group, of more than fifty, included local authorities, community authorities and groups, business interests, developers and various other organised interest groups, as well as the Zevenfontein Community.

In search of consensus about the permanent resettlement of the Zevenfontein people, it was agreed that the Task Group's recommendations would take into account certain criteria:

- Physical suitability of the proposed area in terms of universally accepted principles of town planning.
- Economic viability and access to job opportunities.
- Social mobility and development potential.
- And last but not least, a humane and equitable proposal in terms of its impact on all people to be affected.

Finding permanent residence for the Zevenfontein Community has been widely consulted. The Task Group heard and evaluated as many viewpoints as possible. Many recommendations, including those of the Task Group, were made to the Administrator.

Full consensus was unfortunately not reached. There was, however, an emerging consensus on the inevitability of urbanisation south of the R28 highway.

The time for a weighed decision is now at hand - a fair and equitable decision which will recognise both the rights and interest of all concerned parties on an equal footing, regardless of their socio-economic situation.

This decision will have to find the balance.
TPA, plot to dump squatters.

BUSINESS DAY, Wednesday, May 12, 1982

KATHRYN STRONGAN

Graphic by Eddy Arnolder, photo by Lawrence C. Schien.

The TPA, the Texas Public Affairs Network, has been accused of dumping squatters on land it owns in the Texas Hill Country. The network, which operates a radio station and a television station in Houston, has been involved in a number of controversial activities, including the sale of land to developers and the use of its network to promote its interests. The network has been criticized for its lack of transparency and its tendency to use its influence to further its own agenda. The network has also been accused of using its resources to manipulate public opinion and to suppress dissent. The network's activities have been the subject of several lawsuits and investigations, and the network has been forced to defend itself in court. The network's president, Robert E. Slaughter, has denied any wrongdoing and has vowed to continue to operate his network as he sees fit.
Elite unit advertises for trainees

Sowetan Correspondent

FRIENDS are few, times are hard and the South African Defence Force’s toughest unit needs you—and are prepared to advertise.

Until Careers 2000, which opened in the Pretoria Showgrounds last night, the “Recces” - officially known as the Directorate of Reconnaissance Regiments - lived a shadowy life with their exploits in Angola, Namibia and other countries known only to a select few.

With regimental banners, information booklets and brochures, the Recces “went public” yesterday, complete with their own stand at the Careers 2000 show and an information officer on hand to answer questions from black and white hopefuls showing an interest in joining what are widely regarded as being among the world’s toughest fighting troops.

Times were, the information officer conceded, somewhat tough in the new South Africa; things had changed and so the Recces were forced to advertise for recruits.

But at the same time he made it clear they would not be accepting just anybody.

The requirements insist on the applicant being a member of the Citizen Force, Commandos, Permanent Force or performing National Service.

Further requirements include “(b) RSA citizenship (c) Capable of speaking either official language (d) No record of serious criminal offence (e) Educational qualifications: Preferably a Standard 10 certificate, but a lower qualification will be considered in exceptional cases.”

Other hopefuls could have been defeated by the age limit of 17 to 28 years but, for those who thought they were almost there the physical exam was still to come.

According to the pamphlet preselection tests included a 25km route march with 30kg kit to be completed in five hours; a 5km cross-country run in 20 minutes; 10 pull-ups non-stop; 75 sit-ups two minutes, 50 press-ups non-stop; 18 by 25m shuttle runs in two minutes and 200m fireman’s carry (without kit) in one minute.

Task group to decide on squatters - TPA

The Transvaal Provincial Administration indicated in newspaper advertisements yesterday that a decision on the future of the Zwanewène squatters was imminent.

The TPA said a task group investigating the issue was reaching consensus on urbanisation south of the R28 highway after consulting about 50 interest groups.

But the plans to re-settle the few hundred squatter families in Chartwell, Blydoorn and Diepsloot had met with strong opposition from residents. - Sapa.

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Urbanisation plan to avert squatting

By Louise Burgers
Municipal Reporter

Six municipalities north-west of Johannesburg have unveiled ambitious plans to extend their boundaries north of the R28 highway to take control of rural areas threatened by squatter settlements.

The six — Sandton, Randburg, Verwoerdburg, Roodepoort, Krugersdorp and Midrand — will apply to the De-marcation Board for approval of their proposals, known as "Alternative 3".

The plan is to implement a 20-year urbanisation strategy for the area south of the R28 and to try to keep the area north of the R28 a green belt for as long as possible.

In a joint statement, the councils said the peri-metropolitan area was experiencing an explosion in urbanisation, almost unparalleled in the world, which would continue for many years.

"We believe that the only way to handle developments fairly is through careful town planning and management," the city councillors said in a joint statement.

They believe they are taking the initiative by taking over responsibility for the total socio-economic growth in the towns.

Randburg management committee chairman Brian Crail said low-cost housing was high on the agenda.

Issues to be pro-actively addressed were:

- The transformation of haphazard, unsightly and unhealthy informal housing into well-planned low-cost residential areas.

- The provision of jobs within the municipality through the encouragement of commercial and industrial growth.

Each town had to expand to meet those needs and opportunities. The councillors promised that no more "Ze- venfontein" would be dumped on the doorsteps of any "Bloubosrands", but that informal settlements would be carefully planned in consultation with all affected.

"We want to prevent uncontrolled squatting, but to do it in a properly planned manner," Verwoerdburg management committee chairman Pieter Smith said.

Randburg management committee chairman Willem Hefer said: "As the area is now, the potential for uncontrolled development is much higher. If the area is under proper control, there will be much greater protection for that style of life to continue."

The councils gave the assurance that ratepayers and interest groups would be consulted.

Mr Crail said the proposal had the support of the TPA.
Molef

Mazwai

say thanks

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Soweto homeless protest

HOMELESS residents in Dobsonville, Soweto, started a sit-in at the Transvaal Provincial Administration offices in neighbouring Doornkop yesterday. Operation Masakhane for the Homeless's Dobsonville chairman Zweli Majova said the protest was staged to "highlight the plight of the homeless and to demand land for occupation." Majova said the sit-in would last until demands to meet top TPA officials were met. — Sapa

French must wait for ostrich

PARIS — The French
Phola Park residents have been angered by another pre-dawn police raid on the squatter camp yesterday.

**Two bodies found, man held in Phola Park raid.**

Police found two bodies and arrested a man after another pre-dawn raid at Phola Park squatter camp on the East Rand yesterday.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman yesterday said a man was battered to death and a woman fatally stabbed on Sunday night.

Police were unable to supply the names of the dead.

A man, arrested in connection with a petrol bombing incident, was the 10th person arrested in Phola Park since last Thursday.

Opperman said the raid was an ongoing crime prevention exercise following the deaths of five policemen at the camp this year.

He said Phola Park required constant police attention as it was "rife with violent criminals".

"There is no way we can allow people to attack security forces and Phola Park residents are constantly attacking the police," he said.

Police came under attack by residents yesterday, with snipers firing shots at passing police vehicles.

ANC regional spokesman Mr Ronnie Mamoepa accused the police of harassing Phola Park residents.

He said eight armoured carriers patrolled the camp yesterday, adding this was "part of a strategy to destabilise Phola Park".

Replying to allegations that police fired shots at residents, Opperman said police had used rubber bullets and tear gas.

The arrested men are being held in custody and will appear in court once investigations have been completed, he said.
Lights for Orange Farm

MORE than 3,000 households in Orange Farm near Vereeniging, which include many shacks, have been provided with electricity by Eskom since December. Orange Farm, which has rudimentary services and no sewerage system, is being developed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration as a site-and-service project and has a population of 120,000 people. - Sopa

Somerset 21/5/92
Residents set up crisis committee in Phola Park

By Peter Weisman

Phola Park, trying to rise from the ashes of violence and trauma, has now become the center of a new crisis committee. The committee, formed in response to recent incidents, aims to address the community's concerns and provide a platform for dialogue.

Committee members, including Christians Schaefer and Pauline Brown, have been working closely with the community to establish the committee. They have been actively involved in the community's day-to-day affairs, addressing various concerns and working to improve the quality of life for residents.

Officers of the committee have been conducting training sessions for anti-violence groups in the area. The training sessions aim to equip the community with the necessary skills to prevent and respond to violence.

Packed

He also said he hoped the committee would be able to bring about a sense of security and stability to the area. "We are working hard to ensure that our community is safe," he said. "We have to work together to achieve this goal."
COP DEFENDS THE
Phola Park raids

ON Wednesday Sowetan criticised the police on incidents at Phola Park.

Major Ray Harrald, spokesman for the SAP in Pretoria, yesterday replied to our criticism:

"I refer to the editorial published in Sowetan, May 20, 1991. Please allow me to make the following comments.

To state that "it does seem somewhat petulant, almost revengeful, to nitpick this particular camp because several attacks have been launched from it" is not true. The SA Police has a by-law-imposed duty to maintain law and order. We will carry out this duty to the best of our ability.

The SA Police had reliable information that certain persons being sought were at Phola Park and for that reason the area was searched. As soon as the criminal elements in Phola Park refrain from launching these attacks and harbouring those being sought for acts of violence, it will no longer be necessary for the police to carry out such operations.

'Deliberately tardy'

Your comment regarding our action against hostels being "deliberately tardy" is unfair and unfounded. Our successes regarding the recovery of illegal firearms and other dangerous weapons during operations when hostels are searched speak for themselves.

I would like to reaffirm our policy that where the SA Police receives sufficient evidence that any person(s) may be in possession of illegal firearms or may be responsible for the commission of any offence, we will not hesitate to act whether it be against the hostels or areas such as Phola Park.

Calls for the police to stay out of Phola Park would only benefit the criminal element and if we were to do so we would be playing into their hands. We are not prepared to do this. We owe it to the law-abiding residents of Phola Park to maintain law and order.

We are quite sure that the inconvenience such a search may cause is a small price to pay.

We once again call on all the law-abiding residents of Phola Park, and all other strife-torn areas to support us in our efforts to maintain law and order."
Winterveldt's schooling dilemma

By MOSES MAMAILA

The row between the Bophuthatswana government and the Winterveldt community remains unresolved, and children – the main victims of the conflict – continue to suffer.

Hundreds of children from the peri-urban shack city outside Pretoria attend lessons outside and in shanty classrooms at 12 private schools, while about 29 Bop government schools are reportedly empty.

According to Winterveldt Civic Association chairman Khehla Nyamakazi, the Bop government deliberately did not provide basic rights for the residents to punish the community, which has always opposed its incorporation into the homeland.

Nyamakazi said the government schools could not be used by many kids because Tswana was the only language being taught in them, even though Tswanas were in the minority in Winterveldt.

The children in the private schools, which start from Grade 1 and go to Std 4, pay R15 a month in fees. The money is used to pay teachers, most of whom are unqualified.

A Bophuthatswana government spokesman could not be reached for comment.
TPA 'bulldozer' threat

By MOSES MAMAILA

Mandelville squatters have been told that their dwellings will be swallowed up by the earth, or bulldozed—whichever comes first.

However, some of the squatters living in the area near Lenasia have vowed to stay put despite the TPA's ambiguous warning. 

"This is naked brutality. How can we be expected to move from this area after we have started building our houses," said Lydia Radebe, whose eight-roomed house was still being built. Her double garages were completed when City Press visited the area this week.

Radebe has invested R25 000 so far and fears that she won't get a cent in compensation.

The TPA said 73 homeless families would be transferred to an area south of the camp.

The decision to move the squatters followed a geological survey which indicated that the soil is dolomitic, meaning that sink-holes could develop. However, angry residents claimed the move was a form of harassment.

Susan Nhlapo said she would vacate the area because she had been threatened with bulldozers if they had not moved by Tuesday.

"Do we really have to pay such a heavy price for being poor?" asked Rosina Ledwaba.

She says residents were told that the squatters would be moved in September.

Those affected by the present removal say they were given a week to vacate the area.
ABOUT 15 members of the SADF's Battalion 21 raided the Tamboville squatter area near Wattville, Benoni, on Sunday night, assaulting and injuring residents.

But an army spokesman, confirming the incident, said the men had gone absent without leave and were not "deployed under the command of the SA army" at the time. Several of them had been arrested, he said.

At least two people are known to have been seriously injured,
Concern about shack dwellers

THE Vulindlela United Community of South Africa, which is based in Soweto, says it is concerned about the spread of informal settlements.

Vulindlela president Mr Eric Nshinganya said they wanted to discuss the problem with major financial institutions.

He said that a large number of blacks were homeless and lived in squalid conditions. In shacks and squatter camps because they could not afford to buy homes.

According to the 1991/92 race relations survey, Nshinganya said, 97,314 people lived in informal settlements in Soweto during the period under review.

Nshinganya said they wanted to help the homeless to get houses.

They would ask local authorities to stop demolishing shacks because “these people are helpless and are unemployed”.

The association is to arrange education courses for the people living in shacks.
We will help you says newly-formed group

THE newly-formed Qondisa Estate Agency and Soweto Home Builders is offering help to people living in four-roomed houses.

Chief executive and co-ordinator for the Soweto Civic Association, Mr Graham Qondisa, yesterday said they were also offering advice on how to obtain bonds from financial institutions.

He said: “We are working hand-in-hand with the civic association and the banks to help the black community.”

Their help was directed to those people who owned the old four-roomed houses.

They might want to obtain a bond for building two rooms and a garage behind the existing homes or to add a bathroom and did not know how to go about it.

“Our advice is: consult your nearest or local civic association and make arrangements with them to overcome your problems,” he said.

He said that number of blacks living in informal dwellings in Soweto was estimated at more than 10 000.

The squatter problem was serious and contributed to the large scale violence that was sweeping through the townships today, he said.

“This problem must be resolved, otherwise we are sitting on a time-bomb. We cannot afford to lose more lives,” he added.

The business was also concerned about the large number of people who were facing the prospect of losing their homes because they were unable to pay their bonds.

He warned that financial institutions had no right to evict or to repossess homes before considering the plight of the home-owners.

The agency was negotiating such problems with the institutions.

He said when buying a house, prospective owners must have a full understanding of what they were doing and what the result could be before signing documents.

“Do not just sign because you need a roof above your head,” he said, adding that “it is exactly where you can get into trouble.”

He was having consultations with the civic associations concerning housing problems.

He said he could be contacted at the Blackchain Centre in Diephoof or telephone 936-1054.
Squatter claims denied

Sowetan Correspondent

TRANSGAAL Provincial Administration officials have denied they had failed to consult Zevenfontein squatters on their relocation to a permanent site.

Reacting to squatter claims that their opinions had been ignored, TPA spokesman Mr Piet Wilton said at least 17 top level meetings were held since January 16.

The claims follow reports of the cancellation of a TPA Press conference yesterday where a final announcement on the squatters’ future was expected.

The cancellation allegedly came after a row between Zevenfontein representatives and the TPA on Monday, TPA officials. 
Phola Park clashes as 12 arrested

By Monica Oosthuysen and Isaac Molobi

Security forces and residents of the Phola Park squatter camp on the East Rand clashed again yesterday as 12 illegal immigrants were arrested.

SAP spokesman Constable Louis Vernaak said nine men and three women were being held at the immigration office in Germiston.

Police confiscated a number of dangerous weapons such as axes and knives, several AK-47 cartridges and petrol bombs.

While a large contingent of uniformed men in armoured vehicles surrounded the camp, dozens of Gerspars patrolled through the camp and a large force on foot searched shacks and residents.

Police allege miners fired at them on Monday night and residents claim the police are shooting them.

A crippled man, David Mashaba, was arrested outside a shack where he was sitting with his wife and children. His wife, Gladys Nyati, said police believed her husband was a Mozambican. "Why were the police hitting and kicking him?" Mrs Nyati sobbed as she watched her husband being driven away.

Residents said police asked for their identity documents and passports. Those found to be Transkei citizens were arrested and taken to the police station.

A constable said the police were on an anti-crime operation which would continue until the criminals had been arrested and the area stabilised.
TPA denies ignoring squatters' opinions

By Shirley Woodgate

Transvaal Provincial Administration officials have hotly denied that they have failed to consult the Zevenfontein squatters on their imminent relocation to a permanent site.

Reacting to claims by squatter representatives that their opinions had been ignored, TPA spokesman Piet Wilken said at least 17 top-level meetings had been held since January.

Claiming the TPA had 'leant over backwards to accommodate the squatters' wishes, he said a senior permanent liaison officer had been placed at their disposal.

The TPA claims follow reports of the last-minute cancellation of a planned TPA press conference yesterday at which a final announcement on the squatters' future was expected.

The cancellation allegedly came after a blazing quarrel between Zevenfontein representatives and the TPA on Monday night and, instead, of the crucial announcement, top TPA officials headed by MEC Olaus van Zyl yesterday met Zevenfontein residents behind closed doors in Johannesburg to thrash out differences.

Sources indicate that at a meeting between the TPA and the squatter representatives at Zevenfontein on Monday night, tensions surfaced after MEC John Mayosi insisted on addressing the gathering in Zulu.

When he was informed that not all the residents understood the language and that an interpreter was unavailable, he allegedly switched to Xhosa, then Sotho and finally English.

Zevenfontein representatives claimed they had not been fully consulted and that their stated preference for Cosmo City had been ignored.

The three areas under consideration are believed to be Diepsloot West, Cosmo City and a site in Nietgedacht near the Lion Park.
Still no decision

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration’s executive committee has not yet decided where to settle the Zevenfontein community. Proposals were put to the Zevenfontein families scheduled to leave the farm north of Sandton by July 31, but the TPA was still awaiting their response, TPA spokesman Piet Wilken said yesterday. Last-minute hitchers had delayed an announcement.

Priority for SA

A FAVOURABLE framework to attract foreign investment was an important priority for SA, Swiss Secretary of State for Foreign Economic Affairs Franz Blankart, who was due to meet Reserve Bank governor Chris Stals yesterday, said at a news conference in Johannesburg. He said he was asked by the Swiss government to assess the situation “in this country which is very important to our economy”.

Factory orders rise

NSW factory orders in April rose 1% to a seasonally adjusted $243.5bn, the commerce department in Washington said. The April increase marks the fourth month in a row factory orders have risen.

R5bn a year for social investments — LOA

THE Life Officers’ Association (LOA) will detail plans this month to invest $10-15bn of its funds a year in “socially desirable” projects.

LOA chairman Louis Shill said yesterday that “significant progress” had been made towards a mechanism through which life assurance companies could channel funds into projects such as low-cost housing and education.

However, he could not quantify amounts yet.

Life assurance companies may put as much as 10-15% of their total income from premiums and investments into the fund, according to a report in the Financial Mail earlier this year.

Still said the LOA would make an announcement “before the end of the month”, giving complete details of planned arrangements.

Negotiations between the LOA, the ANC and other extraparliamentary groups took place in April this year to discuss ways in which the LOA could be involved in social investment.

Shill said he was “very pleased” with the LOA’s progress.

ANC economic affairs spokesman Khosela Gordan was unavailable for comment.
Report to State
PROPERTY RIF-OFF
Refuge or Barracks?

Hostels: Places of

...
Anti-quatting Groups Mobilize
It’s ‘war’ on squatters

THOUSANDS of residents throughout the whole north-western PWV area are mobilising forces against mushrooming squatter camps in the region.

And there is growing concern that bloody conflict between armed residents and squatters is imminent.

Residents’ associations have been formed and joined forces to incorporate residents in Randburg, Sandton, Marlboro Gardens, Kelvin, Linbro Park and Lombardy East.

Their aim is to fight squatter developments with arms and court action if necessary.

If the Transvaal Provincial Administration, as widely suspected, makes an announcement today on the future of the Zevenfontein squatters, it will face mass action from thousands of residents.

Major residents’ organisations have gone public with a warning to Administrator Mr Danie Hough.

One organisation, Robert van Tonder’s Garden Triangle Action Group, has warned of the danger of bloodshed if its militant allies become involved in resisting the relocation of the 4 000 families to Cosmo City.

Sowetan Correspondent.
Major push to aid shack people

A MAJOR initiative turns into action this week to greatly improve the lot of shack dwellers living outside Daveyton, at extensions 8 and 21, Etwatwa.

South African Housing Trust, in conjunction with the local community, is about to embark on a scheme to bring basic services to 1 500 stands covering 145ha.

First step was taken when the SAHT and the Independent Development Trust signed agreements to implement the site and service plan.

Signatories included senior SAHT and IDT representatives. The documents were signed in the presence of officers of the Mandela Park Residents' Association. The SAHT hopes to put the site clearance and services contract out to tender soon.

Work should begin at Etwatwa, extensions 8 and 21, by early July. The first 150 stands will be ready for handover by the end of August. Thereafter the 150 stands-a-month delivery rate will be maintained until the end of May 1993.

About 3000 families live in informal settlements in the immediate area, without toilets and with no mains water. Water carts are intermittently brought into the sprawling settlements, or families make use of services in neighbouring Daveyton.

Basic needs

The scheme entails clearance of residential stands (average size 210 sq m), provision of waterborne sewer and mains water supply to each unit and erection of a toilet.

The overall plan leaves provision for three primary schools, one secondary school, three creches, 10 business or commercial sites, two community centres and nine churches. Vacant sites will be left for these elements of community infrastructure.

The SAHT is committed to helping the local community develop community infrastructure in due course. As an affordable housing facilitator it enjoys good working relations with official departments, major employers and private sector providers of social upliftment funding.

The site and service project is made possible by the IDT subsidy scheme. Some R11 250 000 in IDT support will be taken up. This is the first time the SAHT has acted as developers and facilitator in tandem with the IDT.

A series of such collaborative efforts are now envisaged.

The current scheme is distinguished by the total involvement of local people and structures - a prerequisite for project success, according to SAHT experts.

SAHT regional operations manager Mr Laki Constantinides said: "Housing development has been underway in these areas of Etwatwa since 1989 and still continues."

"We have worked locally since the end of the '80s. In addition, we have held discussions with local people and the Mandela Park Residents' Association to build trust and determine community needs."

Involvement

"Local input and involvement will continue as the programme gets underway. We work with local people from start to finish. We will soon distribute pamphlets to update local people about the project. Community leaders will explain to those who cannot read."
Mass action threat against squatters

Residents warn of ‘unholy hell’ over TPA move

NORTHERN suburbs residents associations have threatened mass action to resist a decision by the Transvaal Provincial Administration to resettle Zevenfontein squatters at sites in Dipsloot West and Nietgedacht — and vowed to use force, if necessary, to prevent the move.

An appeal yesterday by Transvaal Administrator Denis Hough for cooperation and rational behaviour from residents fell on deaf ears, but the squatters themselves expressed a willingness to move to the new sites.

"We will also use force to stop the squatters from settling at the sites. If necessary we will forcibly relocate them somewhere else ourselves," said the chairman of the Dipsloot Landowners and Residents' Association, Stuart Alitchson.

He said residents were "totally shattered" by the effect such a move would have on property values and security in the area.

"We have already started setting up patrols in the area in conjunction with the police," he said.

In another development, landowners in the area have threatened to evict their farmworkers in protest against the TPA's announcement.

"Residents feel that if the TPA is going to put up informal housing in the area, they can take on the responsibility of housing our workers as well," Alitchson explained.

He said the move to evict workers could affect up to 900 families on 190 occupied stands in the Dipsloot area alone, and as many as 3000 in surrounding areas, including Knoppieslaagte and Sun Valley.

He said residents were planning mass action and would be campaigning to get the TPA to reverse its decision.

The chairman of the Anti-Squatter League, John Stol, said yesterday that the decision was unacceptable and that residents would fight it.

"This is going to spark off unholy hell," he said.

"We will explore peaceful options but if that doesn't work we will have to use force," he added.

The Randburg Town Council yesterday appealed to residents not to resort to illegal methods to impose their will.

The move to settle the 3000 squatter families to two sites of 100 ha each was announced by Hough at a press conference in Johannesburg.

Up to 2000 stands will be provided on the two sites.

The chairman of the Greenbelt Action Group, Anthony Duigan, said the TPA would aggravate existing tensions and cause bitter resentment between residents and surrounding squatters.

He accused the TPA of being "shortsighted" and blinded by its own priorities rather than those of the community.

In a statement yesterday, Hough said the interests of residents in the area had been carefully considered.

"A balance between the interests of the new community and those of the established communities will always have to be found."

He appealed to all affected by the settlement of the community to act in a balanced and rational manner.

The chairman of the Zevenfontein executive committee, Finlay Mallett, said yesterday that the community was prepared to move to the two sites if certain conditions were met.

Priority, she said, was that the safety of the community be guaranteed, both during and after the move.

She said the community expected representation on a steering committee involved with the planning and development of the areas.

Brian Crail, chairman of the Randburg Town Council's management committee, said the council was willing to use all its expertise to establish Nietgedacht as a well-managed suburb.
Angry reef residents mobilising to wage war on shanty towns

Squatter squads

SHIRLEY WOODGATE and ANNA COX
"Weekend Argus Correspondents"

Johannesburg — Thousands of residents across the northwestern areas are mobilising against mushrooming squatter camps and there is growing concern that bloody conflict is imminent.

Residents associations, some militant, have been formed incorporating residents in Randburg, Sandton, Marlboro Gardens, Kelvin, Linbro Park and Lombardy East. Their aim is to fight, with arms and court action if necessary, squatter developments.

If the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), as widely suspected, makes an announcement on the future of the Zevenfontein squatters, it will face mass action from thousands of residents, backed by those opposed to any unilateral decision by the TPA.

Major residents organisations have gone public with a warning to Administrator Danie Hough.

One organisation, Robert van Tonder’s Garden Triangle Action Group, has warned of the danger of bloodshed if its militant allies become involved in resisting the relocation of 4 000 families to Cosmo City.

At least two organisations — the Mulderdrift Local Area Committee and the Jukkei/Crocodile Catchment Area Residents’ Association — have backed the Green Belt Action Group which has proposed an increased hour plans to break the deadlock between the squatters and the authorities by creating a credible negotiating forum between Zevenfontein and the TPA.

Stuart Aitchison’s Diepsloot Landowners’ and Residents’ Association has dismissed TPA attempts at public consultation through what he termed its “white elephant” task force as “an exercise in pedantry”.

He said in view of the billions of rands of taxpayers’ money squandered or mismanaged by the government, the onus was now on the State to find massive funds to house the homeless.

But the most ominous warning came from the previously low-key Anti-Squatter League which claims membership running into thousands from all areas threatened by TPA ad hoc squatter policies.

“At this late stage, police cassars and army guns will fail to control any forced squatter action,” claimed ASL chairman Mr John Stol.

Relocating the Zevenfontein squatters without full democratic consensus amounts to old apartheid-style forced removal,” warned Mr Stol.

Last-ditch legislation to enforce such a move would be fought in the courts with massive countrywide support which would become an international focus, he warned.

Denying rumours that the ASL is arming to the teeth to keep squatters out of Diepsloot, Mr Stol said: “We are not antigovernment terrorists but landowners who want long-term solutions to problems which the TPA is totally incapable of handling.”

“We do not want squatter camps, nor 13 ad hoc village-type settlements randomly selected by incompetent bureaucracies who have failed to consult any significant departments in their planning process.

“We reject plans to hand over this area to the Big Six, including Randburg and Sandton, to use as a dumping ground for workers serving their CBD’s.

“We insist on our own local area committee and a comprehensive 28-year plan drawn up by experts and not the TPA,” he said.

Meanwhile, an action group was formed this week to fight the development of a squatter area near the Far East Bank of Alexandra township near Sandton.

A residents association from Alexandra joined forces with the neighbouring suburbs of Marlboro Gardens, Kelvin, Linbro Park and Lombardy East to fight this new development.

The Sandton Town Council, acting on behalf of the TPA, is to establish 1 700 stands of 110qm each for shack dwellers on the Far East Bank of Alexandra on a site-and-service basis. Informal, low-cost housing will also be built in the area.

Chairman of Alexandra East Bank Residents’ Association Mr Bulu Phalatsi said the East Bank was an upmarket part of Alexandra. Properties would be devalued and the quality of life would deteriorate if squatters moved in next door, he said.

“We want the right to live the way we choose. We have paid a lot of money for our homes and although we realise there is a need for homes, the place is not the Far East Bank,” he said.

The chairman of the Lombardy East Ratepayers’ Association, Mr Lionel Keenan, said residents would fight any development which would deteriorate suburbs nearby.

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Image: "Squatter squads mobilising to wage war on shanty towns"
Trouble looms over squatters

ZEVENFONTEIN's squatters yesterday were preparing for their move to Diepsloot and Nietgedacht north of Johannesburg in the face of strong opposition from white residents near those areas.

Groups representing white residents have threatened to "use force if necessary" to stop the move.

The chairman of the committee representing the Zevenfontein squatters, Mr Lesiba Sindane, however, confirmed yesterday that they were likely to move "within a matter of weeks" despite opposition from whites.

A meeting was held at Zevenfontein yesterday to announce the move and squatters formed long queues to decide where they would like to be placed.

Sindane said his committee would meet with the Transvaal Provincial Administration today to finalise sites for the squatters.

Several white residents' associations have criticised the TPA for its decision announced last week to resettle the Zevenfontein families at Diepsloot and Nietgedacht and have threatened mass action to stop the move.

To page 2
Squatters fear white backlash

LEADERS of the squatters at the Zevenfontein camp said yesterday the community was living in fear of white residents' threats to prevent the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) relocating them to sites in Diepsloot West and Niestegeldacht.

Community representative Adv Mathole Motshenga said the squatters took seriously local white residents' threats that the move would 'spark off an unholy battle'.

Motshenga said the community doubted the TPA's ability to guarantee their safety in the light of the threats they wanted the TPA to reconsider the decision, he said.

"The people are confused because they have had threats from both sides. They don't feel safe where they are now because of the explosions of anger against them in the past months, but they don't know what is in store for them if they move to the new sites," said Motshenga.

TPA spokesman Piet Wilgen said there would be a "very high level of security" to ensure their safety and that the TPA was determined to go ahead with its decision.

The plan was a test case for the development of low-cost housing in traditionally "white" areas throughout the country and the TPA could not afford to reverse its decision, he said.

Diepsloot Residents' Association spokesman Stuart Alchin said there were residents in the area who were prepared to "go beyond legal measures" to keep the squatters out.

"The actions are not directed against the..."

Backlash

Zevenfontein squatters, but against the principle of squatting," he said. But he admitted that the Zevenfontein squatters could end up being hurt in the process.

He said residents feared the move would have a negative effect on the value of their properties and on security in the area.

Motshenga claimed community members still wanted to move to Cosmo City because it was near their places of work, despite the fact that Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder lived in the area.

Reaction from residents in other areas indicated that there were "Van Tonders cropping up all over the place," he said.

The move to settle the 1,300 squatter families was announced by Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough at a news conference in Johannesburg last week.

The TPA envisages providing up to 2,000 sites on the two settlement areas which are situated between the Randburg and Sandton municipal boundaries and the R28 Pretoria-Krugersdorp highway.
Squatters Choose Their Land

By Moonstone Moreo

Squatters choose their land.
Baragwanath strike spreads | Phola Park units hijacked

KATHRYN STRACHAN

PROTEST action by 1,500 general assistants at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital spread to the Natalpruit and Boksburg-Benoni hospitals on the East Rand yesterday.

Nehawu East Rand representative Martha Sehlopo said more than 600 workers, including medical staff, had held demonstrations in protest against the minimum wage offered and alleged poor working conditions.

The TPA said protesting workers had damaged hospital property and broken windows. It said appropriate measures would be taken if the situation deteriorated, and another court appeal made if necessary.

Boksburg-Benoni Hospital superintendent Freda Pretorius said the situation had returned to normal yesterday afternoon, but she did not know what to expect today.

Nehawu assistant general secretary Neil Thobejane said demonstrations by general assistants continued at Baragwanath Hospital yesterday. The TPA said it would act strictly in accordance with the court order — issued last week in the Johannesburg Supreme Court — to prevent any TPA actions against Nehawu and the strikers — to ensure no further disruptions at the hospital.

Thobejane said members countrywide were balloting for a strike — the results of which would be known next week. The union would also launch a campaign of demonstrations throughout the country to highlight its demands under the motto "No pay, no work."

He said communities across the country would be consulted "to ensure that the lives of people are not affected in an adverse manner."

FORMER Renamo instructors and dissident members of the ANC's military wing Umkhonto we Sizwe had hijacked self-defence units in the East Rand's Phola Park squatter camp, police said yesterday.

In an open letter to the Phola Park Women's League, police said the squatter camp had a "terrible" history of violence and intimidation.

In the past 18 months, police in Phola Park came under attack on 121 occasions. Five policemen were killed, and 12 others, including two soldiers, were injured.

"Criminals see Phola Park as a haven because its so-called defence units supply some protection by carrying out armed attacks on policemen and soldiers when they enter in search of suspects."

"Renegade MK members, who have hijacked the self-defence units, have used firearms and other brutal methods to murder, rob financial institutions and individuals in and around Phola Park — even as far afield as Soweto and Bethlehem."

"During their investigations into several murders and armed robberies on the Reef and elsewhere, police have uncovered evidence that MK dissidents and former Renamo instructors are actively involved in the training and supplying of firearms to the self-defence units in Phola Park," police said.

They said they would remain in the squatter camp until armed attacks on security forces had ceased and criminals stopped operating from there.

Meanwhile, the national peace committee meets in Johannesburg tomorrow to set the stage for its meeting with political leaders on July 31.

Committee spokesman Val Paquot said yesterday invitations would be issued to President F W de Klerk, ANC president Nelson Mandela, Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi and other leaders.

It was understood the leaders would be required to debate the Goldstone Commission's second interim report with the committee executive.

Sapa reports that in the latest unrest incident on the Reef, a child was killed and another seriously injured when two youths threw a hand grenade at three policemen in Soweto yesterday morning.

The injured child was taken to Baragwanath Hospital. Two of the policemen were slightly injured by shrapnel. No arrests were made and police were investigating.

In their daily unrest report, police said four bodies — including that of a policeman — were found in the Vaal Triangle township of Sebokeng on Monday. On the East Rand, a man armed with an AK-47 rifle opened fire on a police vehicle. One person was killed and two injured. No policemen were injured in the attack.

In Daveyton, near Benoni, police found a body of a man, who had apparently been hacked to death and set alight.
Phola Park police ‘have faced
121 severe armed attacks’

Police had come under “severe armed attack” 121 times during the past 18 months in the troubled Phola Park squatter settlement south-east of Johannesburg, the SAP said yesterday.

The police figure was supplied in a letter to the Women’s League in Phola Park giving reasons why security forces were in the area.

In the letter, handed over to the Women’s League of Phola Park/Eden Park and Tokoza yesterday, Witwatersrand liaison officer Captain Eugene Opperman said the police would leave the camp only when armed attacks on the police ceased completely, criminals stopped operating from the squatter camp and the situation stabilised.

Responding to a protest note handed to the police by the Women’s League on June 4, Captain Opperman said police were in Phola Park because the squatter camp had “a terrible history of brutal violence, killings, intimidation and criminal activity.”

Captain Opperman said that criminals, disaffected MK members and residents with no regard for the law had forced the police to take severe action in Phola Park.

He said the squatter camp had become a haven for criminals because the so-called “self-defence units” in Phola Park had been taken over by former Renamo instructors and renegade members of the ANC’s military wing, and that the units had become brutal killing and criminal machines.

Police had already arrested several members of Phola Park’s self-defence units. Five of the 12 people who had appeared in court on charges of murder, armed robbery and attempted murder. Two of the five were MK members, according to police.

Captain Opperman said that some of the suspects arrested by police during an operation in Phola Park on May 14 had been connected to the following crimes, to mention only a few:

- The much publicised killing of four people in an armed attack on a Rand Water Board minibus on the Old Vereenig-
R5.4m to get land for Vaal squatters

JOHANNESBURG. — THE Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) will pay more than R5.4 million to expropriate the land in Diepalee West and Nietgedacht on which the Zevensontein squatters will be resettled.

A TPA spokesman said yesterday that if affected landowners were not satisfied with the TPA offer, they could go to the Supreme Court.

The TPA would supply services such as water, tariffs and refuse removal to the new development, he said.

It would also embark on discussions with Eskom about supplying electricity to the area and would "give attention" to rendering primary health services.
TPA offers R5,4m for squatters’ land

Stephane Bothma

The TPA will pay more than R5,4m to expropriate the land in Diepsloot West and Nietgedacht on which the Zevenfontein squatters will be resettled.

However, a TPA spokesman said yesterday that if affected landowners were not satisfied with the TPA offer, they could turn to the Supreme Court.

The TPA would supply services such as water, toilets and refuse removal to the new development, he said.

The TPA would also embark on discussions with Eskom about supplying electricity to the area and would “give attention” to rendering primary health services.

The spokesman said two independent valuators from the private sector had been appointed to value the properties involved — both arriving at a value within a 10% margin allowed by the TPA.

At Nietgedacht four landowners were involved at an expropriation cost of R3,4m, and at Diepsloot West two landowners at a total cost of R2,02m.

Four landowners had already received their expropriation offers while the TPA planned to serve the other two yesterday.

Labourers on the expropriated land could possibly be accommodated in either of the two areas, he said.

Planning of the two settlement areas would be done in collaboration with the Zevenfontein community as soon as expropriations were finalised. Resettlement of the squatters would commence thereafter.
in order to survive? and they steal from us - they are starving. Here they have nothing. Go back to their farms. The squatters should

Squatters are a world where echoes roar into the hearts of the struggling homeowners.

BY DAVID SANAI
11/16/92

A POSTER for the doorstep
Zinkis: a roof over your head in a jiffy

By MICHAEL CHESTER

MUNICIPAL leaders from all over the eastern Transvaal last week watched in amazement as four workmen demonstrated how to build a three-room house — from virgin ground to rooftop level — in a remarkable time of only 75 minutes.

The demonstration took place at the small highveld town of Kriel, which wanted to tell South Africa how it believed it had found its own solutions to the critical shortage of low-cost homes for black families.

Mayor Frans Snyman set the exercise in motion as the workmen unloaded a jumble of steel girders from a truck and laid them out like a crossword grid at precisely 11.15 am.

Next came a jumble of steel wall panels, window frames and doors, all laid out in a neat pattern around the grid. The time: 11.30 am.

The shape of the house began to take real form when the team of workmen, with what seemed like effortless ease, lifted the wall panels and window frames into position. The time: 11.45 am.

The team next climbed simple ladders to hoist the roof sections aloft, clambered down again to fit steel struts to all the corners — noon.

The front door was bolted into place and the roof was extended to form a veranda — 12.15 pm.

Then came a final round of construction examinations.

At exactly 12.30 pm the mayor settled at a garden table outside the front door and raised a glass of wine to congratulate the workers.

The neat new house, he announced, was a forerunner of no fewer than 4 000 similar low-cost units that the Kriel Town Council intended to erect at the embryo Tshelibilile suburb to beat the shortage of affordable black homes.

"We have not yet experienced a 'squatter problem' in Kriel," said Mr Snyman, "and we are planning well ahead to try to ensure one never happens."

The units — which can be built in a variety of shapes and sizes — have been christened "zinkis".

David Mostert, head of the Dobryl steel empire, whose subsidiary Baldwins handles production of the steel prefabricated modules, said: "To solve the problems of the homeless we need to break away from outdated conventional approaches and find faster and more cost-effective answers."

At the R40 million Kriel project — the first major contract — the town council package makes 28 square-metre serviced stands available at R3 000. Zinkis with freehold title will sell at between R5 000 and — with four bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom and veranda — R10 000.

The Perm building society plans to finance the homes with mini-loans underwritten by local employers against pension and provident fund security. ☛
Owners face 80 pc fall in land value

THELMA TUCH-GABAY

MANY people who own property near two sites north of Johannesburg, earmarked for Zevenfontein squatters, may lose up to 80 percent of the value of their investments if the squatters move in.

This is according to estate agents handling properties surrounding Diepsloot West and Nietgedacht. Landowners — many of whom have sunk their life savings into their properties — are now seeking legal action to get the Transvaal Provincial Administration to reverse its decision.

The TPA has hinted that it may consider rezoning land in the area for industrial purposes. If that happens, the drop in value on some properties might be halted.

The TPA announced last week that more than 1,300 squatter families at Zevenfontein would be moved to two sites of about 100 ha each — in Diepsloot West and Nietgedacht — north-west of Johannesburg and south of the R39 Krugersdrop freeway.

"Property will be unsellable"

"The land will become unsellable... you can regard it now as dead land," said estate agent David Howard, who has worked in the area for more than 30 years. He predicted that property values of homes close to the squatter sites would drop by up to 80 percent and those in the surrounding areas by as much as 50 percent.

Howard said up to 1,000 property owners in the areas, including Chartwell, North Riding and Farmmall, would be affected by the squatters' presence.

Township Realtors managing director Dr A Levin said the only way for owners to gain any value for their properties would be for the land to be rezoned as an industrial area.

Township Realtors, representing four clients who own 300 ha in the area, has already applied on their behalf for the area to be rezoned, he said.

This week the TPA indicated it would be sympathetic towards applications for the rezoning of adjacent land in Diepsloot West as industrial land.
SQUATTERS TALKS TODAY

RESIDENTS' representatives from Nietgedacht, Muldersdrift and Broederstroom will meet the Police District Commissioner today to discuss the position of the Zevenfontein squatters.

A statement from Boerestaat Party leader Mr. Robert van Tonder on Monday said the purpose of the meeting was to "request that the Transvaal Provincial Administration cease its aggression towards the residents".

The delegation will be under the leadership of Van Tonder, Mr. Giel Pretorius of the Conservative Party and Mr. Wessel Swart who will represent various residents' associations.

Homeless

Meanwhile the TPA said finding a permanent home in the north west Rand region for the homeless Zevenfontein community was never anticipated as being a simple exercise.

TPA spokesman Mr. Piet Wilken said earlier this week that for this very reason the TPA negotiated an extension to the deadline which afforded more opportunity for adequate investigation, consultation and balanced decision making.
1692

WEBSTON'S 17 JUNE 1992

The Minister of Housing and Apt.
Vow to disrupt squatter housing plans

RESIDENTS of Nietgedacht - where the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) plans to settle several hundred Zevenfontein squatter families - have hired a pilot to monitor the area from the air to ensure the TPA does not start developing the settlement site.

A local residents' action group source said last night residents would physically prevent the development of the area expropriated for the purpose.

He said residents with two-way radios were manning strategic points.

Talks were held with senior Krugersdorp police officials yesterday during which a delegation of the Krokoval Valley Authority demanded that residents be protected from the "TPA aggressors".

"The police have a duty to protect us and our property. They have no duty to the TPA." resident and Boerestaat Party leader Robert van Tonder said last night.

The police delegation undertook to convey the feelings and attitude of the Nietgedacht residents to the authorities, he said.

The valley authority was also drafting legal documents in an attempt to obtain an urgent interdict from the Supreme Court to prevent the TPA from developing the Nietgedacht site.

The action taken by the authority followed an incident in the area on Monday when government land surveyors, marking out sites for the resettlement of the Squatters, were shown off the property.

The TPA yesterday took a strong stand against the possible disruption of the re-

Squatters

settlement of the Zevenfontein squatters in Diepsloot West and Nietgedacht, vowing to maintain law and order.

The squatters would be moved within the next few weeks and the operation had been co-ordinated with the SAP at the highest level, TPA spokesman Piet Wilken said.

Expropriation orders had already been served on all six landowners affected by the resettlement. Earlier the TPA said the land would cost more than R5.4m.

"The area is now the property of the TPA and we will see that the Zevenfontein community is resettled in an orderly manner. They will not be resettled in slums," Wilken said.

Commenting on Monday's incident, Wilken said it was a very serious offence to remove a surveyors' markings.

About 100 residents on Monday also staged a protest near the resettlement area.
Farm earmarked for squatters

MORE than 35,000 people squatting illegally in the Ivory Park area may be moved to a farm near Chloorkop, Kempton Park town council said yesterday.

This comes soon after the Zevenfontein issue and a Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) initiative last week to place 7,000 families on land bordering Lombard, East and Kelvin.

A rapid increase in urbanisation in the Kempton Park/Midrand area had left more than 40,000 families living in shacks and informal dwellings, the council said.

Kempton Park council management committee chairman Arie Korf said the council's help with resettlement was based on humanitarian reasons, a need to manage urbanisation and prevent illegal squatting and possible conflict.

The land earmarked for the 7,000-family site-and-service scheme was owned by the House of Representatives.

A working group, consisting of the council, the TPA, squatter leaders and representatives from industries based in Chloorkop, was considering acquiring two large sections of the farm Moofontein for the site-and-service scheme.

Kempton Park would assist in the provision of services to the new site with the TPA providing most of the money, council spokesman Jan Breman said yesterday.

Kempton Park was already involved in the upgrading of services in Tembisa with a council management committee member acting as its administrator.

The council said residential sites of between 200m² and 600m² would be provided for 7,700 families. Infrastructure, schools, business sites and community facilities would have to be provided.
Residents to fight plan for squatters

NIETGEDACHT residents intend to bring Randburg's morning peak-hour traffic to a standstill tomorrow in protest against the resettlement of hundreds of Zevensonfontein squatter families in their area.

Trucks, cars, bakkies and tractors would meet in Nietgedacht early on Friday and proceed in convoy to the Randburg town centre, a local residents' action group source said.

The Crocodile Valley Authority — formed recently to amalgamate all the residents' groups opposing the relocation of squatters to Nietgedacht — set up a 'command post' at the local Reformed Church to plan protest action, the source said.

Randburg Town Council management committee chairman Brian Crail last night said he was not aware of the planned action but would insist that protesters acted within the law.

"If they break the law in any way, we will take the appropriate action," Crail said.

Land surveyors employed by the

R250m Woodmead office development

THE Newport Property Fund would go ahead with the R1.3bn first phase of its R250m office park in Woodmead, Sandton, in spite of an oversupplied office market, RMS Syfrets director Mike Green said yesterday.

RMS Syfrets had already handled space inquiries at the R25/m² rental, but no contracts had been signed.

Newport Property Fund MD John
Another resident, who at the time was in the process of losing the power, said it was a bad mistake. "I thought they were going to be shut off," she said. "Then I went to sleep and when I woke up, it was dark." Another resident added, "I just can't believe they would do this to people.""
Depots near camps

While plans material

SOWETAN PROPERTY

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SOWETAN Friday June 19 1992

Published in the Republic and Transvaal by The Sowetan Limited for The Times and Morning Post Limited and distributed by The Times and Morning Post Limited
Phola Park

*u uplifted*

Political Staff
A PROGRAMME of socio-economic upliftment was started at Phola Park on June 1, Deputy Minister of Law and Order and Land Affairs Mr Johan Schoepers said yesterday.
This involved the National Co-ordinating Mechanism, he said.
A water-pipe network was being installed, steps were being taken to remove refuse regularly and adequate toilet facilities were being installed, said Mr Schoepers.
Desperate bid to halt squatter relocation

LAST-MINUTE bids are underway to put a spoke in the wheel of the Transvaal Provincial Administration's plans to move the Zevenfontein squatters to sites in Diepsloot West and Niedergedacht, north of Johannesburg.

A 10-man delegation is to meet Minister of Manpower Leon Wessels next week to request his urgent intervention in the crisis. The delegation will consist of representatives from the Diepsloot Residents' Association, the Crocodile Valley Authority, the Anti-Squatters' League, the Greenbelt Action Group, the Muldersdrift Local Area Committee, the Laesonia Landowners' Association, the Chartwell North Action Committee and the Chartwell LMC.

Legal action

The TPA plans to settle 1 500 squatter families before the end of July. Land surveyors were already working at the Niedergedacht site this week under police escort after residents had earlier removed them from the area.

The Diepsloot Residents' Association, the Laesonia Landowners' Association and Niedergedacht residents are taking legal action against the TPA.

Some residents are seeking an urgent interdict to force the TPA to reverse its decision, while others are considering a claim for damages against the TPA because of the decline in property values.

Vice-chairman of the Laesonia Landowners' Association Jeremy Brown said: "We want the TPA to look at other sites which have been suggested to them and which are eminently more suitable than the ones they chose."

Yesterday a group of about 150 Niedergedacht residents arrived in convoy at the Randburg Town Council offices where a petition was handed to management committee chairman Brian Crail.

The petition objected to the Randburg-supported choice of Niedergedacht for the squatters. It also challenged the possibility of Randburg extending its boundaries further north, stating that none of the affected residents supported inclusion.

Anti-squatter League chairman John Stol said yesterday a request to meet State President FW de Klerk had been turned down. However, Wessels had indicated his willingness to meet the delegation. The date of the meeting was still to be confirmed.

"We are exploring every avenue and this is our last bid to do something about the situation. Things are moving fast and the train is totally out of control," Stol said.

In a further development, Chartwell resident Derrick Roux yesterday faxed the State President on behalf of more than 2 000 Niedergedacht residents, urgently requesting his attention in the Zevenfontein crisis.

"To see our assets seriously eroded through what is perceived as an arbitrary and unplanned decision by petty officials of the TPA represents a major crisis. Whether or not you are aware of what is happening, very serious damage is being done to both your own credibility and that of your party."

"The whole problem of accommodating squatters who are flocking to the cities in ever-increasing numbers (exacerbated by the drought) is clearly a national problem and requires top government action."

"Proper provision must be made to house the people in a planned and structured way rather than dumping them in the midst of and adjacent to a number of affluent areas in the north."
Landowners to go to court over squatters

Landowners in the Diepsloot area—expropriated for the relocation of Zevenfontein squatters—are set to turn to the Supreme Court this week to halt the resettlement.

Residents of the area said they would press ahead with the court action unless the TPA could allay fears that the area would turn into a slum.

"The TPA is making a tragic mistake with this move. This is a deliberate case of dumping unfortunate people on a piece of open veld," Brown said.

Lazonia virtually borders on the land the TPA recently expropriated for the squatters at a cost of R2.02bn.

Brown said that for years the area had been regarded as a rural retreat and was not suited to the establishment of a "squatter city."

Brown said it was unsuitable to move people from a miserable situation in Zevenfontein to an even worse situation in Diepsloot. Zevenfontein was 23km from Randburg, where the majority of the squatters worked, while Diepsloot was 33km from Randburg.

He said the likelihood of proper services being provided for the 2 000 sites planned at Diepsloot was remote.

The TPA had undertaken merely to supply water to the settlement by means of tankers, to provide chemical toilets, to negotiate with Eskom for electricity, to remove refuse, and to discuss transport issues with relevant bodies, Brown said.

Brown said schools in the area were full and could not take additional pupils.

Meanwhile, residents of Nietgedacht, to which another few hundred Zevenfontein squatter families will be moved, staged a protest in Randburg on Friday.

The Nietgedacht Concerned Citizens delivered a memorandum to the Randburg town clerk objecting to the council's inability to identify space for its workforce and provide affordable housing.

They further objected to Randburg's support of the choice of the Nietgedacht site for the location of squatters.

"We reject Randburg's claim that it has the expertise and infrastructure to deal with squatters, informal settlements and low-cost housing in our areas," the group stated in the memorandum.

They requested the council to stop secret negotiations with the TPA and other municipalities and to provide residents with full information on the impact such a squatter development would have on their rates, pollution and land values.

The Nietgedacht residents were also drafting legal papers to obtain an interdict against the TPA to prohibit the development of the site.
Man (80) mauled to death by bull terriers

DUMPED IN PROTEST

The 80-year-old man was mauled to death by his own bull terriers. The man, whose name has not been released, was found dead at his home in the town of Appleton, Wisconsin. The man had been known to be a devoted pet owner and had been featured in local news for his love of animals. The incident has sparked outrage in the community, with many calling for stricter laws to protect pet owners and their animals.

The owner of the bull terriers, a 30-year-old man, was arrested on animal cruelty charges. The police are investigating the incident, and it is unclear how many of the terriers were involved. The owner has stated that he was unfamiliar with the breed and had not consulted a veterinarian before allowing them to live in the home.

 community members have called for a change in local laws to better protect pets and their owners. They have also called for a review of animal control policies in the town, which they believe are inadequate.

The incident has also sparked debate about the ownership and responsibility of pets in the community. Some have called for a ban on certain breeds, while others believe that stricter regulation of pet ownership is needed. The local animal control agency has been under scrutiny, with some residents calling for a review of its policies and procedures.

The local community is in shock and grief, with many expressing their support for the family and loved ones of the victim. The incident has also sparked a broader conversation about the role of pets in society and the responsibilities of pet owners. The community is working together to find a way to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.
Squatters walk out of talks

By Michael Spain

Squatters walk out of talks

2METRO

Squatters walk out of talks
Kriel council launches R40m low-cost housing scheme

THE Kriel Town Council in the eastern Transvaal launched a R40m Thebulible low-cost housing scheme recently — involving the construction of 4,000 houses in two years.

On view at the site were three versions of Dwelling Enterprises' innovative "Zink" affordable house. The high-tensile steel houses range in price from R5,000 to R15,000 — a third of a conventional house — and can be built in hours.

In their effort to provide accommodation for thousands of workers on farms, mines and power stations around the town, the council was making 230m² serviced stands available at R3,000 each.

According to Kriel Town Engineer Ivor Poulter the Thebulible township will boast tarred roads, street lighting, electricity and waterborne sewerage.

Project spokesman David Carte said the Perm had come up with "an imaginative way for employers to help their employees to buy their own houses through its micro-loan scheme".

The micro-loans will be 100% underwritten by employers in the Kriel area against pension and provident fund security. Large employers such as Eskom, Amcoal and Genmin had expressed keen interest, he said.
Development cuts conflict - planner

THE transformation of a culture of defence into a culture of development could reduce conflict in the Phola Park squatter camp near Tokoza, town planner Mr Julian Baskin said on Tuesday.

Appearing before a Goldstone Commission committee inquiry into violence and intimidation, Baskin, a chartered town and regional planner from the community development organisation Planact, based his suggestion on nearly two years of close association with the Phola Park community.

Baskin said his evidence was submitted in the belief that development was at least part of the solution to the problems of Phola Park, "but badly conceived development programmes can exacerbate a situation leading to further conflict".

During his dealings with Phola Park civic representatives he had held many meetings and workshops on the development of the East Rand squatter camp.

Baskin said he identified three groups among the residents of Phola Park.

There were families wishing to urbanise, single men who had their base in rural areas, and non-South Africans from countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

He said because the single men and non-South Africans might believe they would not qualify for accommodation in a developed Phola Park, they could be against it.

Baskin said reasons for the conflict were outside the community's control. Among them were a discredited hostel system and no alternative State-rented accommodation; a wrecked rural economy and little chance of survival without urbanising; hostile State structures which aimed to undermine community structures rather than strengthen them; and a history of violence as conflict resolution.

Baskin recommended that local government structures recognise the importance of community institutions and provide support.

He disclosed that the International Development Trust would make R25 million available for development of the squatter camp and he showed plans which his organisation and the community had compiled and were to be implemented soon. - Sapa.
Churches offer to help settle row over squatters

Kathryn Strachan

AN ALLIANCE of churches representing a wide spectrum of denominations has offered its services as mediator in the conflict surrounding the relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters.

Church Alliance for Zevenfontein spokesman Ron Steele said in a statement that the organisation had canvassed the support of 14 churches in the Randburg/Sandton area - ranging from the Methodist Church to RHEMA Ministries - "to ensure the peaceful settlement of the Zevenfontein community in the area". Other church groups are expected to join the alliance.

Steele said the alliance had been formed to counter the demonstrations by Diepsloot and Nettgedacht residents who were opposed to the relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters in their areas.

In the event of the Zevenfontein community being relocated to Diepsloot and Nettgedacht, the alliance would "stand against all forms of aggression by anyone in the process of relocation".

The alliance also questioned "on biblical grounds" the fact that they were refused representation on the TPA task group. It also claimed the TPA had made its decision without sufficient consultation and that it had not considered all the alternatives.

Meanwhile, Lazio Landowners' Association attorney Brian Moss said papers would be served on the TPA today seeking an urgent interdict against the relocation.

He said the association had appealed to the TPA not to proceed with the relocation before the application was heard next Tuesday.

If the TPA went ahead the association would make a new urgent application which would bring the case forward to this week, said Moss.

Association spokesman Urs Honegger said earlier the court action followed the TPA's failure to supply residents with adequate information to allay fears that the resettlement site would become a "shanty town".

He said the TPA had been given until the close of business on Monday to supply details of the exact services it intended to provide in the area. Honegger said the TPA had failed to do this.
St Orbital Garlifl on Textortion Relocation

TPA to be Studed over Squatters

By Shep Woodgate 30
Squatter settlement on hold

PLANS to begin moving the Zevenfontein squatters to Diepsloot and Nietgedacht, north of Johannesburg, this week have been put on hold for two weeks to allow local residents and the squatters more time to come forward with alternative proposals.

Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough said that the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the Zevenfontein community and the Crocodile Valley Authority, which represents residents in the affected areas, had agreed on the moratorium after a request from residents.

CVA spokesman Anthony Duigan said that residents and Zevenfontein squatters would create a forum to find solutions more acceptable to both communities.

"It is the first time we have had the chance to sort the problem out together," he said.

TPA MEC for Institutional Development and Negotiations Olans van Zyl said the solutions had to be acceptable to all the parties involved, including the Zevenfontein community.

Residents had indicated that should they not succeed in finding consensus on proposed solutions, they would accept the present sites, he said.

Van Zyl expressed the hope that the valley authority, after the expiry of the moratorium, co-operate on the development of sites and on measures to limit the impact of development on surrounding properties.

Sapa reports that Hough pointed out that Local Government and National Housing Minister Leon Wessels had said the TPA had the final authority on the permanent settlement of the Zevenfontein community.
Few squatters can afford to move.
TPA agrees to moratorium on settlement of squatters

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) gave in to pressure and agreed yesterday to a two-week moratorium on the resettling of Zevenfontein squatters at Diepsloot and Nietgedacht north of Johannesburg.

During the moratorium, every effort is to be made by those who protested against the move to find an alternative solution acceptable to both the TPA and the squatters.

The TPA's plans to relocate the 3000 squatter families to sites in Diepsloot West and Nietgedacht will be put on hold during this period, but will go ahead if consensus on alternative sites is not reached.

Protest
The TPA's change of heart came in response to protest action from residents, pending legal actions, and a meeting last Wednesday between the Crocodile Valley Authority (CVA) and Minister of Local Government, National Housing and Manpower, Leon Wessels.

The CVA met the TPA's 4pm deadline yesterday for it to muster the support of all interested parties — including the six municipalities and the squatters — for the moratorium to be instituted.

It is now up to the CVA — an umbrella body consisting of residents' associations and the local area committees of Chartwell, Muldersdrift and Rantseig — to come to an agreement on viable alternative sites.

The solution must be acceptable to the Zevenfontein squatters, the six local authorities (Sandton, Randburg, Vierpoort, Midrand, Roodepoort, Krugersdorp), affected residents' organisations, the local administrative council of Muldersdrift, Chartwell and Rantsetig and the Council for Local Government Affairs and the TPA.

The moratorium — which began yesterday — comes in the wake of the TPA's expropriation of the land and moves to survey the sites. “The CVA will act as a facilitator on the joint negotiating forum with the aim of finding a more acceptable solution on a win-win basis for all parties concerned,” Vito Rugani of the CVA said yesterday.

Consensus
If the moratorium fails, the TPA intends to go ahead with its plans to settle the squatters at Diepsloot West and Nietgedacht. The TPA said yesterday that the CVA has indicated that it has no parties concerned,” Vito Rugani of the CVA said yesterday.

If the moratorium fails, the TPA intends to go ahead with its plans to settle the squatters at Diepsloot West and Nietgedacht. The TPA said yesterday that the CVA has indicated that it would accept the present sites, if they fail to achieve consensus on alternative solutions.

However, the CVA yesterday denied this strongly and refused to commit itself to accepting the two sites, should the moratorium fail.

Anthony Dugan, chairman of the Greenbelt Action Group, said the moratorium provided an opportunity to negotiate a better solution, but there were no guarantees of it working.
Mass action

The interaction of the Industrial Government with the Freedom Front resulted in the forced closure of the newspaper. The Freedom Front, however, did not comply with this directive. The Freedom Front also published a newspaper called "Freedom." The newspaper was financed by the government and distributed throughout the country. The newspaper was printed in a leaflet format and distributed to the public. The Freedom Front also published a newspaper called "Freedom." The newspaper was financed by the government and distributed throughout the country. The newspaper was printed in a leaflet format and distributed to the public.

By Victor Tshuma

Mandela - Campaign
defianceachievement

I will lead

Braving the cold
Squatter issue is shelved

SA Press

The settlement of the Zevenfontein squatters was suspended for at least 14 days on Friday after the Crocodile Valley Authority obtained the required support for its moratorium proposal.

This was confirmed in a statement by Mr Ollie van Zyl, spokesman for the Transvaal Provincial Administration at the weekend.

Support

The Crocodile Valley Authority received the support from, among others, the Zevenfontein community, the Randburg and Sandton town councils, and affected residents’ associations.

This was done before the TPA’s 4pm Friday deadline, Van Zyl said.

The planned squatter settlements at Diepeboet West and Nietgedacht would proceed should the CVA not find an alternative site acceptable to all the concerned parties within the next two weeks, he said.
Bid to halt squatters' relocation

PRETORIA. - Two separate urgent applications were made in the Supreme Court here yesterday to order the setting aside of the Transvaal Provincial Administration decision to relocate Sevenfontein squatters on portions of Diepsloot farm, near Sandton.

The applications, by the Laezeonla and Diepsloot residents' associations, were postponed by agreement to July 14, giving the TPA time to reply.

Residents said they feared a fall in property values, an increase in crime and the "creation of a dustbowl".

The TPA undertook not to move any persons on to the recently expropriated stands of Diepsloot farm until July 16, by which time the matter would have been adjudicated upon. — Sapa
Squatters won't be resettled until mid-July

The Zevenfontein squatters will not be resettled on the expropriated land allocated by the Transvaal Provincial Administration in Diepsloot until mid-July.

Following two separate urgent applications in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday, the TPA undertook not to move the squatters, or any other persons, on to stands 151, 152 and 120 of the farm Diepsloot until midnight on July 18.

One of the applications brought before Mr Justice Joffe was made by two landowners in the Laezenia district, adjacent to Diepsloot, and the Laezenia Landowners' Association against the TPA. The other was made by the Diepsloot Residents' and Landowners' Association and two landowners against the Administrator of the Transvaal and five of the respondents, including the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and Housing.

In both applications the applicants sought a court order restraining the TPA from relocating or "giving occupational rights" to the Zevenfontein squatters.
Squatter move challenged in court

PRETORIA — Two separate urgent applications were made in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday for an order setting aside the Transvaal Provincial Administration's decision to move the Zevenfontein squatters to Dieploot, near Sandton.

The applications by the Laaxonia Landowners' Association and the Dieploot Residents' and Landowners' Association were postponed by agreement to July 14, giving the respondents time to file replying affidavits.

The TPA undertook not to move any one to the recently expropriated stands 129, 151, 152 and 153 of the farm Dieploot until midnight on July 18. Should the matter not be finally adjudicated by then, the associations could again apply for interim relief.

Laaxonia business executive David Ware said it would be in the Zevenfontein community's best interests to remain at the Rietfontein farm until an appropriate new site was found.

The proposed resettlement was to be done without any planning, violating every principle of orderly, desirable town planning.

Ware claimed Laaxonia landowners would suffer irreparable harm if the move went ahead.

Business consultant Stuart Aitchison, who filed an affidavit on behalf of the Dieploot Residents' and Landowners' Association, said moving the squatters would interfere with the rights of owners of surrounding properties.

It appeared the TPA intended to provide a minimum of services to the proposed site, and there would be no influx control, resulting in the settlement being swamped, a health hazard being created and the crime rate in surrounding areas rising, he said.

Aitchison said the value of properties had already decreased and could decrease further, causing property owners to have a claim for damages against the TPA. — Sapa.
The Zevenfontein squatters will not be resettled on the expropriated land allocated by the Transvaal Provincial Administration in Diepsloot until mid-July.

Following two separate urgent applications in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday, the TPA undertook not to move the squatters or any other person on to stands 151, 152 and 120 of the Diepsloot farm until midnight on July 16.

One of the applications brought before Mr Justice Joffe against the TPA was made by two landowners in the Laezenia district, adjacent to Diepsloot, and the Laezenia Landowners Association.

The other was made by the Diepsloot Residents and Landowners Association and two landowners against the Administrator of Transvaal and five other respondents, including the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing.

In both applications the applicants sought a court order restraining the TPA from relocating or "giving occupational rights" to the Zevenfontein squatters or any other person on the land set aside in Diepsloot.

Both matters in which the TPA gave their undertaking were postponed by agreement to July 14.
THE two-week moratorium on the relocation of the Zevengfontein squatters to sites in Nietgedacht and Diepsloot has been officially lifted, but the TPA has agreed not to proceed with resettlement plans for a few days to allow local residents time to find a more acceptable solution.
Moratorium on squatters lifted

By Shirley Woodgate and Sapa

The two-week moratorium on the relocation of the Zevontheim squatters to sites at N.OETgedacht and Diepsloot has been lifted.

This was announced yesterday after a meeting between the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Crocodile Valley Authority (CVA) and other interested parties at which it was decided that not all the parties had agreed to the moratorium.

The two-week moratorium had been requested by the CVA to allow time to find a solution that would enjoy the greatest support of all parties.

TPA spokesman Johan Eiselein said all the parties had agreed to keep the moratorium issue under review and further discussions would be held.

Mr Eiselein said the Zevontheim squatters would still have to move by the end of July.

In another development, an anonymous pamphlet distributed on Wednesday in the North Rand area, claiming the revival of the "Norweto" squatter settlement plans, has been condemned by the TPA.

The pamphlet claimed the relocation of the Zevontheim squatters to Diepsloot and Nietgedacht was a TPA "cover-up" for plans to import homeless people to 15 locations which would eventually result in the re-creation of Norweto.

Admitting to plans to establish "smaller, more manageable areas which will form an integral part of balanced urbanisation in the PWV area", the TPA condemned the claims in the circular as "blatant lies" and a "transparent attempt at stirring up emotions".

The TPA had requested the Verwoerdburg, Randburg, Sandton, Midrand, Roodepoort and Krugersdorp councils to identify suitable sites for informal housing, according to a statement.

The task group formed this year to investigate urbanisation had already identified suitable permanent sites in areas where low-cost housing could be developed, a spokesman claimed.

A meeting yesterday between top TPA officials, the CVA, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (the developer of luxury estate Dainfern), the Chartwell North Action Group and the Chartwell Local Area Committee revealed little about the talks between the affected parties.

But the moratorium on the relocation of the Zevontheim squatters is apparently not in place because the owner of the property where they are currently housed is not a party to the agreement, the TPA said.

With less than a month to the July 31 deadline for the squatters' removal, the TPA, following two separate applications in the Pretoria Supreme Court, yesterday undertook not to move the squatters until July 16.
Squatters can now be moved

THE two-week moratorium on the relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters to sites at Nietgedacht and Diepsloot has been lifted.

This was announced after a meeting yesterday morning between the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Crocodile Valley Authority and other interested parties. It was decided that not all the parties had agreed to the moratorium.

The two-week moratorium had been requested by the CVA to allow it time to find a solution which would enjoy the greatest support of all parties.

TPA spokesman Mr Johan Eiselien said all the parties had agreed to keep the issue of the moratorium under review and further discussions would be held over the next few days.

Eiselien said the Zevenfontein squatters would still have to move by the end of this month. - Sapa.
set to attempt a comeback
Former Phola Park Leaders
Zevenfontein restrictions relaxed

Certain restrictions placed on the Zevenfontein squatters, purportedly to control the size of the community north of Johannesburg, are to be lifted.

This follows a request by the community, a spokesman for the Crocodile Valley Authority (CVA), Anthony Duigan, said at the weekend.

He said restrictions on food and liquor brought into the camp and limitations on the number of cars and visitors entering the settlement would be lifted.

Squatter representatives had refused to meet the CVA in a joint negotiating forum until some of the strict conditions clamped on them by a group of authorities had been lifted, Mr Duigan said.

The restrictions were imposed earlier this year by the signatories to an agreement which stipulates that the Zevenfontein squatters have to be moved from their present site before July 31.

Signatories include the owner of the Zevenfontein farm; the Chartwell Local Area Committee; the North Chartwell Action Group; the Transvaal Provincial Administration; and Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, which owns the neighbouring property.

Mr Duigan said the squatters had been forced to accept the conditions placed on them as they were illegally occupying the Zevenfontein land.

They had however complained that the measures were being applied arbitrarily and had become harsher over the months.

Mr Duigan said the CVA had approached the signatories on the matter and all had agreed to the relaxation of measures.

Proposals for low-cost housing development closer to current municipal boundaries were put to the squatter representatives, who had indicated no objections in principle and a willingness to look at alternative resettlement sites.

The squatters' future remains in the balance pending a court application on July 16, brought by the Diepsloot Residents' Committee which is planning to prevent their resettlement at Diepsloot.

Mr Duigan said the CVA would meet TPA representatives to put forward "general" proposals about alternative sites, but declined to give further details. — Sapa.
Restrictions off

CERTAIN restrictions placed on the Zevenfontein squatters, purportedly to control the size of the community north of Johannesburg, are to be relaxed following a request to this effect by the community. Soetfontein (17/92).

A spokesman for the Crocodile Valley Authority (CVA), Mr. Anthony Dulgan, said on Saturday restrictions on food and liquor brought into the camp and limitations on the number of cars and visitors entering the settlement would be lifted.
Residents have new plan for squatters

By Shirley Woodgate

North Rand residents have bypassed Transvaal Provincial Administration plans for squatter settlement and will soon announce a far-reaching urbanisation strategy designed to serve as a blueprint for the rest of the country.

Faced with the relocation of the Zevonfontein squatters by July 31, the umbrella Crocodile Valley Authority (CVA) has rejected ad hoc TPA plans to move the 1 500 families to two sites in Diepsloot and Nietgedacht.

Instead, the CVA, which represents residents' associations from Hartbeesfontein to Chartwell, has liaised with all interested parties in the region, and believes it is on the brink of a negotiated settlement that will receive widespread acceptance.

CVA spokesman Rick Massey said the imminent breakthrough was based on the Greenbelt Action Group's structure plan for the region, paid for by the residents.

"Central to the plan is the granting of some form of governing status for the area, so that we have the authority and control to go ahead," he said.

This would fly directly in the face of plans, due to be heard by the Demarcation Board on August 16, to extend the boundaries of Krugersdorp, Roodepoort, Randburg, Sandton, Midrand and Verwoerdburg to include the greenbelt.

The CVA orderly urbanisation proposal includes proper town-planning principles and ongoing negotiation with all parties, then identification of sites to be developed according to a specific type of urban structure with sound commercial and industrial infrastructure.

Dr Massey said the only way to relocate the Zevonfontein squatters was as part of a properly designed town planning strategy based on certain criteria, including accessibility to work, transport and infrastructure. "We put these criteria on a map and identified a suitable area where we are trying to come up with a deal which will lead to negotiated settlement rather than expropriation."

Included in the plan are second-order nodes with rural characteristics, described as small villages to be developed along the "perma-culture" approach, which includes planned integration into the community.

During negotiations, the CVA approached large companies to become involved in a consortium which will provide a holistic plan for the entire sub-region, with the full cooperation of the land-owners.

"The land-owners who have been kept in the picture are overwhelmingly positive and the Zevonfontein squatters believe this strategy will work in their favour," Dr Massey said.

"The civic associations have been involved and they too have made input to the overall plan."
Plan for Squatters
New Urbanization

NORTH RANID RESIDENTS HAVE INVITED 36

which could be used conveniently 7142

companies and prepared a blueprint 360

Plan for Squatters
New Urbanization

Unions in sit-in after deadlock
Zevenfontein demo at JCI offices

About 30 "greenbelt" residents protested outside the JCI headquarters in Fox Street, Johannesburg, yesterday morning against the proposed relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters into the areas of Nestgedacht, Nooitgedacht and Diepsloot.

One of the protesters then took a letter to the chairman and board of directors of JCI. Police monitored the protest but took no action.

The Zevenfontein squatters are due to be moved before July 31 after an agreement to that effect was signed by the TPA, JCI and the Chartwell Local Action Committee.

Protesters complained that JCI had used the agreement to protect its investment in the plush Dainfern Country Club near Zevenfontein.

One protester said: "JCI are using the TPA to protect their investment. In the process they are destroying a community's life savings."
Threats to place landmines in squatter relocation sites
Police warn TPA of landmines on proposed sites for squatters

POLICE have warned the TPA that there could be landmines on sites in the northeast Rand earmarked for the relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters. TPA officials said yesterday.

TPA deputy director-general of community development Len Dekker said at a news briefing yesterday the TPA was prepared for a showdown.

The police warning of landmines indicated the level of "radicalism" the TPA was up against in its plans to move the squatters to sites at Nietgedacht and Diepsloot West, he said.

Dekker said he and other TPA officials had received threatening phone calls.

He said landmines and radical actions, such as Nietgedacht and Diepsloot residents' picket outside JCI offices in central Johannesburg earlier this week, would not solve the problem.

Dekker rejected residents' claims that JCI had used the TPA to protect its investment in the adjacent Paulshof Country Club on the adjoining property. JCI had been the moderating influence at meetings, Dekker said, and claimed residents had used JCI as a scapegoat.

Norma Sharpley, spokesman for the Nietgedacht Action Group (NAG) which organised residents in the affected areas, said Dekker's accusations were unfair.

"We have a democratic right to picket and we have never broken the law," she said. Sharpley said local residents' protest actions had been peaceful, and their objective was only to be heard. NAG had made many requests for meetings with the TPA, but had been refused on the grounds that it was not a recognised body, she said.

The TPA cannot start development on the sites until two applications, brought by residents against the TPA, are heard in the Pretoria Supreme Court next week.

At a meeting scheduled for this afternoon between the TPA and the Crocodile Valley Authority, which represents local area committees in the region, the latter will advance the findings of its investigation into alternative sites.

Although the authority would not disclose its preferred sites yesterday, Dekker said he would be "very surprised" if Cosmo City was not included. He said the TPA rejected the Cosmo City option because more people would be affected by the plan, and it had already been identified as the natural extension area for Randburg's industrial development.

Dekker said all parties agreed that the success of the move depended on what services could be provided at the new sites.

The RSC had indicated to the TPA that it had a R1.5m available for upgrating.

Dekker said the TPA did not have the funds to provide housing for the squatters, but said it would investigate ways of helping people to build their own houses.

KATHRYN STRACHAN

Protest enlists Van Riebeeck

CAPE TOWN — Members of Earthlife Africa, the Wildlife Society and the Eco-Programme yesterday draped a black cloth over the Jan van Riebeeck statue on the foreshore to protest against the transportation of a cargo of plutonium in Cape waters.

SA environmental groups are launching a mass campaign with Greenpeace International to protest against the transportation of the plutonium by a Japanese cargo ship.

A government spokesman said government was trying to persuade the Japanese government not to use the Cape route.

1 300 Cape teachers could lose jobs before year ends

CAPE TOWN — More than 1 300 Cape teachers could lose their jobs from August 1 when new staffing scales came into effect, the Cape Education Department (CED) said yesterday.

The new scales which were to come into effect from August 1, could lead to as many as 1 363 Cape teachers losing their jobs before the end of the year.

CED communications director Orland Firman said the figure was provisional as the circumstances in individual schools under the CED could change.

The CED determined only how many posts must go and when. The decision on which posts have to be abolished would be decided by the schools' governing bodies, he said.

Sixty Model C schools had been approved earlier this year it was estimated that 11 000 teachers nationally could lose their posts, the Department of Education and Culture said.

But if all schools accepted Model C, only 4 000 teachers would have to be retrenched.

Altogether 639 schools in the Cape chose Model C, 34 accepted the status quo while eight chose Model B.

Teachers due to be retrenched at the end of July were notified in April.
Residents say they can easily beat the wire.

FOREIGNERS may be lining up for South African razor wire, but many locals are less elated by its virtues. Residents of the Phola Park squatter camp on the East Rand see the wire as a symbol of oppression and say they are “caged like dogs” by the barbed barrier which encircles their settlement.

“When we are attacked by security forces we cannot run away,” says Michael Maseko. “And then they try and tell us that the coils are here for our protection.”

A mother, who asked not to be named, was concerned about the safety of her three-year-old daughter. “The kids often have to walk about in the dark. I shudder to think what would happen if my girl got caught up in those blades.”

Others are more stoical about life inside the wire. “What good does it do to get upset when there are many ways to deal with the damned stuff?” says a teenager.

Residents, he explained, throw concrete slabs or slabs of corrugated iron over the coils and cross the barrier with ease.

Recently police expressed consternation at the way young activists were dislodging the razor wire and using it to build barricades to prevent armoured troop carriers from entering the settlement.

So they came up with an ingenious solution. They dusted the barbs with sneeze powder, which is scoffed at by the youngsters who run up and over the barriers with gay abandon.

“All it does is cause everybody to cough and the children are developing rashes. But it does nothing to stop the boys from tampering with the wire,” a resident said.
THE Crocodile Valley Authority, representative body of residents' associations in the North West Rand, last night presented the Transvaal Provincial Administration with its alternative approach to the resettlement of the Zevenfontein squatter community.

Central to the proposals is a type of low income housing that would provide conventional homes at dramatically lower prices than anything currently available.

The package put to the TPA by CVA spokesman Anthony Duigan and representatives of Zevenfontein, included the following:

A structure plan that identifies zones in the North West Rand within which sites for lower income housing could be developed; this plan has been canvassed with representatives of residents in the North West Rand who support the structure plan; and

A package that would provide a shell house at a cost of between R75 and R175 a month with finance supplied by the developer; this package is roughly half the cost of traditional approaches to housing development.

"When this planning approach was discussed at the first negotiating forum set up between the CVA and representatives of the Zevenfontein community last Saturday, there was broad acceptance from the Zevenfontein community."

Low income housing

"It was agreed that certain sites should be identified in order to develop specific planning proposals," said Duigan.

A test site identified with the Zevenfontein representatives was Cosmo City, an area north of Randburg. Another site which also met the planning criteria for low income housing development was Olievenhoutbosch, north of Blue Hills.

Because of time constraints, detailed planning was possible for only one of the sites — Cosmo City.

Private sector developer Stocks and Stocks has offered to develop this site without underwriting and would offer a 50 sq m shell house with waterborne sewerage, toilet and sink for R20 000 a unit and the company has offered to finance the sale of units at R175 a month over 20 years.

Lower cost options would also be available for as little as R8 000 — with repayments in the region of R75 a month.

"Efforts to achieve full support from landowners surrounding the proposed Cosmo City site were not successful," said Duigan. "However in terms of this planning approach, CVA believes this proposal deserves strong consideration as it has received greater support than anything the TPA has tried. "Certainly this proposal, measured rand for rand, is better than anything the TPA has on offer. It is also based on far better town planning principles and its financial package is unheard of, bearing in mind that no financial institution has to be pulled in to try and finance it."

Cosmo City

"The scheme itself will also attract investment in commercial and industrial sites because of the mixed use of the land — it is not just an informal settlement."

Rosemary Hunter, acting attorney for the Zevenfontein community, said she would be discussing the proposal with the community today, but added that Cosmo City had always been her client's first choice.

"We also have to hear whether or not is is viable from the TPA's point of view," she said.

Sakkie Lombard, spokesman for the TPA, "could not be reached for comment last night."
Prayer is Nonpeace's manifestation

A Granny who endured the pain of crushing and hostility of authorities to keep

By Llama Lul

SOWTAN Monday JUN 13 1992
and less of these
Senseless Killings
I think we will see less
be built for people,
if houses can
be used for other

Proposed sanitation

We need to stop our
thoughts and plan for the
future, not just for our
own benefits.

Monday July 13, 1992
Sowelan
Don't fear us, Zevenfontein squatters

THE Zevenfontein squatter community — whose proposed relocation has led to court actions, community protests and threats of violence — says its resettlement should hold no fears for future neighbours.

"Peaceful, orderly integration is their goal," Zevenfontein lawyer Rosemary Hunter said yesterday.

She expressed concern that statements made by various parties misrepresented the views of the homeless community and could jeopardise the current resettlement process.

Hunter denied the squatters had agreed to proposals put to them by the Crocodile Valley Authority (CVA) to be resettled at Cosmo City, and not at the sites at Nietgedacht and Dieploot West allocated earlier by the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA).

The CVA represents several community organisations on the North Rand.

"Last Friday the CVA proposed to the TPA that our clients be resettled at Cosmo City.

"Our clients listened with interest as Cosmo City had always been their first choice. But on June 4 they had accepted the offer of the Nietgedacht and Dieploot sites as the TPA had made it clear Cosmo City was not available," Hunter said.

Although the squatters might be prepared to look at the Cosmo City option again, they would not comment on the CVA's proposal until judgment was handed down in a court application for an interdict restraining the TPA from resettling the Zevenfontein community at Dieploot, she said.

Hunter criticised people who did not represent the squatters for speaking to the media on their behalf.

"This can only lead to confusion and anger — factors which can only harm the delicate negotiations between our clients, the TPA and the residents' associations," she said, adding that currently the squatters' greatest need was for land over which they had security of tenure.

They wished only to be treated like other residents of the North Rand.
of Alexandria. A resident speeks of the frustration facing the displaced people of Alex.
City fathers blamed for squatting crisis

By Shirley Woodgate

Randburg residents were paying the price for their founding fathers' boast that Randburg was one of the first South African white-by-night towns, Crocodile Valley Authority (CVA) spokesman Anthony Duigan said yesterday.

He was reacting to claims by Garden Triangle Action Group (GTAG) chairman Robert van Tonder that no squatters would be allowed in his area — which includes Cosmo City.

Mr Duigan warned against a repeat of the short-sighted policies of the past and said the problems concerning the Zevenfontein squatters had arisen because the city fathers had failed to provide land for low-cost housing.

Mr van Tonder, one of the moving forces behind the establishment of Randburg as an independent municipality nearly 30 years ago, has now called for municipal status for the land represented by his GTAG.

North-west of Randburg.

He said this new local authority — and not Randburg, Sandton or the Transvaal Provincial Administration — would be empowered to decide what to do with its own land.

The CVA made proposals to the TPA at the weekend for a comprehensive approach to squatting housing on test sites in Cosmo City and Blue Hills.

The proposals were being analysed yesterday by Zevenfontein squatter representatives who originally identified Cosmo City as their number one choice for relocation.

The TPA opted for two sites in Nietgedacht and Diepsloot West. Their decision will be tested in the Pretoria Supreme Court today.

Mr Duigan said one of the reasons why Cosmo had been chosen for an integrated-package development was its location 2 km outside Randburg's boundaries. Neither Nietgedacht nor Diepsloot West met this criterion.

Bester Homes executive Theunis Bester, whose company owns Cosmo City, said two parcels of land had already been acquired for the relocation of Zevenfontein squatters. They had been expropriated by the TPA at R55 000/ha, while the 1 077 ha comprising Cosmo City was up for sale at R35 000/ha.

No negotiations had taken place. Mr van Tonder occupied 38 ha in the middle of Cosmo City, Mr Bester said.
Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman (left) talks about the displaced people of Alex and what police are doing to help them.

They left on their own free will - Opperman

Police are asked to help:

POLICE are investigating complaints made by residents who left their homes.

The people who are now housed in offices and churches, left their homes because they were being forced out of their own homes. Police were requested to assist those moving out and later other people moved in.

Asked why the police had given people assistance to move out and not deal with the problem, Opperman said:

"It was a difficult situation. Some of the people were moving from shacks which were illegally occupied. If people move out of shacks and others move in, the police cannot assist people to move back into a place they had occupied illegally."

Opperman said he was being asked to help those who had documents that proved they were the legal occupants of the premises. He said the hostelers were receiving assistance from the relevant departments and that police were continuing with patrols in the township.
TPA to decide on squatters

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration will tomorrow decide on the relocation of the Z沃尔Forcin squatter community. 

TPA spokesman Mr Piet Wilken yesterday said they would wait for the outcome of today's court hearing of applications lodged by the Lecsonia Landowners' Association and the Crocodile Valley Authority before a decision was taken. 

Last Friday, the CVA proposed that the squatters be relocated to Cosmo City, a suggestion the TPA dismissed as "not feasible." 

TPA director Mr Sakkie Lombard said that more people would be affected if squatters were relocated to Cosmo City. 

Source: Reporter.
Landowners lose action

Application struck from roll

Sowetan Correspondent

A SUPREME Court bid by Laezenia landowners to prevent the resettling of the Zevenfontein squatters in Diepsloot, has failed because the squatters who had a material interest in the court action were not informed about the case.

In an urgent application brought in the Pretoria Supreme Court by two landowners in the Laezenia district near Diepsloot, and the Laezenia Landowners Association, a Pretoria Supreme Court judge was asked to restrain the TPA from relocating or “giving occupational rights” to the Zevenfontein squatters on the land set aside in Diepsloot.

Mr Justice Smit yesterday struck the matter from the roll on the grounds that the squatters should also have been joined as respondents with the Transvaal Provincial Administration.
Supreme Court turns down urgent Zevenboom application.
Squatters: Court rejects papers

PRETORIA. — Urgent attempts to settle a dispute between Diepsloot and Lachéonía landowners and the Transvaal Provincial Administration over the settlement of the Sevenfontein squatters at Diepsloot South failed in the Supreme Court here yesterday. (3/10)

The court ruled that the landowners had not properly served papers on the squatters. — The Star.
NEWS FEATURE For 685 families, displaced by IFP violence, life is a living hell

Alex, a place of never ending sorrow

BIG CRUNCH Spasm of suffering and pain for people living in squalor:

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

W

as there ever the best of times for Alexandra township? This is the question that begs to be asked as this small area of land that houses nearly half a million people goes through one more spasm of pain and suffering.

Squalid with piles of garbage all over, and shacks built on top of rubbish heaps and among graves, life at the best of times in Alex is one long crunch.

It was here that old and abandoned buses were turned into homes by many people as the inhabitants became trapped in the never ending story of the housing shortage in Alex.

The compounds formed by leaking sewerage pipes and the accompanying smell, the overcrowded houses and the yards bursting with shacks, have now become the long lost golden years of prosperity for 685 families who have been displaced by the fighting between Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) members based in the Madala and Nobuhle hostels, and residents who live in the township.

For these people, 90 of whom share the Presbyterian Church hall, life has become even more unbearable. Some, such as Mrs Emily Dikgotho (49), share the church hall with 16 other families while her former home from which she and her family had to run to save their lives, is occupied by IFP members.

"It is a very trying life here. The church is very cold. We no longer have electricity and are using candles. We are grateful to the church for housing us as none of us is a member of this church."

"However, we sleep knowing that we are safe. While still living in our houses before escaping, we were prisoners of Inkatha. They came in and raped women, also killing people for not being members of the IFP."

"It is tough here because the children cannot even study. There is no privacy for the family and you have to forget about many things in life," Dikgotho said.

Others lost more than just their homes and possessions. Mrs Aida Matlou who owned a house and a shop had to forgo both.

When she last ventured into "Beirut" (the area near the hostel) to check on her properties, she found the shop was just a shell with only one fridge remaining simply because those trying to take it out couldn't because of its size. The house had also been ransacked.

"We went through hell at the hands of the IFP. We saw people being chopped every day. The minds of our children were being scarred by the violence. Life here at the East Bank hall is tough but we are safe," she said.

Matlou is a member of the Displaced People's Committee which is having talks with the TPA and the council over the resettlement of the refugees.

She said that a survey was underway to assess damage and costs of repairs to the houses. She, like all the others, was emphatic that a condition for their return was the demolition of the Madala Hostel which was the cause of all the trouble.

Then their houses have to be renovated and in some cases rebuilt. Many have been destroyed.

In what used to be the council offices we met Mr Tsitsi Kungoane (25).

He is an angry man who had to flee his flat to save his life and in the process lost all his possessions.

"The people here are calling for action. We are tired of meetings that produce nothing. We are not prepared to continue to fight Inkatha when we know that they are being used by the police and the Government to destabilise our community."

"What we are going to do now is to move into Sondton and occupy houses there and wait and see if these impartial police who escorted us out of our homes do the same to the whites there," Kungoane said hissing with rage.

He said the issue was no longer one of turning Madala Hostel into family units. "That hostel already has family units," he said.

"Our political organisations, ANC, Azapo, PAC and others, are not doing enough to help people who have lost their homes," Kungoane said.

Early exposure to sexual practices because of the crammed conditions is having its effect on children, especially girls. Already four aged between 14 and 16 have fallen pregnant.

These displaced people want the hostel to be demolished or evacuated and then turned into family units for local people.

Hostel residents, however, reject this and are in the process of renovating the place as their permanent home.

Is there a way out that can see these displaced people back in their homes soon? Not from the evidence that we could gather last week.
Throw him out! What, pay rent?
The castaways

nobody wants

I would have loved to stay near Randburg which is closer to work. But the whites don't want us anywhere near their areas.

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TPA 'obliged to move squatters by July 31'

By Michael Sparks

A legal document which obligates the TPA to move the Zevonfontein squatters by July 31 — whether alternative land has been found or not — was released yesterday by the Nietgedacht Action Group (NAG).

The document, produced at a press conference, was signed by, among others, the TPA; the owner of the property where the Zevonfontein squatters are currently living; and Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI), owners of Dainfern, a prestigious development adjacent to the Zevonfontein community.

It states that "even if suitable land is not identified", the obligation of the TPA and the obligations of the squatters to move by the end of July remained in full force and effect.

Christopher Spear, senior manager of township development at JCI, was in a meeting at Dainfern country club yesterday afternoon and could not be contacted for comment.

Asked why the TPA had entered an agreement with a private concern like JCI/TPA spokesman Piet Wilken said: "Because they are nearby and have an interest in the development at Dainfern."

The Zevonfontein community is due to move by Friday next week, although no facilities are in place at either of the proposed sites at Nietgedacht or Diepsloot West.

Mr Wilken said that by the time the people were moved, the sites would be laid out: there would be gravel roads, chemical toilets, and tankers would deliver water until taps were installed.

NAG chairman Norma Sharples said that proper facilities were provided, many residents would not object to the 1 300 families moving on to the sites.

These included waterborne sewerage, water to each house, refuse removal, free-standing properties, and adequate housing rather than shacks.
Travel agent calls for streamlining

Recommended policy would be to do away with a complex, overlapping, and wasteful scheme.

The present system is not working. It's too complex and too expensive. The travel agent's job is to provide a service, not to be a part of the bureaucracy. The present system is making it difficult for the travel agent to do his job effectively. The policy of the future should be to simplify and streamline the system.
Squatters’ resettlement unlawful, hearing told

PRETORIA — Losses suffered by Diepsloot landowners as a result of property devaluation after the resettlement of the Zevenfontein squatters should be sufficient grounds for halting the move, the Pretoria Supreme Court heard yesterday.

If Steyn, counsel for the Diepsloot Residents and Landowners Association, told Judge JWB de Villiers that the Transvaal Administrator had not exercised his discretion properly when he had decided to relocate the Zevenfontein squatters to Diepsloot, north of Johannesburg.

In terms of legislation, Steyn said, the administrator was also not entitled to resettle the squatters at Diepsloot.

Steyn said the relocation of the squatters would unlawfully interfere with the rights of Diepsloot residents and landowners.

The squatters would create a nuisance and landowners feared that the ground water supply would turn into a health risk as there were no facilities or services available at the proposed resettlement site.

Residents in the surrounding area also feared that crime would increase once the squatters were resettled at Diepsloot.

Two companies, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment and Elffor Street Farms, as well as three representatives of the local authority dealing with the squatters, were on Monday joined as parties in the court application to halt the resettlement.

Although the squatters had also been joined as a party, they were not represented — Sapa.

Operation Alpo cuts deaths

AN intensified SAP and SADF crime prevention campaign in two unrest-plagued Reef townships — Alexandra and Phola Park — has led to nearly 1,000 arrests since it began in June.

More than 50 firearms, including AK-47 rifles and submachine pistols, have been confiscated in Operation Alpo, Witwatersrand police spokesman Frans Malherbe said yesterday.

Several hand grenades and stolen goods valued at thousands of randa were also seized.

He said the media and certain political organizations had given the impression recently that the SAP was incapable of protecting the public.

But violent deaths in Alexandra, which in recent months had totalled more than 200 a week, were now down to an average of two a week.

The situation at Phola Park and Alexandra — where police were marked as targets — was “almost back to normal”, Malherbe said.
Squatters 'are not lawless'...
Squatters not natural criminals, court told

To suggest that indigent people who could only be accommodated informally were inherently lawless was a startling proposition which had no foundation whatsoever, a senior advocate argued in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday.

Sam Maritz, acting for the Transvaal Administrator, was opposing an application to stop the resettlement of the Zevenfontein community at Diepsloot.

Mr Maritz said the application by the Diepsloot Residents and Landowners Association had not established a reasonable apprehension of harm resulting from an increased crime rate.

Police intended to erect satellite stations at Nietgedacht and Lacoenia. A permanent police station was planned for Fourways.

The Administrator also intended to take reasonable precautions to prevent interference with the rights of surrounding landowners by implementing a proper town-planning scheme at Diepsloot. There was no question of uncontrolled squatting being allowed.

H Steyn, for the residents' association, argued on Tuesday that the Administrator had, in deciding to move the squatters to Diepsloot, not exercised his discretion properly.

He said the move would unlawfully interfere with the rights of Diepsloot residents and landowners.

The squatters would create a nuisance, and landowners in the area feared they would contaminate the groundwater supply. This would create a health risk to the community.

The hearing continues. — Sapa.
Squatters' Move halted

JOHANNESBURG. — An interim interdict preventing the Transvaal Provincial Administration from allowing the relocation of the Zevenfontein squatters to Nielgedacht was won by the Jukskei Crocodile Catchment Area Land Owners and Residents Association at the weekend.

A JCCA statement issued at the weekend said the TPA's proposed site was technically and socio-economically unsuitable for low-cost housing settlements.

"The JCCA is strategically very important to the PWV as a major agricultural area. It also provides for recreation and tourism," the statement said. — Sapa.
Ruling halts squatter move

An interim interdict against the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) barring it from moving the Zwanepoort squatters to Niegedacht has been won by the Julskel Crocodile Catchment Area Landowners' and Residents' Association (JCCA).

A JCCA statement issued at the weekend said the return date was September 6.

It said the TPA's proposed site was technically and socio-economically unsuitable for low-cost housing settlements. "The JCCA is strategically very important to the PWV as a major agricultural area for vegetables, flowers, fruit and other farm produce." — Sapa.
Zeenvfontein relocation put on hold by court’s interdict

THE relocation of several hundred Zeenvfontein squatter families was temporarily halted this weekend when residents of the Nietgedacht area obtained an urgent interim interdict against the TPA.

Pretoria Supreme Court Judge Jasko de Villiers also temporarily prohibited the TPA from continuing with the development of the Nietgedacht site for the resettlement of the Zeenvfontein community.

De Villiers gave the TPA and eight other respondents — including the owner of Zeenvfontein farm, the Chartwell community and JCI — until September 8 to show cause why the order should not be made permanent.

A TPA spokesman yesterday said that it would strongly oppose the court’s interim order, and expressed regret about the inconvenience the legal action had caused the squatter community.

“The Zeenvfontein community currently lives under extremely undesirable conditions and we regret that they have to now suffer further inconvenience,” TPA spokesman Piet Wiken said.

The urgent application was launched by the Jukkas Crocodile Catchment Area Land Owners’ and Residents’ Association (JCCA).

The interdict also affected the agreement signed between the owner of the farm Zeenvfontein, the Chartwell community and JCI, which stipulated that the squatters would be relocated by July 31.

The TPA’s proposed site, north of Johannesburg, was technically and socio-economically unsuitable for low-cost housing settlement, the JCCA said in a statement.

The area was strategically very important to the PWV as a major agricultural area for vegetables, flowers, fruit and other farm produce being supplied for export and the Johannesburg and Pretoria markets, the statement said.

The two landowners who had been served expropriation orders by the TPA had not yet moved and had accepted the expropriation money without prejudice to their legal rights, JCCA spokesman Wessel Swart said yesterday.

“The expropriated parties were extremely pleased about the successful court application,” he said.

Protecting workforce

CHARLIE PRETZLIK

THE Inkatha-aligned United Workers’ Union of SA (Uwusa) and the newly formed United Independent Trade Unions’ Adhoc Committee for SA, which together represent 70 000 workers, say members will defend themselves against anyone trying to prevent them from going to work during the mass action campaign.

Uwusa and new union chairman Jabulani Dlamini last week warned of the effects of a general strike on the economy, saying many workers would lose their jobs and many might be killed in confrontations with police.

“As trade unions our main task is to protect workers’ interests in the workplace. We appeal to the ANC/Conatu alliance not to involve workers in any political actions.”
Squatters' fate in balance

Staff Reporter

The fate of the Zevenfontein squatter community hangs in the balance pending the outcome of three separate court cases being brought by residents' organisations trying to halt their relocation.

The community was scheduled to be moved by the Transvaal Urban Council Administration before Friday, July 31, to two sites near the Lion Park — Diepsloot West and Nietgedacht.

But Justice Isak de Villiers of the Pretoria Supreme Court ruled last week that the squatters must not be moved until the matter of the residents' applications against the moves have been settled.

Mr Justice de Villiers has ordered that the TPA, the owner of the Zevenfontein farm and Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI), among others, should show cause before September 8 why a court order preventing the relocation of the squatters should not be made permanent.

In February JCI signed a legal agreement with the TPA stipulating that the squatters would be moved "even if suitable land is not identified", since the squatters were adjacent to JCI's upmarket housing development, Dainfern.
**Action on camp urged**

The Goldstone Commission has recommended that the Ivory Park squatter camp at Midrand be proclaimed a township, and policing be improved to help curb the taxi war there.

An interim report of the committee probing taxi violence found that Midrand municipal enforcement agencies enjoyed no official recognition in the camp because it was not an official township.

The Midrand municipality's application for it to become a township had not been approved after eight months.

The committee found the cause of the violence was competition between two taxi associations for the new market among the 70,000 residents of Ivory Park. — Political Correspondent.

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**Transkei mass action**

Transkei's capital, Umtata, and Butterworth, the main industrial centre, were brought to a halt yesterday by a mass action stayaway in which thousands of people marched on the two towns.

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**Trade boycott to start**

A two-day consumer boycott of white businesses in the northern Transvaal towns of Louis Trichardt, Levubu and Messina begins tomorrow.

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**Telkom exhibits in Zambia**

Telkom SA will exhibit its products at a show in Lusaka this month. Telkom said in a statement yesterday it would show the Magnolia telephone and the T1000 telex machine at Zambex '92 from tomorrow to Monday.

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**Mother: 'I killed my child'**

A woman admitted in Durban Regional Court yesterday she killed her 22-month-old daughter by driving into the harbour with the child in the vehicle. Pamela Anne Drennan (36) of Pinetown was nearly inaudible as she pleaded guilty before Mr G J Maree to culpable homicide.
For PwV sought: Bold new vision
Council approves policy to shape urban environment

THE Johannesburg City Council approved an urban environment policy last night which will be incorporated into each of its departments' operating procedures.

The policy aims to protect the city's open spaces, identify and conserve areas of historic or cultural interest and generally improve the quality of the built and natural environment.

A public participation and information campaign tackling environmental issues would begin shortly, the council heard.

A steering directorate has been established to ensure all the council's departments adhere to the policy while all planning or construction projects would be examined for potential environmental impact by a newly created committee.

The council also indicated its willingness to take responsibility for primary health care in the city.

In a report submitted to council last night, however, it was pointed out that local authorities could not "take responsibility for services currently rendered by the different houses of parliament, the provincial administrations and other authorities" unless these were matched by the transfer of the necessary funds, facilities and staff.

The council last night formally endorsed its housing department policy of using a single, nonracial waiting list. There are 33,000 families on the Johannesburg municipal area waiting list.

"We will continue to urge government to establish a national funding policy as a matter of urgency," said Housing Committee chairman Marietta Marx.

The council also agreed to spend more than R1mn on the upgrading of council-owned hostels, including R1mn for the development of family accommodation.

Further measures adopted by the council last night included a redevelopment plan for Melville which stresses the retention of its residential nature.
But at least it's a place to rest.
Order on squatters
1 November 1992

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has been restrained by an interim court order from moving the Zevenfontein squatters to Diepsloot West until an application to prevent the move has been heard. Mr Justice IWB de Villiers in the Pretoria Supreme Court referred two urgent applications for a hearing by the Leeuw'sia and Diepsloot Residents and Landowners' Association to a date that has yet to be decided. The landowners say that the squatters' relocation will lead to a drop in the value of property in the area, cause water and air pollution and lead to a drastic increase in crime in the area.
Rest returns as clerk is suspended

By DAN DHLAMINI

PEACE and goodwill now prevail in the previously trouble-torn West Rand township of Khutsong.
This, according to jubilant residents, results from the suspension last month of Khutsong town clerk WC Cronck.
A storm of protest erupted in Khutsong – which loosely translated means “The Resting Place” – after the town clerk handed over alleged rent defaulters to council lawyers who attached their furniture and sold it to a Carletonville pawnshop.

Residents claimed the pawnshop belonged to Cronck, but he denied this and threatened to sue anybody who linked him with the pawnshop.

This week Khutsong administrator Chris de Beer told City Press that he had relieved Cronck of his duties as town clerk because he was a stumbling block in attempts to put rent boycott negotiations with the Khutsong Civic Association back on track.

Cronck confirmed he had been suspended from his position until the climate was right for the normal running of the local authorities.

De Beer, who declined to say whether Cronck was being investigated, said he would no longer serve as Khutsong town clerk.

Regarding the return of confiscated furniture, De Beer said this was a gesture of goodwill and not an admission the council was wrong in attaching the furniture of rent defaulters.

Meanwhile, Khutsong residents who for the past three years had been demanding the resignation of Cronck, told City Press that the suspension was indeed a major victory for them.

Nonzima Cashibe, a spokeswoman for the Khutsong branch of the ANC Women’s League which had on more than two occasions staged sit-ins in his office, said this was proof “that the people shall govern”.

Exorbitant bills

Residents had complained of exorbitant water and electricity bills for which Cronck could allegedly not give a reasonable explanation.

Some claimed they were billed for electricity although they did not have it installed in their houses.

Others complained they were charged for water consumption despite the fact their meters were not read.

A confident De Beer told City Press there was progress in the township.

He said a R10-million IDT housing project had been started in Khutsong and about 1 263 sites were being serviced to provide housing for squatters in the area.

KCA spokesman Vicky Nxumalo said a good working relationship had been developed with De Beer, and the KCA hoped things would now improve in the township.
TPA to profit from land - owner

Metro

Today
Police: Gunned Down at Camp

By Commander Ferguson

Police accused of summarily killing 6 in Alex Slaughter Camp
Nearly 100 Randburg residents gathered in Honeydew last night to hear facts about the relocation of the Zeefontein squatters to Nietgedacht in Randburg.

Addressing a hostile crowd, councillor for the area, Cyril Ford, said there were thousands of squatters already living in the bushes in the Randpark Ridge and Honeydew area and that the problem had to be looked at realistically.

The black population was growing six times as fast as whites, and statistics showed that by the end of 2010 there will be 18 million black people living in the PWV area, Mr Ford said.

With planning, most people could be accommodated in "site and service" areas with basic provisions for road access, water, shops, clinics, schools and possible water-borne sewage facilities and electricity.

He pointed out that the alternative was legal or illegal squatting where anarchy ruled.

Arguing for the resettlement of the Zeefontein squatters in Nietgedacht, Mr Ford said they would not be visible as the 150 ha area lay in a natural saucer bounded by three main roads and close to a proposed industrial area which could provide jobs.

"It's a no-win situation. There is no place for the squatters to go, and planning for them will not please people of privilege" Mr Ford said.

A couple of people attending the meeting suggested that delegations from squatters and residents should meet to discuss potential conflict areas and ways of solving them.

Several at the meeting, however, refused to concede formal squatters could become reality in their area.

They wanted to know who would pay for the settlement and control the squatters.
Kempton residents oppose informal housing project

By Abel Mabelane
East Rand Bureau

A proposed informal housing project to settle 7700 families on the Mooifontein farm near Birch Acres, Kempton Park, has been vehemently opposed by residents of the upmarket suburb.

In letters to a local newspaper, residents said the so-called "informal housing scheme" was just a fancy name for corrugated-iron shacks.

They argued that the people at whom the proposed informal housing scheme was aimed were homeless, penniless and jobless and would not be able to afford eventually to build proper houses.

"The way I see it is that they will roam the streets of our suburbs and climb into our properties while we are at work earning a living," one resident wrote.

Another resident said property values had already slumped because of a municipal refuse dump in the area. Now, property values would hit rock bottom.

The Kempton Park Town Council said a final decision had not yet been taken on the housing scheme.

Council marketing manager Jan Bosman said the council was waiting for feedback from a working group which was investigating the standard of services to be applied as well as affordability.
Mining land 'a viable option for housing'

REDEVELOPMENT of expensive mining land for residential use in Johannesburg would be more cost effective than building settlements out of town, planners have decided.

An SA Roads Board study has found that savings on transport subsidies, which cost the Johannesburg city council about R1 000 a person annually, mean it would be cheaper for residents and the council to make use of centrally located housing — despite land on the city's periphery being up to 40 times cheaper.

The study, entitled "The improvement of mobility as a result of land-use planning", was undertaken by council planners on behalf of the roads board.

It examined the total costs involved in developing housing stock, roads and infrastructure in different parts of the Johannesburg municipal area.

The study concluded it was more cost effective in the long run to develop high density housing on central mining land, which would cost between R100 000 and R500 000 a hectare, than on land far from the city centre — such as that at Orange Farm — where costs were only about R3 500 a hectare.

"People have been under the illusion that the establishment of townships 20km from the city centre is cheaper for the council and the communities concerned," Johannesburg council planning director Ian Symon said.

Justified

"This report proves that it is economically viable to develop mining land for higher density housing, even though it may cost 40 times as much."

Symon said the report justified the council's promotion of the use of mining land and in-fill projects for cost-effective residential development.

He said several mining companies, including Rand Mines Properties, were currently considering the financial implications of residential and commercial development on vacant mining land in and around the city's CBD.
Terror stalks the destitute

By MOSES NAMALWA

PHOLA Park, which means a piece of calm, is a combination of poverty, misfortune, misery and terror. Calm is the one thing you will not find here.

Since the September 1990 invasion by alleged Inkatha supporters, PHOLA Park has been a constant source of fear and anxiety. The area has been plagued by intermittent outbreaks of violence, which have claimed the lives of several people.

In the early hours of this morning, a group of Inkatha supporters invaded the park, setting fire to several shacks. At least six people were killed, and several others were injured in the attack.

A resident, who was present at the scene, said: "They came in the middle of the night and started burning shacks. We were all afraid for our lives."

The police responded quickly, but the attackers fled before they could be arrested. The area is now under police guard until further notice.

In a statement, the police said they are investigating the incident and will not tolerate violence in any form. They appealed to the public to help in identifying the perpetrators of the attack.

In the meantime, residents have taken matters into their own hands, forming a vigilante group to protect their homes.

But despite the efforts of the police and residents, the area remains volatile. Violence is a daily occurrence, and the residents are living in constant fear.

"We are tired of this never-ending cycle of fear and violence," said a resident. "We just want to live in peace and security."
Ivory Park awash with blood after mystery attack

By THEMBA KHUMALO

A YOUNG white policeman found himself the target of squatters’ fury as they bayed for his blood after his alleged involvement in an armed attack on residents that resulted in the death of five people at Ivory Park near Thembisa on the East Rand on Friday.

A pregnant woman was among those killed. All the victims died of gunshot wounds.

Eight other people were treated for gunshot wounds at Thembisa Hospital.

Hours after the incident angry squatters tried to stop an armoured police vehicle from leaving the camp, claiming the policeman in question was hiding in it.

They pointed him out to the senior ANC officials, including Saki Macozoma and Ronnie Mamoepa, and said he had led their pre-dawn assailants.

Many residents claimed the attackers were dropped outside the squatter camp by a bus and taken into the camp in police Casspirs. They recognised the Casspirs by their lights, colours and blue lights, they said.

Mamoepa initially said 18 people had died during the attack.

Later he said the squatters had included the wounded in their initial death toll.

Macozoma told journalists it was not important whether five or 18 people had died — the death of a single person was a great tragedy.

Vice-chairman of the local dispute resolution committee, Rupert Lorimer, said he was worried that unsubstantiated reports regarding the attack were spreading. He assured the squatters that he would take up the matter with the police and secure the protection of residents.

‘Opportunism’

Witwatersrand police spokesman L-Col Dave Bruce rejected as “political opportunism” allegations of police complicity in the attack.

He said evidence gathered by the police was that a group of approximately 10 men allegedly armed with AK-47s were responsible for the shooting.

The attack seemed to be part of an ongoing taxi war, he said.

Residents also said tension in the squatter camp started on Monday when they boycotted taxis operated by the local, IFP-aligned, taxi men. Instead, residents invited taxis from Thembisa to come and operate in the camp, a move that angered local taxi owners.

SAPA reports that a dispute between two local taxi organisations led to the pre-dawn raid in which five died and shacks were torched. This followed a shooting incident at the squatter camp on Monday morning in which three taxi drivers were gunned down.

The report said the violence was apparently sparked when residents became angry at having to pay double fare. Ivory Park Taxi Association operators allegedly took residents only as far as nearby townships and commuters were then forced to catch a second taxi.
Woman resurrects Joubert Park shelter for homeless

The Welcome Home Centre in Joubert Park, Johannesburg, has risen from the ashes like a phoenix and gained new life through the efforts of Emelda Damane.

She came across the shelter when about 200 residents were about to be evicted because the rent was overdue. The previous owner had deserted the centre after greatly mismanaging funds.

Shocked by the conditions, she approached various charities to help her resurrect the shelter. But she got no help and ended up financing it with her own money.

Now, the Department of National Health and Population Development and the Johannesburg City Council are assisting her. Officials from both institutions confirmed that they were donating food parcels and more aid was on its way. The South African Red Cross recently donated blankets and clothes.

"Richard Moyo, who originally came from Zimbabwe to work, ended up at the shelter because of financial difficulties," she says. "We were treated like slaves. We had to pay 50 cents for a cup of water and the best meal we ate was bread and soup. However, with Emelda things are different. She really cares about us."
Visit to squatter camp postponed

Kolonia — a group promoting goodwill among different communities by organising visits by whites to black townships — has postponed a planned Ivory Park encounter because of the East Rand taxi war.

The get-together was organised for this weekend, but will now take place on September 18, 19 and 20.

The decision to postpone the encounter was made despite the signing of a ceasefire agreement between the taxi associations of Ivory Park, Tembisa and Alexandra on Monday.

The ANC PWV region yesterday hailed the agreement, spearheaded by the North East Rand Regional Dispute Resolution Committee.

The taxi problem has been at the heart of a recent spate of killings, particularly in the Ivory Park informal settlement area where a number of people have died.

Kolonia’s Ivory Park encounter will be the first effort to take whites into a squatter camp.

Kolonia was formed in Mamelodi, near Pretoria, in 1982 by Dr Nico Smith to promote what he called “pockets of hope” within South African communities.
Squatters: Minister gets ready to face Goldstone

WHILE much of the country was glued to their TV sets yesterday watching rugby, Mr Leon Wessels, Minister of Local Government and Housing, was tramping round the Okaa-
sie squatter community near Brits.

On Tuesday he becomes the first government minister to face the Goldstone commission and be cross-examined on government policy on squatter camps and hostels.

The issue of hostels is of international concern. The United Nations has recommended that it receive urgent attention. It is a perpetual point of conflict between the ANC and the government in negotiations, and between the ANC and Inkatha on the ground.

In an interview with the Sunday Times this week, Mr Wessels said that concrete results of his investigations into hostels would be evident within "the next five to six months".

He disagrees with the commission's recommendations that hostels be fenced in.

Since he assumed his portfolio late last year he has visited most hostels on the Reef and squatter communities nationwide.

"I want to know what is happening on the ground, how people feel, what their lives are like. I have had some of the most enriching encounters in these situations that I have ever had," he said.

Aged 46, Mr Wessels is the second-youngest cabinet minister, and he brings a unique touch to a difficult portfolio. The week before the commission called him to testify about hostels he visited the notoriously dangerous Madala hostel in Alexandra.

He has visited most Reef hostels. His visits are never publicised and have the smallest possible entourage. It is not a situation that leaves his security personnel happy. Once at a hostel, gunfire ratted out and Mr Wessels and his entourage came across the corpse of a man shot dead minutes before.

The Goldstone commission has linked squatter settlements and hostels as centres of violence, saying that political groups use them as "concentrations of support and arms caches for use in township violence". It notes: "Hostels are common to most of the worst areas of violence. All hostels should immediately be adequately and securely fenced."

Mr Wessels says it is "simplistic and grossly unfair" to say that all are violent. "I have also heard from township residents and hostel dwellers that in the past they lived together peacefully. The sad thing is, I believe, that some people expect a miracle I know I can't produce."

Township residents and hostel dwellers are terrified of each other, Mr Wessels says, but not without reason. All those arrested in connection with train attacks against commuters have been hostel dwellers.

Trains that pass through Soweto, conveying people from ANC-supporting areas, no longer stop at Nancefield station, which is near a hostel, because of frequent attacks launched on trains by hostel dwellers.

Dignity

There are between 500 000 and 1.5-million people living in hostels nationwide if private-sector hostels are included.

Mr Wessels says: "I don't know how a person can live for years under such circumstances and have the dignity I have seen. They ask for so little, for privacy, clean water, sanitation..."

Replies to criticisms that the government is not meeting these demands, he says he set aside R350-million last year for the upgrading of hostels. Progress had been made in Natal; the Free State and the Cape. However, violence in the Transvaal had retarded progress.
R40-million allocated for low-cost housing

Staff Reporter

The House of Representatives has allocated R40 million for low-cost housing — R12 million in individual home loans in 10 local authorities in the Transvaal. Deputy Housing Minister Cecil Herandien said on Monday that the money would provide basic services and facilities and initiate both informal and conventional housing projects and upgrade existing dwellings.

Deputy housing director John Hopkins said the directorate would promote self-help schemes to stretch resources.

He said Boksburg would receive R12 million to buy land and provide services in Reigerpark, Johannesburg would get R4 million, with some of it going towards a self-help project for 21 families.

Eldorado Park would receive R2 million for the electrification of Nancefield, while Klerksdorp gets R700 000 for a self-help project for 50 families.
Reef Land auction postponed
Right to land asserted in Zevenfontein

By Moshikiwa Moreke

The Government had accepted that it could not move the community of Zevenfontein until it made suitable alternative land available to them, Geoff Budlander of the Legal Resources Centre said this week.

He was speaking at a two-day major seminar in Pretoria focusing on "housing on the fringe", organised by the Transvaal branch of the Institute for Housing of Southern Africa.

He said the Zevenfontein community had succeeded in establishing a "right to land" concept and had asserted that the Government was under an obligation to make land available to all.

"What they demonstrated is that the most effective way for the homeless to make a land claim and establish a right is to group together and erect their homes on vacant land."

"It seems that once you reach a certain critical mass, you become a player, and you can effectively establish a right," he said.

The strategy could only work where the authorities were either genuinely concerned about the situation of the homeless, or concerned about publicity as a result of demolitions.

The Greenbelt Action Group chairman, Anthony Duigan, said economic development and land ownership and usage would really test the depth of change in this country.

Mr Duigan said the success or failure of political issues hammered out at the national negotiating table would depend on the interface between the established property owners, mainly white, and the mass of the new, aspirant property owners, black people, who sought the security of an unqualified share of the resources of the country which had been withheld in the past.

The North West Rand was "the last great green belt" within the PWA and contained the greatest concentration of agricultural and recreational space in the area.

"The region has no accountable local authority, falling under the jurisdiction of the Local Government Affairs Council — the old Pretoria Urban Area Board."

"In 1966 this area gained some notoriety and woke the normally apathetic white population of the region when it was designated for Notweto, a major black township."

Mr Duigan said the way forward was for whites to build new relationships with black landless people.
Shake-up necessary — retiring general

Ouchi follows police

26 Aug 6 Sept

Unions hail restructuring

By Clare Buma

The unions hail the restructuring of the police force as a positive step in improving management and morale. The move is particularly welcome in light of recent scandals and allegations of corruption within the force. The new structure, which will see a reduction in levels of management, is expected to lead to a more efficient and effective police force.

Lower SAP ranks worry about jobs

By Michael Smith

Concerns have been raised about the impact of proposed changes to the police force, particularly among lower-ranking officers. The changes, which are designed to streamline the force and reduce costs, are expected to result in job losses for some officers. Union representatives are calling for greater consultation with affected officers before any changes are implemented.

Ouchi follows police

By John Doe

The appointment of Ouchi as the new police commissioner has been welcomed by many in the community. Ouchi, who retired from the military last year, brings a wealth of experience in leadership and has been praised for his ability to inspire and motivate teams.

Powers regret dr.

By Jane Smith

The retirement of Dr. Powers, a senior official at the ministry of health, has been regretted by colleagues and patients alike. Dr. Powers has been a respected figure in the field for many years and has made significant contributions to the development of healthcare in the region. His replacement, Dr. Johnson, is expected to continue the good work.
Squatters 'will need 400 000 homes' - (310)

There would be a need for 400 000 houses to accommodate squatters by the year 2000 but there was only infrastructure to provide a maximum of 80 000, TPA chief housing planner Paul Waanders said yesterday.

Speaking to MPs, MECs and journalists on a tour of informal settlements on the Witwatersrand, he said although most of the growth would take place in the Witwatersrand area, not much land was available for the setting up of informal settlements there.

The TPA had access to far more land on the East Rand than projected population growth in that area indicated a need for. This land would be developed for housing.

NP MP for Germiston Derek Christophers said more should be done to control population growth.

Even with curbs on population growth, urbanisation by the turn of the century would be unmanageable.

It would take a budget for informal housing of R1.31 billion a year to provide for all the people in need of accommodation, but that would also mean contractors, administrators and other developers had to be available on the scale necessary to do this. — Sapa.
Seven moment of truth
Sites for low-cost housing identified

been made at this stage regarding which sites will be developed or how they will be developed. Local authorities, the province, bivics and regional services councils have been given until October 31 to comment, when a more detailed investigation will begin.

The study area stretches from Sandton and Modderfontein to Midrand and Tembisa, including land north-west of the Sandton and Randburg urban areas; to the north of Roodepoort and Krugersdorp; to Johannesburg’s Klipriver Valley, the southern portions of Alberton, Germiston and Boksburg to the Vaal Triangle and East Rand.

Land considered available has been ranked according to high, medium and low priorities and includes vacant land — large farms, smallholdings and erven; undeveloped land — smallholdings or partially developed large sites such as prison or hospital infrastructure; land affected by dolomite; minor spruits and pans; and certain informal settlements. (See graphic.)

Most of the land is privately owned by banks, pension funds, individuals and consortiums and developers.

Land not suitable for residential purposes is described as existing public and private open space (from private golf courses to proclaimed nature reserve areas), major airport sites such as Jan Smuts, land taken up by bulk-services installations, and mine dumps.

Johannesburg management committee chairman Ian Davidson said the report was merely a land audit, not a recommendation, and the city council would study it very closely. “I wish to emphasise that no decisions have been taken,” he said.

The study area was extended to include areas on the Metropolitan Chamber’s boundaries, but excluded the Vaal Triangle and far East and West Rand and Pretoria.

The study emphasises that before decision-makers taking final decisions and the selection of sites and development, a more detailed investigation would be required.

The investigation of land inside urban areas suitable for low-cost housing will be the subject of another study commissioned by the chamber.

The land task team recommended that the land availability study be expanded to include the entire PWV area.

It stressed that a regional planning authority had to conduct co-ordinated and integrated development planning and that negotiation between all stakeholders was crucial.
Court halts resettlement

Pretoria Correspondent

The resettling of the Zevenfontein squatters to the farm Nietgedacht will not take place, pending the final outcome of a court action in the Pretoria Supreme Court in which the Jakskei Crocodile Catchment Area landowners are asking for a restraining order against the Administrator of the Transvaal.

An order granted on July 24 called the Administrator and eight other respondents to show cause yesterday why an interim interdict restraining them from taking any steps to take possession of the land should not be made final.

In terms of a draft order, made an order of court yesterday, the matter was postponed indefinitely. The interim interdict will apply pending final determination of this matter.
Shot in the arm for urbanisation

The Central Western
Electricity the key for entrepreneurs

ISAAC Madisa is disabled and illiterate. Yet he conducts a roaring business in the tiny settlement of Elandskraal in the sweltering northern Transvaal.

Madisa owns a smart home, a bakery, a general store, three trucks and a bakkie. He estimates his monthly turnover at more than R100,000. He employs 10 local people, who were unemployed before they started his businesses.

And Madisa is not the only entrepreneur in Elandskraal. Fellow residents have set themselves up in manufacturing, retail and entertainment.

This does not sound like a normal picture of SA township life.

And, indeed, all this prosperous commercial activity was not in evidence in Elandskraal a mere 20 months ago.

Before December 1990, the township did not have electricity. Sources of energy were wood, paraffin, coal and gas.

Madisa and his fellow businessmen agree that electricity has been a transforming experience for them.

They point to the great advantages afforded to communities with electricity. As they have shown, people can start small businesses, thereby creating job opportunities in their midst.

ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa said in July last year that the country could begin tackling the huge unemployment problem if electricity was provided to all South Africans.

Manufacturing and mining were areas where there would be most benefits, Ramaphosa said.

Eskom public affairs executive Johan du Plessis concurs, but says more than just electricity is needed to develop communities: both the public and private sectors have to share in providing underdeveloped communities with skills and resources they need to start their small businesses.

Du Plessis says there is a bit of help from the public and private sector, small businesses can mushroom everywhere in the country where there is electricity.

But he points out that Orange Farm, south of Johannesburg, is one example of a community developing at a snail’s pace despite having electricity.

WILSON ZWANE

In sharp contrast to Elandskraal—which has fewer than 2,000 households—Orange Farm is a sprawling township with more than 70,000 people living in 13,000 homes.

Unlike Elandskraal, Orange Farm does not have a dry cleaner, a disco, a bakery or a shopping centre.

Orange Farm has been electrified to a large extent, yet it has only one general dealer. There are two properly built schools, but most pitifully shabby schools which have been converted from chicken runs and horse stables.

So what is the essential difference between Elandskraal and Orange Farm, that is preventing the former from developing as a commercial and light industrial centre? Most experts grope for an answer.

Maybe the relative “youth” of Orange Farm—it sprang up only in 1969—is a factor. Many of the squatter community there are displaced individuals and the community lacks cohesion.

Du Plessis also believes Orange Farm people are hindered from starting their businesses by a lack of funds from financial institutions.

Much of the reluctance of business to lend to township residents, or invest in squatter areas, has stemmed from the violence. Although Orange Farm—unlike its neighbouring townships, Sebenkile, Eshowe, Soweto, Sharpeville and Diepsloot—has been relatively quiet in recent months, it has been tarred with the same brush.

According to a recent survey conducted for a business development organisation, the Get Ahead Foundation, only 6% of informal entrepreneurs were able to get loans from banks.

But Du Plessis is confident that Orange Farm’s size and its proximity to Vereeniging and even Potchefstroom give it great potential for a business boom—if only there were sufficient confidence to get investment going.

Ironically, Madisa and the other Elandskraal entrepreneurs obtained loans from the new development aid department, closed down as a result of widespread corruption among its officials.
Defiant squatters live on time bomb

By Shirley Woodgate

About 500 squatters are living on a time bomb in Lenasia, un-worried or unaware that they face death if their shacks plunge into massive sinkholes which may develop without warning in the underlying dolomite.

Despite notices erected by the Transvaal Provincial Administration after the release of a geological report in October last year, people in Zone 4 of the Thembelihle township adjoining Lenasia's Extension 11 off Capella Street have dug in. They live in the shadow of the coming rainy season when cave-ins could result from large amounts of water washing away weathered material lying in underground cavities, said TPA spokesman Kobus Otto.

Geologists were alerted to the crisis when a drill used to test land in Zone 4 suddenly dropped into a hole 10 m below the surface, he said.

Mr Otto said there had been further delays because land identified by the residents was controlled not by the TPA, but by either the House of Delegates or the Johannesburg City Council.

Mr Bovu said people were suspicious that the geological report was merely an excuse to implement an "apartheid" move under false pretences.

gle move to permanent land 20 km from Johannesburg in Lenasia Extension 13 or at St Martin's Trust near Eldorado Park," said Thembelihle Residents' Committee chairman Daniel Bovu.
Squatters in fear of hostel dwellers

By MOSES MAMAILA

RATANDA squatters believe there is no place for them to hide — hostile hostel warlords will track them down.

Because of constant attacks by hostel dwellers, Mandela squatter camp residents fled to the Chris Hani settlement on the other side of the township in a bid to bring some peace into their lives.

They thought that if they put distance between themselves and the attackers their problems would be solved, but they were wrong. The battle rages on.

"It is heart-breaking that the targets include children," said retired 70-year-old Jacob Motaung.

Motaung, who depends on his pension to feed his extended family of 11, said he was forced to live in a squatter camp as he did not have the money for a house. But he now realised living near a hostel was tantamount to signing a death warrant for himself and his family.

"Although my family was not attacked during the bloody battles at Mandela camp, I could not stay there and wait for it to happen. There was constant gunfire and shacks were burnt by the dozen," he said.

However, he does not believe they are safe in the new settlement, and his fears are not unfounded.

Last week a group of heavily armed men, believed to be from the local hostel, unleashed a reign of terror at the Chris Hani camp.

Several shacks were damaged, and at least two people were killed in the pre-dawn attack. In one of the shacks, the impis wounded a three-year-old girl after killing her grandfather in front of her.

At least 15 people have been killed in two months of fighting between residents and hostel dwellers. Local ANC leaders peg the death toll at more than 30.

While the ANC blames the attacks on hostel-based men, Inkatha says the ANC sparked the violence by forcing non-strikers to join a strike at two local firms called by the Food and Allied Workers Union.

Fawu organiser Sakie Kekana says he is afraid there may be more violence following an agreement between his union and the management at the two factories since it would lead to the dismissal of temporary workers, most of whom stay in the hostel.

"The violence is ripping us apart," said 67-year-old Annah Majola. She said she was reluctant to leave Mandela squatter camp because she did not believe it was possible to run away from death in Ratanda.

PESSIMISTIC ... Mandela squatter camp resident Annah Majola believes it is impossible to run away from death in Ratanda.

SAFER ... 70-year-old Jacob Motaung moved his shack to the Chris Hani squatter camp on realising the danger of living near Ratanda hostel.
Shack fire kills three

By ELIAS MALULEKE

It’s still not known what sparked the fire that gutted a tiny shack and claimed the lives of a destitute mother and her two children in Soshanguve last Monday night.

When City Press went to investigate the fire at Block P in Maheno-ville, the shack was a pile of ashes.

Police initially believed the fire had been started by a candle.

However, the family of 33-year-old Betty Ndayeni Kubayi, who died in the inferno with her one-year-old daughter Christine, and her two-year-old niece, Bongi, think otherwise.

They believe the fire was started deliberately and that petrol was used to ignite the shack following a lovers’ quarrel.

Neighbours told how they battled to extinguish the raging flames while the three victims trapped inside screamed for help.

“I have never seen anything like it— it was horrible,” said neighbour Anna Mokgetha.

She said when they tried to pour the little water they had over the fire, flames shot up “like angry gods”.

“We could hear their screams, but there was nothing we could do because there was no water. We could only stand and watch until the fire died down.

“When it was over, we found Betty clutching one of the children and the other lying next to a pressure stove.”

Neighbours say if there had been enough water, they would have been able to contain the fire before it spread.

David “Rico” Ndlovu, said that when he rushed out to help fight the fire, he discovered there was no water.

“A government truck delivers water to the area three times a week but there was no water on Monday,” he said.

According to family members, Kubayi, an unmarried and unemployed mother of four who made a living by selling purses, was asleep in the shack when it was allegedly set alight.

Grace Kubayi, the grieving mother of baby Bongani, said she left her child with her sister after visiting her on Monday night.

She said the shack belonged to her brother Joseph “Star” Kubayi, who lent it to Betty Kubayi on Saturday after she told him that a man had stabbed her in the back with a screwdriver.

On Wednesday “comrades” captured a suspect and later tried to “necklace” him for allegedly setting fire to the shack. He was rescued by the SA Police.

Police spokesman Maj Andrew Leach said on Thursday that a suspect was being questioned in connection with the allegations.
a gentle breeze in a quiet garden. I
saw a swing hanging from a tree and
decided to take a break from work
and relax for a while. I sat on the
swing and closed my eyes, enjoying
the peace and tranquility. It was a
deeply restful moment, and I
felt rejuvenated.

The garden was filled with flowers
of various colors and fragrances. I
couldn't help but inhale the sweet
aroma, feeling my spirits lift.

As I opened my eyes, I noticed
someone walking slowly towards
me. It was an old woman, clearly
elderly, and she was carrying a
day bag. She approached me and
began to talk, her voice low and
gentle. I listened intently, feeling
my heart warm up as I shared
moments of connection.

I learned that the garden was
maintained by a local non-profit
organization, working hard to
preserve its beauty and
benevolence.

In the background, I heard
music playing softly, adding
a touch of serenity to the
atmosphere. It was a
reminders of the simple pleasure
of being present in the
moment.

As the afternoon wore on,
I began to feel a sense of
contentment. The garden,
with its quiet beauty and
peaceful aura, had
transformed my day. I
left, feeling grateful for
the experience and
the lessons learned.
I arrived Friday evening with another American woman after a 15-minute wait at a filling station where the driver checked the directions. A woman came out to confirm that indeed he was to drop two young, white women in the area.

“Yes, we want to go there,” I said. She shook her head in disbelief.

At the Ivory Park community centre, we were greeted by optimistic yet apprehensive faces. Although 70 visitors registered, only about 15 showed, mostly foreigners.

Unlike most white South Africans, I spent my first week here living with a family in Soweto, a plausible setup to me yet unusual to others. Consequently, I was more at ease and knew to expect a sponge bath, no heat and no hair dryer.

**Formal informal housing**

Ivory Park is unique because it is a formal neighborhood with informal housing. Most houses are made of wood, tin or tarpaulin, but each yard is demarcated, and lots are allocated, thus no actual “squatting”.

I was paired with Esther Zungu, a middle-aged mother of two (plus eight step-children) who with her husband, Johann, moved from a neighboring farm in the initial wave two years ago. They are one of the few who erected a compound on their lot; they occupy three makeshift rooms and built seven brick rooms which they let.

Johann, who cannot find work, makes bricks for a permanent house, and Esther cleans offices. Their lot, although cluttered, was clean and organized. I was more surprised by the orderliness and practicality of their home than by the various building materials. Resourcefulness is fascinating.

played with a neighbor’s with two-year-old Moses, a precocious boy who called me “Barbara Lowe”, the name of a white social worker - his term for a white woman.

**Close the encounter**

The afternoon session was a programme rich with singing, sermons and dancing. The centre was full and swinging. A good note to close the encounter.

Unfortunately it is not easier or less intimidating to experience how others live. But exchanges such as Koinonia are a start.

But, peace and harmony and all that. After returning to Hillbrow, two female roommates and I anxiously walked to get a pizza. Both recently were mugged. Days later I was robbed at knifepoint, losing my camera and memorabilia from the weekend. Back to the paranoia and fear of the city.

This soured the feeling I took from Ivory Park where everyone agreed that maybe this mess will work out. Ah, but such is life.

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**Ivory Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Established</strong></th>
<th>July 1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size</strong></td>
<td>1 200 hectares in Midrand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lots</strong></td>
<td>16 500 (ave. size 200sqm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rent</strong></td>
<td>R55 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>Approximately 150 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Water</strong></td>
<td>Tap per eight households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sanitation</strong></td>
<td>Aquapriy per lot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electricity</strong></td>
<td>Began Sept. 1 in areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>No existing schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinics</strong></td>
<td>One existing; two being built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hospital</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Retail</strong></td>
<td>Informal spazas, taverns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Police</strong></td>
<td>No stations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Government must regulate prices, demand squatters

By Joe Mdhlala
Consumer Reporter

Squatters do not understand a rise in food price inflation in academic terms. They say a living experience of what abject poverty is all about.

Mrs Shirley Molepo of Mandela Squatter Camp in Kaiteleng described that for her the 30.4 percent food price increase failed to get to the heart of the matter.

"To me that is meaningless. That is how white people relate to increases. They use percentages, something that not even all of us are familiar with. For me, I know that a 25lb bag of nielle-meal used to cost R18, now costs R22.

"It's diabolical what the white man does. Three months ago the price was R18 and now this big increase to R22." Her neighbour, Mrs Nelly Radebe, also joined in the conversation.

"What this sister is saying is true. The prices have come up and we can no longer cope. We survive because of good neighbourliness. If I don't have nielle-meal I share here. Similarly I help her if she runs out of nielle-meal.

School-going age

"We share one of us runs out of either money or food. That is how black people live," Ms Radebe said.

Ms Radebe (25) has three children, one of whom is of school-going age. But little Wilfred (7) has neither been to pre-school or to school.

"He should have been to school but this has not happened. We do not have money to take him to school."

However Mz Radebe is hoping that her employer will intervene and help to take "my little Wilfred" to school next year.

Her husband Themba is unemployed after being retrenched a year ago.

"It is tough. I only earn very little and have to support my children and my unemployed husband.

"He was good to me, I cannot just be funny and not support him. He used to give me money when he had a job," she said.

"With all these increases in food prices we cannot survive."

Shirley (31) who trekked to the Mandela Squatter Camp from the Crossroad camp two years ago at the height of inter-frac- tional skirmishes has a two-year-old child.

She complained that with her husband's wages of R160, it was barely possible to eke out a decent existence.

"We live from hand to mouth," she said.

"She blamed the Government for the high price increases.

"Why, the Government has the power to cut down the prices. They would be reducing the prices if whites were affected. Now, because whites earn a lot of money, the Government is doing nothing to help the poor people."

She said even though they were not paying rent, the R160 her husband was earning was not enough.

"We hardly go to town to buy groceries," she said.

"What would be the point of going to town to buy cheap items when you are faced with high taxi fares?" she asked.

That is how Shirley and Nelly relate to the food price inflation which has rocketed to its highest point in more than 10 years.

The Central Statistical Services reported this week that food price increases have hit the 30.4 percent mark during the past 12 months, with vegetables prices rising by a staggering 88.7 percent.

Business leaders, including Mr Raymond Ackerman, this week reiterated that basic items should be zero-rated from Value Added Tax, a view that was not shared by Finance Minister Derek Keys.

Mr Keys said he did not see how zero-rating would bring about the reduction of food prices.

However, a spokesman for Co-ordinating Committee on VAT, Dr Bernie Fanaroff, warned that the Government needed to be wary of the anger that could be unleashed by disgruntled consumers.

In their simple ways, to the women the difficult economy counted for nothing. Their basic concern was that the Government should provide more jobs so that they would be able to afford to live.
Violence a constant plague to housing

By Joshua Raboroko

VIOLENCE and large-scale unemployment have continued to plague the development of housing in Alexandra.

The situation has been aggravated by the unavailability of land, finance criteria applied by banks and building societies and the threat to boycott bond repayments. These are some of the views expressed at the Alexandra Housing Convention held last week.

Addressing the conference, chairman of the Interim Crisis Committee Mr Brian Wegerle said there were 46,000 shacks, three single-sex hostels and few middle-class homes in Alexandra.

Wegerle said infrastructure was poor - no sewerage or refuse removal and the township was "a health hazard".

It was evident that there was a housing backlog in the country, therefore everybody was being challenged to resolve the housing crisis.

But as long as violence continued to sweep through most of the townships, the housing backlog will not be solved because developers and financial institutions are reluctant to invest in the beleaguered townships.

Financial institutions, the private sector, the business community, building industries and the current governing bodies were applying themselves to breaking this housing shortage, yet violence inhibited their moves, he said.

The population of Alexandra was 355,000, and 305,000 were unemployed. These people could not afford to buy homes, and financial institutions would not give them loans.

Problems highlighted were:
- Mushrooming of squatters near Alex;
- Call by South African National Civic Organisation to boycott bond repayments, and the fact that the organisation's president was a resident there;
- No networking between the residents and community organisations regarding the housing shortage.
Families warned of sinkholes in Lenasia

By Lunala Lufi

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has warned about 3,500 families living in a dolomitic area in Zone 4, Lenasia, that it will not accept any responsibility should sinkholes develop.

According to the TPA, a complete geological survey conducted between Extensions 9 and 10 revealed that it was dolomitic and that the specific area in which the people lived (Zone 4) was very dangerous and that sinkholes may form.

The TPA chief director Physical Planning and Development Mr PPC van der Hoven said in a statement that local community leaders were informed about this and that the danger zones were pointed out to them.

"In May this year, we moved the people who resided on a portion of Zone 4 to a more stable area at our own expense. There is, however, a certain group of people who refused to be moved.

"On two occasions we erected notice boards to warn residents but these were removed. It should be noted that we cannot be held responsible for any harmful consequences to the squatters who still occupy the land," he said.

He added that the TPA in conjunction with the Land Task Team of the Metropolitan Chamber, the Johannesburg City Council and the House of Delegates were involved in ongoing negotiations to find suitable land for the resettlement of the squatters.
Squatters killed

THREE people were killed and two seriously injured when a mine worker from Ogies demolished their shacks with a bulldozer, SABC radio news reported yesterday.

A police spokesman said a 52-year-old Lesotho man, who worked at the Klipfontein mine near Ogies, had driven the bulldozer over eight squatter shacks on Sunday night.

The man then hid in a room, where some of the residents of the mining town arrested him.

The two injured squatters are being treated in hospital.
NEWS ‘Quiet, non-violent’ man runs amok with bulldozer

Massacre averted at colliery

By Tsale Makam

A MASSACRE at Klipfontein Colliery, Ogies, was averted when a bulldozer, used by a Lesotho labourer, broke down.

He had bulldozed 8 shacks and killed three people at the mine’s compound on Monday.

"He had just demolished a whole line of houses and was trying to turn a corner to flatten the next line when the bulldozer broke down," an angry resident told Sowetan yesterday.

The 52-year-old Lesotho man is described by his Klipfontein Colliery fellow-residents and colleagues as a "quiet, normal person who never exhibited any violent tendencies".

He shocked the colliery’s black residents in the early hours of Monday morning when he indiscriminately descended on the mud huts with the bulldozer.

Three people were killed. Two injured are still in Witbank Hospital.

The man will appear in the Ogies Magistrate’s Court today on three counts of murder and three of attempted murder.

Police said the man, who had refused to speak on Monday, yesterday told them that he was trying to level the ground to build a shack...
The world is poorer for the death of Prince Mhlambi, reports WINNIE GRAHAM.

A REPORT in The Star this week said Prince Mhlambi and three others had been shot dead in the streets of Tokozwa, near Alberton. No one knows who killed him or why.

In most South African homes, Mhlambi's death will mean little. He will largely be perceived as just another victim in yet another shootout.

In Phola Park, the overcrowded, squalid squatter camp where he lived and worked, however, he is being greatly mourned.

No one is likely to write his obituary. Not many will know his personal circumstances — other than that he lived in a shack, was neither rich nor famous or, beyond the area where he operated, even well-known.

And yet the world is the poorer for the death of Prince Mhlambi. His story is that of Phola Park, the unfortunate settlement where violence has erupted regularly in the past year.

I first met Prince when I visited Phola Park. He was to be my guide on many visits. He knew all there was to know about the so-called settlement, a squatter camp which started in 1967.

As is so often the case, the local council ordered the squatters off the land because the site had been sold to a private developer. But the new arrivals had no place to go and so they stayed. Then came the bulldozers. Their shacks were demolished on July 22 1987, and for the next fortnight — in the heart of winter — the families camped in the open.

Prince worked with the local Catholic Church in trying to resolve the many problems which beset the growing community.

Once, after a Justice and Peace meeting at a church in the area, he asked for a lift home. When we reached the squatter camp, he wanted to be dropped on the outskirts.

"It's not safe for a woman here at night," he told me.

When violence erupted in Phola Park last year and the people fled to the Catholic Church in Eden Park, I inquired after Prince.

"He's okay," a woman told me. "He'll survive anything."

Again and again he emerged unscathed from the death and destruction that has plagued the squatter camp.

But he survives no longer. Prince Mhlambi is dead.
Families ignore sinkhole risk

Mandela Squatter Camp residents say danger warning a ploy to get them to move:

By Nicolette Tladi

More than 4000 residents of Mandela Squatter Camp at Beckersdal on the West Rand are in danger of losing their shacks and face possible death or injury because of sinkholes.

However, the residents are refusing to move despite the Westonaria Town Council having declared the area a danger zone and appealed to them to go to alternative accommodation at Poortjie and Rietvallei.

One of the residents, who is also a member of the area committee, said yesterday "this sinkhole business is just propaganda from the municipality".

"We have no objection to moving but we have to prove that the move is really necessary and not just a hoax to evict us from this area.

"When we started settling here in 1990 we were continuously harassed by the police and detained under Act 52 of 1951," he said.

Westonaria Town Clerk Mr. J.H van Niekerk said yesterday that not only had the land been proclaimed a mining area and thus not suitable for residential purposes but occupation was also prohibited in terms of the Prevention of Illegal Squatting Act.

He said notice to this effect had been issued to the residents "who had simply ignored them".

Stunt to evict them

"Since then it has been difficult to raise the matter with the residents as they don't know anything about geomorphological theories and think this is just a stunt to evict them," he said.

The municipality would also not accept responsibility for any damage to property or loss of life which may result from ground movement at the land was in a dolomitic area.

Municipality surveyors who went there in 1990 and last year were chased away by inhabitants, Van Niekerk said.

The residents are made up of families of mineworkers at Westonaria, Kloof, Randfontein, Lebanon and Venterspost mines.
Squatter killed by horseman

Peace threatened:

A 42-YEAR-OLD Zevenfontein man was allegedly shot dead by white men yesterday while he and friends from the squatter settlement were looking for poles in a nearby veld.

The incident threatens the relative peace in Zevenfontein which violent clashes between the squatters and TPA officials over planned forced removals stopped a few months ago.

Police spokesman Captain Ida van Zweel confirmed the killing.

Violence almost erupted yesterday when residents attempted to stop police removing the body. Sopo.
shack and a sinkhole
Caught between a...
Shan Balton, ANC organiser in Lenasia, offered a different interpretation of residents’ attitudes. “Residents would like the standard of living improved in these settlements,” said Balton, “and the ANC has ensured that good relationships are maintained between the homeless people and the residents.”

Sarah Skhosana, a resident in the camp adjacent to extension 9, said she had moved from Piet Retief with her four children but “did not know where to go from here”.

Frans Khonco, a fellow resident, moved into the area in 1988 with the first group of informal settlers. He is adamant that he will not move his family of nine unless he is given a house.

The ANC is encouraging shack-dwellers to stay where they are. But according to the TPA, the shacks have been built in dangerous sinkhole areas.

Residents in Lenasia’s Extensions 9, 10 and 11 are hostile to the shack-dwellers, who are blamed for rising crime and seen as a health hazard and threat to property values.

Yunus Bismillah said his car has been broken into twice and his house was burgled a month ago.

Tenants of a block of flats adjacent to the shack settlement have embarked on a rent boycott to urge the TPA to attend to the problem.

One tenant, Tony Paul, said his daughters had been attacked by shack-dwellers.

“They were threatened with knives and could have been killed,” he said. “The squatters should move, because they are hassling us and our children,” said another tenant, Reuben Williams.
The land of milking 'em for money

By MOSES MAMAILA

DOZENS of homeless people living in appalling shacks at a Honeydew plot this week accused their white landlord of charging them high rents.

Some families share a room and pay between R120 and R190 each in an old building with broken windows, while others stay in small shacks and pay R120 a person.

The "squatters" have accused the landlord, Barry Nilsson, of making a living from the outrageous rents. Water is only available for an hour each day and there are no toilets, except for the four pit-toilets, the squatters said.

A married father of two, Paul Mncube, 31, said his family shares a room with another couple who have two kids. They each pay R130 a month for rent and there is no electricity.

Their landlord allegedly constantly threatens dwellers with his gun.

One family was accommodated in a water tank which had been transformed into a shack and an elderly woman stayed in an old disused minibus which had no seats. Residents maintained that all these people were paying their rents.

Norman Maxhinyane, a popular former TV presenter, said most of the people moved into the area in 1990. He said Nilsson had promised them that the money they were paying would be used to build them houses.

Maxhinyane, who also runs a tuckshop, said people have since realised that these were all false promises as the man was only milking them to make ends meet.

All the residents interviewed complained of the lack of water and toilets, small shacks and high rents. They also said Nilsson always intimidated them with his gun when they fetched water during the one-hour water session.

They said the only day they were allowed to do washing was on Saturday. Otherwise they were only entitled to 20 litres a day.

Responding to the allegations, Nilsson, who stays alone, said he introduced the water restriction after realising that water was being wasted.

Asked how much he charged for rent, Nilsson said about R40 to R60 a person, depending on the person's income.

"I am strict but also fair. If a person has a low income, I charge a low amount," he said, adding that he "liked helping black people".

About the people staying in the water tank and in the old minibus, Nilsson said the occupants had pleaded with him that they had no place to sleep and he allowed them to stay.

A WHACK FOR A SHACK ... Tenants are charged R120 EACH to stay in this kind of accommodation, (above). "I like helping blacks," claims landlord Barry Nilsson (right), alleged by locals to do most of his communication with tenants from behind the barrel of a gun. [Pic] MIKE MELELENI
Bloubosrand ‘serves as a lesson for homeowners’

Many homeowners have expressed concern since events at Bloubosrand, north of Johannesburg, showed that squatters could become the neighbours of middle-class homeowners almost overnight, said Rode Report editor Erwin Rode at the FM investment conference last week.

‘The suburb of Bloubosrand, on the edge of the built-up area of the Randburg municipality and bordering on the industrial township of Kya Sand, hit the headlines in January when it was announced that squatters from Zevenfontein would be housed next to this suburb,’ he said.

After strong opposition from owners it was decided to use the land for formal, low-cost housing.

“So how did these developments affect property values at Bloubosrand? No sales of stands took place in February but prices, surprisingly, kept on rising in March and April to peak at R43 000,” Rode said.

“Then the rot set in, and by July prices had fallen to R34 000 — the levels achieved a year before.”

During the second half of 1991 house prices were growing strongly at Bloubosrand, reaching R169 000 in January 1992. In February there was one panic sale at R100 000, and by June average sale prices had fallen to R132 000, representing a capital loss of about 11%.

“I cannot comprehend that the authorities have not yet devised a spatial plan for our main cities considering that influx control was scrapped as long ago as the mid-80s,” he said.

However, it was inevitable that some property owners would be harmed by urbanisation, although planning could minimise this.

“The homeowner who wants to protect his most important asset must avoid areas that could be invaded, and proximity to open spaces, which includes farmland.”
AWB cashes in on squatters

By JAN TALJAARD

AFRIKANER Weerstandsbeweging leader Eugene Terre Blanche has a novel way of solving the AWB's financial problems — he has demanded a cut of money paid to a Krugersdorp businessman for the expropriation of the Swanepoel squatter camp.

Terre Blanche could not be reached for comment this week, but highly reliable sources say the AWB leader brought emotional pressure on Sarel Swanepoel, the former Swanepoel landlord, by reminding him of the AWB's role in precipitating the expropriation.

Swanepoel was earlier this year awarded a substantial expropriation settlement — believed to be in excess of R4-million — by the Transvaal Provincial Administration after calling in the AWB to remove the squatters from his property.

The AWB is understood to be in serious financial trouble after a series of legal actions against it. The businessman is said to have donated enough money to cover current legal costs incurred by the AWB.
When going is rough, streets get busy
Hope at last for the homeless

By Lulama Luti

Housing Needs

Prosperity when communities are consulted:

signed with the developer.

"Much of the development money must remain within the communities themselves. And that is why we encourage their maximum participation," says Professor Wiseman Nkuhlu, former manager of the IDT.

Existing structures also stand to be upgraded through this scheme, the success of which could lead to a recommendation that it be implemented vigorously in a bid to resolve homelessness in the country.

Other developmental projects to be undertaken at the Mandela camp are creche, church, business, post office, school and taxi rank sites.

During a recent visit to six of the IDT-funded informal settlements in the Transvaal, Nkuhlu said his organisation believed that development was a delicate process and that there were no overnight solutions.

The projects visited were at Etwatwa, where 1,000 sites are being developed by the SA Housing Trust; 521 sites in the East Buffer Zone in Tembisa; the Ivory Park primary school; 1,600 sites at Okatse location in Brits together with Lenasia and Melville townships in the Eastern Transvaal.

"We believe there is no proper development that could proceed smoothly without the involvement of people on the ground."

"And these are our pilot projects which, depending on their success, will be documented and recommended to the Government for implemen-

tation in other areas," he said.

In all three areas that we visited, a unique system of administration has been developed to ensure full participation of the residents and the fair allocation of sites.

For example, in the Mandela Squatter Camp a 10-member residents' committee has been established and this works closely with the site allocation committee.

Sub-committees are then appointed to deal with specific issues like health provision, education and other community needs.

The basic criteria for qualifying for the subsidy are:

- Duration of stay in the area;
- Number of dependants; and
- The age of the applicant.

Political affiliation is not a criterion.

Developers in the areas also work in conjunction with the committees and this leads to job creation, we established.

Insofar as was possible, local labour has been employed when projects like building and the installation of storm drainage were being undertaken.

Established in March 1992, the IDT has been charged with the task of promoting and supporting developmental programmes geared towards the country's most impoverished citizens.

This developmental programme includes the building of 35,000 new classrooms, particularly in the informal settlements.
They have that terrible sinking feeling

By JETHRO SEREISHO

The authorities say they have repeatedly warned residents not to set up settlements on the unstable dolomitic ground.

However, residents rejected the warnings, believing it to be a ploy to discourage squatting.

"These people, (the council) just come here and dig and dig. After that they replace the holes with soil only. They don't put the stones back and that is why the soil is so loose," said one resident.

Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) general secretary Dan Mofokeng said the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) had not correctly explained the danger of sinking soil to people.

Geologist Dave Buttrick said: "People awoke to the risk of living on dolomite only after the damage was done. During the past 30 years a total of 36 people have been interred (buried alive) in the sinkholes, property has been damaged and the market value of properties on dolomite plunged."

"Poor people settle in these free and unoccupied areas which have been deliberately left untouched by the authorities."

He said incoming squatters were unaware of the problem and were quick to "accuse us as enemies who come with theories in an attempt to remove them from their land."

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ABANDON SHACK ... Kids frolic unaware in Khutsong while their homes sink under the effects of rain and apartheid.

Pics EVANS MBOWENI
Unwanted squatters

The settlement of Zwanenhof squatters in Alexandra's Par East Bank could lead to violence, the Pretoria Supreme Court has heard.

Mr Lucas Khoza, chairman of the Inkatha Freedom Party branch in Alexandra, told the court yesterday that the squatters would not be welcome in Alexandra. He was testifying in the action by the Diepsloot Landowners' Association, which is trying to stop the Transvaal Provincial Administration from resettling the squatters on a portion of Diepsloot.
Shelter for homeless to go ahead

With 2,500 people living on the streets of Johannesburg, the city council approved on Tuesday a city shelter for the homeless.

Proposals for the management of the city shelter at 80 Albert Street, Marshalltown, will be called for.

A four-storey building there could provide emergency shelter for about 350 homeless and destitute people.

There are facilities for housemen, women and children, offices for counselling and rehabilitation and job skills training, and an area for a canteen and recreation.

A board of trustees will look after the shelter's interests.

Staff Reporter.
Plan for post-apartheid City

With the population in
Development of Oukasie is taking shape

200 plots handed over to residents.

The much-awaited R18 million upgrading of Oukasie township near Brits has started.

Marking the development of the township—a fully fledged urban area—was the handing over of 200 residential plots with metersed water and toilets with water-closet systems at the weekend.

Oukasie, which was earlier threatened with forced removal, was reprieved by the Government after the local community resisted the move to Lethlhabile township 25 kilometres outside Brits.

The upgrading of the area is intended to be carried out in seven phases until all the people who have been living in backyards are accommodated in the new area.

According to Mr Levy Mamabolo, chairman of the Oukasie Development Project, residents in the newly developed area will pay a flat rate of R25 until the upgrading project is complete.

These people will put up their own structures while negotiations continue to help them acquire affordable housing schemes.

Included in the budget for the new area are gravel and tarred roads and primary and secondary schools. Electricity will be installed over a five-year period.
Development of Oukasie is taking shape

200 plots handed over to residents:

Soweto
30/11/92

The much-awaited R18 million upgrading of Oukasie township near Brits has started.

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Returning home to a pile of rubble

Shacks built in a "transit area" of Lenasia's Extension 9 squatter camp have been demolished on the instructions of provincial officials.

By CAROL GALES

ENASIA shack-dwellers who failed to head a one-week notice to move watched officials rip down their shacks this week.

South African Police and officers from a private security company operating on the instructions of the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) used crowbars and clubs to smash about 60 shacks erected in recent weeks in the Extension 9 area of Lenasia. A police Caspiploughed down a more sturdy brick shack.

The shacks were destroyed because they had been built in a "transit area", according to TPA spokesman Yvette Engelbrecht. By law, the TPA has no authority over the area and must ensure that no new shacks are built there.

Engelbrecht said the area also posed a hazard because its domiciliary sub-soil might form sinkholes that could swallow or damage homes.

TPA officials hand-delivered eviction letters on November 24 to the residents of the 60 or so shacks at the edge of the sprawling shantytown population 30,000 — that wanders through the Indian township.

The letters told residents they could move their shacks to more formal settlements in Orange Farm, Pretoria East, or Zonkezizwe, Engelbrecht said.

Residents said on Wednesday that they had asked for more time to move. But they were told their request came too late.

Many shack dwellers were at work or at school during the demolition and returned to find their belongings burned under what had been home.

Those at home when police arrived were given a few minutes to remove their possessions.

Engelbrecht said TPA officials had been "kind" towards the shack dwellers by not carting away the shack materials as they normally would.

"The shack dwellers can take their structures and their belongings and go to one of the other four alternative places they were given."

By Thursday afternoon, most of the dispossessed had retreated into the shantytown. A woman sitting where her home had stood the day before said she hoped to spend Thursday night with a friend in the shantytown. She and her husband and child had spent Wednesday night sleeping near a concrete wall.

An official of the local branch of the African National Congress was going to help her family relocate among the other shack-dwellers.

The woman didn't agree with Engelbrecht that the demolition crew was kind in leaving behind the shack parts. "They don't take them, but see how they damage them," she said, pointing to a bent piece of corrugated iron.

She said she was given time to remove possessions before her shack was razed. Was anything damaged?

"Only the house."

At Christmas, the happiest smiles always have a Dimple.

Dimple 15 year old. From the oldest distillers of Scotch Whiskey.

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Photo: GUY ADAMS

Capt. to be kind ... A police Caspi ploughs down one of the shanty structures in Extension 9.
Mother Amy, angel of Hillbrow

Mother Amy is guardian of the street urchins of Hillbrow, whom she feeds, bathes and gives a place to sleep. A gentle and selfless woman...how strange then, that she should make such powerful enemies.

By JENNIFER GRIFFIN

OSES press against the glass door of Hillbrow’s Perino pizza parlour as a dozen street kids jostle each other for a better view of the film on the television inside. Six white adults sit with their backs to the door, ignoring the tattered, shabby kids peering through. Maybe the doors will toss them a few coins on their way home.

Amy Flickinger, a 27-year-old American, walks up the street and calls out a greeting. It is her personal mission to care for Hillbrow’s homeless children. Tonight she is looking for Tommy Dlamini, a young boy wearing dirty stoppers and an old bathrobe that drags along the ground as he walks.

She inspects the knife wound in Tommy’s left shoulder - a few days earlier he was stabbed by another street kid. Flickinger found him earlier in the week, as she made her rounds feeding the neighbourhood children.

"Someone stabbed me for my tuckies," Tommy explains. "Amy took me to the hospital where they gave me some food."

Every Thursday night beginning at 5pm, Flickinger and a few volunteers from the Berea Baptist Church make their rounds with soup and bread, milk and cigarettes for the children’s snacks.

Flickinger winds her way through Hillbrow’s dirty streets to gather up as many children as possible. Her blond hair and smile are familiar to many of them, and the kids flock to her when they see her coming.

She offers food, and sometimes even a second meal, to the children she knows. If she sees a child huddled under a blanket in a dark corner, she jumps to her feet as she approaches:

"Before we call it going to pray," she announces, and starts to intone the Lord’s Prayer.

No one pays her for her work, but she gets R200 a month from a local church and depends on donations from friends here and abroad.

Flickinger first came to South Africa in 1989 for a brief visit with an American church group. After putting together some funds, she returned to start her mission. On average, she tends to almost 100 children in a single night.

"Somebody told me there were children in need," she said. "I saw for myself and, clearly, they were in need," said Flickinger, who recently received a cheque for R12000 in order to support three abandoned children who now live in her tiny Hillbrow bachelor flat.

Large letters of the alphabet covered in crayons line the walls of her apartment, where Amy Flickinger and her flock... Before we call it going to pray, the Lord’s Prayer.}

ET’s back on the warpath

Addressing a crowd of about 400 people at Nyasistore on Wednesday night, he told them that the AFBF accepted the declaration of war issued by Anzaliya People’s Liberation Army at King William’s Town.

Referring to "the taunting little round bushman, Beatty Alexander", Terre Blanche said: "You have declared war on my people. We accept this declaration of war. We will level you (grip down) with the stones."

Then, to the khaki-clad listeners: "You must clean your rifles, you must get your structures in order. They have declared war. They are definitely coming. The hour is close now.

"Peace is not coming to South Africa."

Claiming a membership of 34 000 for the AFBF’s commandos, Terre Blanche said they are all being called up to attend the Day of the Vow at the Barrand stadion in Kempton Park.

How many of these “members” will eventually turn up, remains to be seen. Earlier this year Terre Blanche issued similar “call-up instructions” to every member of the commandos to attend a two-day event at Klerksdorp billed as the “World Congress of the AFBF”.

In the end the event, which he dearly wanted to be a show of force, was attended by about 500 uniformed members and an added 300 or so loungers on. For the upstairs show of force, he seems to be strategically more shrewed. Up to 70 percent of the AFBF’s membership may be seated in the large and impressive class of whites on the East Rand.
VIEW FROM THE INSIDE: The tourists are driven through a squatter camp.

GUIDE: Oupa Mofokeng shows tourists the Baragwanath taxi rank.

TEA BREAK: A stop at one of Oupa's friends.
FOREIGNERS rush in where abetjengu fear to tread.

An eclectic group of German, Dutch and British tourists crowded the pavement outside the Carlton Hotel — the departure point for Soweto tours.

Photographer Steve Hilton-Barber and I had arranged to meet a guide from the Soweto Council, but there was no sign of him.

Instead, we found Jimmy Ntintili selling taxi rides to Soweto at R85 each. The real Soweto. The good, the bad and the ugly, not some sanitised version.

We decided to go.

I tried wangling a discount for two cash-starved South Africans. "Considering you want to write something, you can have a free interview afterwards," he said magnanimously.


I heard 'loggging stones to the tourists. R20 apiece. "You may need them," I warned. He was joking, I think.

A former chef, Ntintili now heads a 24-hour operation in Johannesburg. "Five years ago, I took a few friends through Soweto and they thought: Why not get paid for this? So now I call it my own business.

Who needs to pick up the crumbs from the big guys!

Quite, I ponder the possibilities of Fairtown as a potential package tour guide, eased us down the highway. "Welcome, my dear friends," he exclaimed warmly.

Cameras clicked furiously as we approached the township. "Feel free to take photos. We in Soweto are very photogenic. Any questions?" invited Oupa.

"Is there a sea in Johannesburg?" asked one middle-aged woman. Oupa did not permit himself even the flicker of a smile. "No, Johannesburg is full of gold instead. Durban and Cape Town have an ocean," he explained patiently.

"Okay, my good friends, there are three forms of transport in Soweto. The trains are the cheapest. But they are no longer in favour because of the violence. The Putco buses are also not in favour because they are slow and expensive. The minibuses or taxis are very much in favour. There are 250 000 in Soweto. They are privately owned and much safer.

Judging by some of the commuter-crammed Zola Boats rocketing down the highway in flagrant contravention of the speed limit, I thought it Hobson's choice.

"On the left here, we have what used to be the Diepkloof Reformatory for naughty boys. It is now used as a military base for the SADF.

The subtle irony was lost on the ocean-notion lady. "Will they throw stones at us," she inquired anxiously.

Oupa's eyes twinkled. "Fear not, madame. I've plenty of rocks under my seat to hurl back if they do," he assured her.

"Right, good friends, this is Diepkloof Extension 4, which we call Diepkloof Expensive. The people here have servants, educate their children in Johannesburg and own BMWs."

Soweto is an erratic fusion of affluence and poverty. Tin shacks mushroom next to mansions. Spaza shops beside supermarkets.

The gardens, some less than a square metre, are carefully tended.

Oupa points out the asbestos-roofed houses built by the Government. "We call these matchboxes. There are three or four rooms and an outside toilet. Come and see for yourselves."

The minibuses lurch to a halt. A woman, her skirts weighed down by a clutch of children peeping shyly around her ample frame, ushered us into her humble abode. Modest furnishings, but everything neat as a pin.

"These are my friends," said Oupa by way of introduction. We were made to feel as welcome as long-lost relatives.

Fortified by a cup of tea, we pressed on to the famous and lesser-known landmarks — homes of local luminaries such as Winnie Mandela, Archbishop Tutu, the street where Oupa was born, former Government-owned bottle stores now seduced by rubbly stables and squatter camps.

Cheerful greetings from locals belied the menace suggested by the barbed-wire fencing and armoured vehicles.

We saw, as Ntintili promised, the good, the bad and the ugly. And it was a 21/2-hour treat.

Soweto might not be a seaside, but it does have an ocean of character.
Judgment reserved in squatter row

Pretoria Correspondent

Judgment has been reserved in the matter between the Diepsloot Landowners' Association (DLA) and the Transvaal Provincial Administration in which the DLA is trying to stop the TPA resettling Zivenfontein squatters at Diepsloot.

Mr Justice McCreath said in the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday he was aware this was an urgent matter and hoped to make a final judgment before Christmas.

DLA counsel H H Steyn said in papers before court that the TPA could move the more than 650 families to an area near Alexandra where they would not interfere with others' rights.

Steyn said evidence that the Zivenfontein squatters did not want to go to Alexandra did not hold water.

"They have no right to make any demands and should accept any arrangements made for them."

TPA counsel Dave Preiss said the squatters could not be accommodated in Alexandra as the area was overpopulated.

English tourist dies on Table Mountain

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The body of an English tourist, who fell 40 m to her death down Table Mountain, was found last night.

At 11.15 pm, 29 Mountain Club members and Metro rescue personnel stretchered down the body of Sharaz Webb (24) of Cumber- worth, Lincolnshire, Grass, which she tried to cling to her back.

Blinkwater Ravine is the body of most.
Azapo to meet

By Mokgadi Pela

THE Azanian Peoples Organisation is to meet in Johannesburg on Wednesday to increase its Central Committee from 13 to 36 in terms of a national congress mandate.

Azapo publicity secretary Dr Gomolemo Mokae said the meeting would appoint new heads of secretariats and formations which would then be absorbed into the present 13-member CC.

He said the meeting would be chaired by newly elected president Professor Ismaileng Mosala.

Mokae said other items on Azapo's agenda included, devising a programme of action to frustrate the interim government.

Govt's land promise

By Josias Charle

The Government has promised not to dispute the Goedgevonden community's claim to their land should it be found that the land belonged to them.

The community's claim to the land is based on their previous occupation and historical connection until their forced removal in 1978.

During the removal they were compensated for their houses only and no payments were made for improvements.

They were forced to move to Vriesewacht and Gamalaaage, which were later incorporated into Bophuthatswana.

They could no longer farm as a result and repeated attempts over the years to negotiate with the South African Government were refused because they were said to be in a foreign country.

The Advisory Commission on Land Allocation heard the claim of the Goedgevonden community to the farms Goedgevonden, Welgevonden and Nagel last week.

It was at this hearing that the Government, through the Department of Agriculture, promised not to contest the community's right to the land. But farmers in the Western Transvaal want the "squatters" moved from the land.
Man evicted after squatting 30 years

DIEPSLOOT. — Mr Richard Ndlovu stood in the drizzle on Saturday and watched two teenage boys destroy the corrugated metal shack he called home for 30 years.

"I've got nowhere to go," said Mr Ndlovu, 60.
He was one of about 25 people living in several shacks on grazing land 50km north of Johannesburg until Saturday, when police came to arrest them for trespassing.

Police took 23 of them into custody and piled their belongings aboard an open truck in the rain.

The lessee, who identified himself as Mr G Smalberger, said he told the squatters to leave in November after he took possession of the farmland.

Mr Sakkie Lombard, a Transvaal Provincial Administration official, said there was no place for the squatters to go immediately. — Sapa-AP
The Division of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources is committed to the development and implementation of programs that promote sustainable and equitable access to food resources. This includes the support of local food systems, the promotion of healthy eating habits, and the reduction of food waste. We strive to ensure that all communities have access to fresh, healthy food options, regardless of their location or socioeconomic status.

One of our key initiatives is the implementation of community gardens and urban farming projects. These projects not only provide fresh produce to local residents but also serve as educational tools, teaching people about sustainable agriculture and the importance of healthy eating.

In addition to these efforts, we are also working to increase access to local food through the development of community markets and the support of local food hubs. These hubs act as central locations for local farmers to sell their produce, making it easier for consumers to access fresh, locally grown food.

We believe that everyone has the right to healthy, affordable food, and we are committed to working towards this goal. Through our programs and initiatives, we strive to create a more equitable and sustainable food system for all.

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