TEACHERS - AFRICANS

1989
Education scene was bleak in 1988

Unsolved remaining problems

Many
Mabuza puts teachers to a critical self-test

MARC HASENFUS

TEACHERS were told yesterday they had a critical role to play in the struggle for justice and freedom in SA.

Kangwane Chief Minister Enos Mabuza added, at the African Teachers’ Association annual conference in Johannesburg, education was a key to attaining a rightful place in a united, non-racial and democratic country.

He said black education was not orientated toward the future. “Instead, it aims at preserving the past, protecting white privilege and hegemony and reproducing a dominated, servile black population.”

Mabuza said government could not resolve education problems by crisis management, coercion and a separate-but-equal policy.

“Teachers need to acknowledge and accept their political role in challenging the legitimacy of the authority that lies behind the present education system.”

Mabuza said the challenge, to reach an agreement on post-apartheid education, rested with the professional body of teachers.
A RESOLUTION to continue with the unity talks among South African teachers of all races was taken during the 67th African Teachers' Association conference held in Johannesburg last week.

The resolution came as a follow-up to a meeting held in Harare last year in which 28 teachers organisations were represented.

"South African teachers must get together across the colour lines and take off as a professional group to agitate for a fair and just education system," said Atasa's president, Mr Frank Tonjeni.

"We must avoid the panic situation, research our problems and act as a relevant organisation working with the community."

To facilitate unity, Atasa has planned a meeting for its members and those from the English Teachers Association to be held in Durban in March this year.

"There is a need for a teachers association which is non-racial in this country," said Mr Tonjeni. "Its creation will conform with the people's demand for one education system of all South Africans."
Education policy is unchanged

By Peter Fabricks, Political Staff

Admitting 100 blacks to a white Natal teacher training college did not indicate a change in government policy, the Ministry of Education and Culture in the House of Assembly said yesterday.

The department was reacting to an announcement by the kwaZulu Department of Education that 100 kwaZulu trainee teachers would be enrolled in the Natal College of Education in Maritzburg this year to get four-year diplomas in teaching.

The department said that Mr Piet Clase, Minister of Education and Culture, had given the go-ahead for the admission.

Mr J D V Terblanche, superintendent-general of the Assembly education department, said there had been no change in policy.

MOVE WELCOMED

"The training of 100 students from kwaZulu is done in accordance with the Constitution which provides for the rendering of services by one department to another."

He indicated that this was the only white teacher training college which admitted other races.

The Government's policy is that teacher training is an "own affair" — that it should be segregated.

Mr Terblanche said he did not wish to comment on the agreement as it had not yet been signed.

Progressive Federal Party education spokesman Mr Roger Burrows yesterday welcomed the admission of the black students but stressed that the Natal College of Education was only a correspondence college and had no campus or hostel.

He appealed to the Government to allow blacks into all white teacher training colleges.
THE Sowetan today announces details of a unique in-service seminar available to senior primary school mathematics teachers.

The seminar, devised and presented by Educare organisation, is designed to strengthen syllabus knowledge of primary mathematics and improve teaching and communication skills in this vital subject.

This course is a further project in the educational portfolio of the Sowetan's Nation Building Campaign which is concentrating heavily on the improvement of mathematics performance both at pupil and teacher level.

Statistics clearly indicate that the difficulties with mathematics experienced by almost all pupils have their origins in the primary schools. For this reason, the Sowetan is offering study bursaries to suitable teachers.

The seminar will be held at the Alpha Training Centre in Bendorstrum from February 20-24. Full meals and accommodation will be provided for the duration of the course as well as all study materials.

The five-day course will cover syllabus content and interpretation, lesson planning, record keeping, assessment, remediation, use and preparation of visual aids and teaching techniques.

Each candidate will receive both group and individual attention as indicated and will carry away valuable materials and tests for use in their own schools on completion of the seminar.

**Teaching experience**

The Sowetan offers 20 bursaries to successful applicants who should meet the following requirements: To be aged between 25 and 45; have a minimum of three years teaching experience; be currently engaged in the full-time teaching of mathematics for Std 3 and 5 and be able to arrange leave of absence for the duration of the seminar.

Any teacher who feels he/she meets these requirements is invited to complete the application form below and post it to: Maths Bursary, The Editor, P O Box 6683 Johannesburg, 2000. All applications must reach the Sowetan no later than Wednesday, February 1, 1989 and applicants are advised to retain their postage.

Selections will be made by the direction of Educare. Their decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into concerning the selection procedures and results.

Please note that successful candidates are responsible for obtaining their own study leave from school as well as their transportation to and from Johannesburg station.

Travel between the station and the study centre, full accommodation and tuition fees are covered by the bursary. Candidates will have no further personal expenditure apart from "pocket money."

For details of how anyone can assist in this exercise, please contact either The Editor (011) 673-4161 or Mr Donkin of Educare (011) 880-2646.

Application for bursary

Full Name

Age

years teaching from To

School where employed

Tel No.

Previous school if any

Are you able to obtain leave for the period Feb 20-24? YES/NO

Are you currently teaching mathematics for standards 5 and 3? YES/NO

State briefly on a separate sheet of paper why you feel you should receive a Sowetan Study Bursary.
‘Thug’ pupils stab Sowetan headmasters

SOWETO. — Two Soweto headmasters were stabbed and several teachers injured by former pupils trying to get themselves reinstated at the schools, the Sowetan said in a front-page report yesterday.

On Sunday about 1 000 parents from Fidelitas High School and neighbouring schools endorsed the Department of Education and Training’s decision to remove the teachers involved for their own safety. They agreed that the safety of the teachers should be ensured before they returned to their posts.

The trouble was apparently instigated by a pupil who had not written last year’s final examination. He demanded that his friends be enrolled at schools which they had not attended.

The Fidelitas High School pupil, whom other scholars described as a “thug”, was said to have demanded that the headmaster enrol his friends — who did not have proper transfer documents.

When this was pointed out to him, he and the other eight then went on the rampage, assaulting teachers, ransacking the principal’s office, smashing windows and damaging teachers’ cars.

They continued on a trail of destruction to three other schools, where the principals were caught by surprise.

Parents have expressed dismay at the incidents and said the “thug element” must be rooted out.

The school’s management committee decided on Sunday night to see the DET’s regional office at the earliest possible opportunity.

The parents emphasised that they may not be in agreement with the DET’s policies, but were concerned about the safety and welfare of the teachers and their children. — Sapa
SENIOR primary school mathematics teachers have enthusiastically welcomed a unique one-week enrichment seminar organised by the Sowetan, in association with Educare organisation, next month.

Since details of the seminar were published in the Sowetan earlier this week, a considerable number of eager teachers have telephoned to make inquiries about it. It is to be presented by Educare tutors. It is designed to strengthen syllabus knowledge of primary school maths and improve teaching and communication skills in this vital subject.

This programme is a further project in the educational portfolio of the Sowetan’s Nation Building campaign, which is concentrating heavily on the improvement of mathematics performance, both at pupil and teacher level.

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Travel between the station and the study centre, full accommodation and tuition fees are covered by bursary.
Teachers withdrawn

JOHANNESBURG

All teachers at Dr Vilakazi High School in Soweto were yesterday withdrawn from the school’s premises “for their own safety” by the Department of Education and Training after they were threatened by pupils.

A DET spokesman was unable to say how many students had been involved in yesterday’s incident, but said the school’s refusal to admit some pupils had apparently been the cause of the confrontation.

At least five schools in Diepkloof remained “out of operation” yesterday after reported incidents of intimidation this week.
Successes and setbacks in '88 - UDF affiliates

By VUSI GUNENE

IN a joint New Year statement, unbanned affiliates of the United Democratic Front have described 1988 as a year "of stress, conflict, bitterness and strife" for most South Africans. However, some advances had been made in the struggle to end apartheid, they said.

The affiliates welcomed the release of African National Congress leader Harry Gwala and Pan Africanist Congress president Zeph Mothopeng. They also welcomed the peace treaty between South Africa and Cuba.

However, they condemned the continuing violence in Natal and blamed it on Inkatha.

Among the setbacks for the democratic movement listed in the statement are the "criminalisation of the UDP through banning and the Delmas judgement".

It also lists as setbacks the mysterious murder of Soweto activist Sicelo Dihlomo, the death in detention of unionist Alfred Makaleng, the disappearance in detention of Mamelodi activist Stanza Bopape and the death of Irene Mkwayi, the wife of Robben Island prisoner Wilton Mkwayi.

The affiliates call for the unconditional release of all political prisoners and the unbanning of the ANC.

"The release of our leaders is not an act of benevolence on the part of the South African government — it is the result of our struggle and persistent campaigns," the statement reads.
New education body formed.

TWO men, believed to be security policemen, were barred this week from a press conference called to protest at the recent restriction of three Western Cape education organisations.

Organisers of the Guguletu press conference, the Defend Democratic Teachers Union Committee, said the presence of the police was "undesirable".

It said it was opposed to the presence of white teachers at black schools, saying the move was clearly a way of trying to undermine the capabilities of qualified black teachers who were being retrenched by the Department of Education and Training (DET), and then replaced by whites.
Hearing of Detu teachers resumes

The hearing of five Democratic Teachers’ Union (Detu) members suspended last March by the Department of Education and Training for alleged misconduct continued yesterday, after adjourning last year.

The five teachers are Mr O M Mbekwa, Mr Ernest Hendia, Mr Thembikile Plaatjie, Mr Vuyo Rlabo, all of ID Mkhize High School, and Mr Zolile Fonyana of Langa High School.

The hearing, which is in camera, was held in Garmor House, Fiein Street.

They allegedly disobeyed an order to attend a sports meeting, refused to obey gate-order duties and were absent without leave.

The five previously applied to the Supreme Court for the hearing to be heard in open court, but were unsuccessful.

The hearing continues today.

Magistrate Mr J Marle heard the matter. Mr D Enamor was the prosecutor.

Mr Mustafa Parker, of E Mope and Associates, appeared for the five.
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Staff Reporter

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Parents outraged at principal’s appointment

By Vusi Kama

PARENTS at Mbekweni, near Paarl, are opposed to the appointment of a white principal at the township’s Simon Hebe High School.

In a heated meeting organised last night by the Department of Education and Training (DET) for the election of members of the school’s management council, parents demanded to be told why Mr G Visser had been appointed principal.

They said they could not understand why the former principal, Mr T Nzuze, had been made a deputy.

DET representative Mr H Jimba, who chaired the meeting, said Mr Nzuze had been offered the post of principal at another school in the Peninsula which he had declined.

Parents were concerned about the absence — except for Mr Visser — of members of the teaching staff at the meeting.

“There has never been a meeting like this before at this school,” said one speaker.

“When we discuss school matters, teachers need to be here.”

“CRACK THE SYSTEM”

To Mr Jimba’s response that the meeting was for parents only, rather than for a parent-teachers’ body, another speaker remarked: “Then Mr Visser should also be kicked out of this meeting because to us he is just another teacher, not a principal.”

Another speaker said teachers were regarded as parents when it came to school matters, for their advice was always crucial.

Mr Jimba persuaded the parents to take part in the management council and “crack the system from inside”.

Most parents, however, said they felt the structure would be as ineffective as the school committee was before it.
Political Staff

THERE had been a dramatic reduction in the percentage of teachers without a matric certificate employed by the Department of Education and Training, Education and Development Aid Minister Dr Gerrit Viljoen said yesterday.

He said the reduction — from 73% in 1983 to 43% last year — was part of a departmental plan to upgrade the qualifications of all its teachers to at least a senior certificate and three years' tertiary education.

To encourage teachers to improve their qualifications, those with a teacher's certificate and matric were allowed to take leave without interrupting their record of service — to enrol as full-time students at colleges of education to obtain primary school diplomas.

One in seven black teachers in SA were studying at Vista University in 1987.
Teachers protest military rule in Cape schools

THE Department of Education and Training has embarked on a military style of control of schools in the Western Cape, a Press conference was told in Johannesburg this week.

The joint conference called by teachers' groups was also told that the majority of schools in that region were, at the moment, directly in the mercy of the South African Defence Force.

Represented at the conference were the Defend Democratic Teachers' Union Committee — which was formed after the Democratic Teachers' Union was restricted last year — the Progressive Teachers' League and the Progressive Teachers' Union.

Intolerable

A spokesman for the teachers' committee, Mr Monde Thulwane, said some schools are occupied by the SADF. He said this type of situation is intolerable and is not conducive to proper education.

"The majority of high schools are controlled by white verkrampTE principals, who are appointed despite the fact that well-qualified, experienced black teachers exist."

"At the same time, qualified black teachers are being made redundant while white teachers replace them. To the committee, this is an unacceptable situation for black teachers. They can only teach in black schools and therefore why make them redundant?" he asked.

Dismay

A spokesman for the PTU expressed dismay and anger at the recent bannings of organisations such as the Democratic Teachers' Union (DETU), the Western Cape Teachers Union (Wectu), the Western Cape Students' Congress (Wesco) and the National Detainees Forum (NDF).

"We are concerned that sister organisations, primarily concerned with educational matters, have now been classified a threat to public safety," he said.

Restricted

The conference was told that a campaign had been launched already in the Western Cape region in defence of restricted teacher and student organisations.

It was further called upon the DET to withdraw the SADF from the townships, to remove white verkrampTE principals from schools, to stop the failacy of establishing undemocratic parent management councils, drop the charges against the suspended teachers, stop implementing the new Education Bill (DET) and reinstate all retrenched and demoted teachers.
TEACHERS' in the Vaal area have accused the Department of Education and Training (Orange-Vaal region) of practising discrimination in the appointment of principals and teachers at schools in the area.

Disgruntled teachers who spoke to the Sowetan said a number of appointments had been made since the reopening of schools in January which gave preference to whites.

The teachers claimed that a highly-qualified black principal was demoted last year to a position of head of department at another high school in Soweto.

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

In his place, a white principal was appointed at Thuto-Tiro High School in Zone 10, Soweto. The teachers maintained that the black principal was efficient and see no reason for his demotion except "racism".

They said the new principal had advertised for white principals at three high schools in Soweto, although black teachers could fill the posts. The new headmasters, they claimed, were to report directly to Pretoria head office and thus render black school principals ineffective.

Reply

The teachers further claimed that those who qualified last year from the Soweto College of Education had been unable to get placements at schools because of prejudice against black teachers.

They said, for example, four to five white teachers were given posts at Thuto-Tiro High.

In reply to these allegations, Mr F H Voort, the region's director, said the highly-qualified black principal in question holds a HOD post at Tokolo Secondary School. He said he was seconded to Thuto-Tiro Secondary School as from January 1988 to December 1988.

"According to normal procedure, the post was advertised in newspapers throughout South Africa, Tokolo-Tiro being a comprehensive school, called for a principal with technical qualifications and it was not stated in the advertisement."

"Head office approved the recommendation and sanctioned the appointment. The acting head then had to resign his proper position, a HOD at Tokolo Secondary School," he said.

Rent crisis fight 'blow'

THE detention of Mr Pat Ramokgopa, a key figure in the negotiations to solve the Soweto rent crisis, was a contradiction in terms, the Reverend Busani Ngubane said yesterday in a statement on behalf of the Ministers United for Christian Responsibility.

Mr Ramokgopa, a member of the Soweto Peasants' Delegation (SPD), was detained by police on February 12 at a meeting held at a church in Molekane, Soweto.

Duty

"While it is the duty of the police to see to it that society is well-ordered and organised for the well-being of all its members it is also true that it is the duty of all members of society to see to it that this duty and obligation be fulfilled," Rev Ngubane said.

He said Mr Ramokgopa was a leader in the community. "He had no AK-47, no petrol bombs, no weapon whatever.

"But it was still deemed right and proper to wire him like a common criminal when he was only doing the work that had to be done to find solutions to the problems that face the community."

"Moreover, it offends that such actions only serve to open the rift that already exists in the country in spite of talks of peace and reconciliation," he said.

Enjo
Teachers go back to college after boycott

The Department of Education and Training's Transvaal College of Education in Soshanguve is to re-open on Wednesday, March 29, a department's spokesman said yesterday.

Classes at the college were suspended last week and 1000 aspirant teachers were sent home after they failed to heed a call to stop their boycott.

According to reports, reasons for the class stayaway included complaints that the rector, Mr I Bingle, was "too old" and that the students wanted to have March 21 declared a holiday.

Mr P Felstead, the DET's Northern Transvaal regional director, said yesterday letters were being sent to parents informing them the studies resume on March 29. He said no student will be required to re-register and all must report on that day.
DET pulling back teachers seconded to private projects

THE Department of Education and Training (DET) is withdrawing 167 teachers seconded to private sector-sponsored education projects.

DET director-general Dirk Meiring confirmed the withdrawal yesterday, but would not confirm or deny Business Day sources' figure of 167 teachers.

It has been established that six DET officials are to be withdrawn from READ, a private sector funded organisation promoting libraries in black schools. READ director Cynthia Hugo declined to comment.

In another case, the Science and Education Centre in Soweto, sponsored by the German Chamber of Trade and Industries in SA, has eight seconded DET teachers on its staff. Director Stephen Job said he was aware of the DET plans, but had not been informed of any steps to withdraw DET teachers from the centre.

Meiring said the DET had, over the years, made available teachers on a limited scale to assist in education improvement projects sponsored by the private sector.

"In the process of implementing its macro-planning, the stage has now been reached where the department is in a position to create its own infrastructure for most of the activities aimed at improving education in areas such as media advisory services, remedial advisory services and assistance to gifted children."

Evaluated

"In the light of this development, the department has found it necessary to reduce the number of teachers made available for assistance to projects sponsored by the private sector."

Meiring said each individual case of teacher involvement in these projects was being evaluated to determine whether it should be continued.

A "phasing-out procedure" might have to be followed and discussions were being held.
Teachers in KwaZulu to do 'white' courses

The Argus Correspondent

MARITZBURG. — An agreement has been signed enabling KwaZulu teachers to enrol for teacher correspondence courses given by the previously white Natal College of Education.

The agreement between the Department of Education and Culture in the House of Assembly and KwaZulu was signed this week by departmental minister Mr Piet Claas and KwaZulu Minister of Education and Culture Dr Oscar Dhlomo.

Dr Dhlomo said there must be further talks about full-time admission of black students at white training colleges.
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**AGENDA**

1. **Introduction of New Members**
2. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
3. **Financial Report**
4. **Update on School Infrastructure**
5. **Discussion on Teacher Performance**
6. **Planning for Future Events**
7. **Special Guests**
Top 50 Pictures of Our Children

Auction will help educate young blacks in art.

By Penny Stonemore
Great talent

"I saw great talent when they were drawing and got together with my cousin, Juliet Gha, who is a trained teacher, to take it further. I collect scrap paper, crayons and any other materials they can use.

"I'd like to see good artists come from Soweto, and see more art taught in our schools, but many parents don't see any importance in it. And these children have such talent.

"But the teachers are very keen to learn how to teach art."

"We are now desperately looking at the financial situation," says Mrs Wilson. "I went to our 'money lady' to work out how much it would cost to establish an art centre and it would be about R800 a month.

"You know how much capital you need to generate that sort of income."

In the meantime Mrs Wilson, Mrs Khoza and Miss Harriet Gillilan of Christie's are busy sorting through the many entries. There are some really exciting and vibrant works of art from youngsters from as far afield as Namibia and Cape Town.

Once the judges have chosen the winners they, and some who "nearly made it" will be on view to the public at the gallery on March 13, 14 and 15 from 9 am to 6 pm, and there will be a prize-giving on Tuesday afternoon. The auction is for invited guests."
The Angus Mc

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NATIONAL

"Hope College is forging ahead"

Rector condemn in

spite of shortages

Mrs. Lyn Proctor, senior English teacher, in a light-hearted moment with her junior students.

Prepared with the help of the graphic artist John D. Proctor.
Meeting

A MEETING called by the Progressive Teacher's Committee which was to take place at the Pace Commercial College in Soweto on Tuesday was disrupted by the police, a spokesman for the organisation said yesterday. 

According to pamphlets distributed at schools in Soweto, the meeting was to gather teachers to discuss problems of retrenchments, transfers, freezing of posts and others experienced by teachers at schools. Teachers who turned up for the meeting met with a contingent of policemen at the school's entrance and in the hall which was to be used for the meeting, the organisers said.
Talks on teacher transfers

PRINCIPALS and school committee chairpersons of all lower and higher primary schools in Diepkloof are invited to a meeting on Sunday to discuss the transfer of teachers in Diepkloof schools.

The meeting will be held at the Holy Cross Catholic School in Diepkloof, Zone II and is scheduled to start at 8.30am.

A spokesman said a report back will be given on discussions held with Assistant Regional Director of the Department of Education and Training, Mr S Shamase.
US AMBASSADOR to SA Edward Perkins yesterday told journalists he would not have come to SA if he had not believed change was coming to the country.

Speaking at Jan Smuts Airport prior to leaving SA, Perkins, 60, said he would probably not have stayed if he had not believed there was hope SA's people would find a way to change the system.

No successor has yet been appointed, but the man tipped as the most likely candidate is career diplomat Bill Swing, 55, who has formerly held ambassadorships in Liberia and the Congo.

Perkins, who has spent his two-and-a-half years in SA keeping a low profile, making few public appearances and seldom granting Press interviews, is expected to be promoted to US Foreign Service director-general.

Perkins said it was simplistic to say sanctions had not been effective. The issue had to be looked at in terms of its objectives and while the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act had not succeeded in releasing Nelson Mandela or having the ANC unbanned, it was a tool to remind SA it had to make changes to be seen as a responsible nation. Sanctions should be developed in concert with other foreign policy initiatives to achieve aims such as the elimination of apartheid.

He had heard NP leader F W de Klerk said positive things about wanting to narrow the political gap between the races, "but we will have to wait and see". He believed whites would accept giving up control of SA and was encouraged to see more whites outside government trying to increase dialogue to find a solution to the country's problems.

The most encouraging aspect of his tenure was the black majority's rejection to government's efforts to stifle the desire of people to be free.

The Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference has warned government that failure to solve the crisis in black schools would result in a disaster worse than the 1984-86 period.

A statement called on government to heed pupils, teachers and parents regarding the black education crisis, saying in response to reports of teacher retrenchments in Soweto, an inadequate supply of teachers "could only aggravate an already inferior education system".

Bishops see danger in laying off teachers
Enjoy's a govt subsidy, a teacher is told

Teach Mat 7-22

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Sowetan Wednesday May 31, 1984
Wrangle over school resolution during a meeting at the school. They also elected a committee which will call a meeting of teachers and parents early next week. Investigations revealed that former Soweto mayor, Mr Ephraim Tshabalala, was the owner of the school. He reportedly bought the school from its founder and former principal, Mr Michek Thusini.

But Thusini said the school still belonged to him as Tshabalala had failed to pay the asking amount of R50 000. He said he had initiated legal action against Mr Tshabalala.

A spokesman for Tshabalala said the school no longer belonged to Thusini.
THREE Paarl teachers have been reprimanded and cautioned by the Department of Education and Training after being found guilty of misconduct, but the teachers claim they were never present at any disciplinary hearings, colleagues said.

The three — Mr N J Allah, Miss N Cacadu and Mr M Petros — are teachers at the strife-racked Simon Hebe High School in Mbekweni, Paarl.

A colleague said at a press conference this week that the three had initially been warned that the DET was investigating charges of misconduct against them and three other teachers.

Last week the three were informed by letter that they had been found guilty, he said.

"Guilty of what I don't know because they had not attended any disciplinary hearing," he said.

He showed a letter from the DET addressed to another Simon Hebe teacher, Mr N Dzuzo, which informed him he could face misconduct charges.

In a statement, a group of teachers at Simon Hebe said there had been problems at their school since the appointment of a new white principal.

The school had had a highly satisfactory matric pass rate of 84% in 1986 and 90% in 1987, they added.

The teachers "abhorred the uneducational stance assumed by the DET's Cape Town office", deplored the "continued harassment" of teachers and called for an end to "victimisation" of teachers.
Teaching seminars plan

THE Association of Private Schools has changed its name to the Independent Schools Council. The new national director of the organisation is Mark Henning, former head of St Stithians College in Randburg.

The ISC is organising two major events this year. From August 16 to September 19 two information technology education authorities from the United Kingdom, Leslie Ryder and Frances Blow, will conduct a series of seminars in Natal, Zululand, the Eastern Cape, Cape Town and Johannesburg on the latest developments in information technology and education and their application in schools. The seminars will be aimed mainly at school principals and subject drivers as well as to university lecturers at education faculties and teacher training colleges.

In July, management consultants from Durban will hold intensive courses for principals and senior staff in the Transvaal and the Cape on management and staff development. These courses will include modules on management processes, financial administration, public relations and leadership.

Says Mr Henning: "The change of name is in line with the expansion of the secretariat. Not only this but the word 'independent' carries with it a connotation of freedom in respect of academic innovation and is wholly appropriate to the mission of the 90 member schools.

"On the other hand, the word 'private' suggests elitism and restricted access to certain pupils, and this is most certainly contrary to the aims and practices of the schools concerned.

"The ISC serves as a conduit to facilitate the exchange of ideas and to marshall the resources of all its independent member schools," says Mr Henning.
Caltex South Africa donated R100 000 towards the advancement of black primary school teachers at a special function held in Johannesburg. The cheque was handed over by Mr Lolo Ntibane, personnel officer at Caltex to the director of Teachers Opportunity Programmes (TOPS), Professor M. C. Mehl. TOPS operates from 30 centres in six regions in South Africa — Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Transvaal, Orange Free State, Owaqwa and Natal. Pictured (from left to right) are Patience Ndala, Professor Mehl, Jeanette Mosala, Lolo Ntibane and Mohamed Ramjulla, financial manager of TOPS.
Brainchild of US businessman

R50-m plan to upgrade black teachers' skills

By Winnie Graham

A R50 million project to upgrade the skills of black teachers throughout South Africa is in the pipeline.

The move to establish 53 centres nationwide was launched two years ago when an American businessman realised the development of black business was being hampered by the inadequate education of would-be entrepreneurs.

He gave up trying to assist in the creation of new businesses, and decided to get to the root of the problem: improving the educational qualifications of blacks.

The first teacher-learning centre run by the South African Vocational Endowment (Save) was opened at Ulundi, kwazulu, recently.

Enlisted support

The second is planned for Johannesburg and others will be created nationwide.

The founding chairman, US businessman Mr Ron Heyns, has enlisted the support of big business in South Africa and has already submitted applications to the United States and Britain for contributions.

He also plans to approach the governments of Japan, Germany, Canada and Taiwan, as well as companies with business links in this country.

Speaking in Johannesburg, Mr Heyns said he had received permission from the Reserve Bank to bring in contributions in financial rands.

"This is the first time the bank has given permission for a venture such as this," he added. "In a precedent-setting case, they described the Save project as an 'intellectual asset'."

The teachers will be taught by computer in a programme known as IVI — interactive video instruction.

Learning centres will be set up at a cost of about R1 million each: the cost of the equipment and software. It is not Save's intention to construct new buildings as available space will be used.

The period of upgrading will fluctuate from teacher to teacher, but 30 people can be trained at any given time and three to four sessions can be held daily at each centre.

If money is raised quickly, 53 centres will be set up within five years, by which time virtually every teacher needing skills upgrading will have been given the opportunity for training.

"Each teacher affects about 5,000 pupils during his or her teaching career," Mr Heyns said.

He added: "It is not our intention to set up centres and walk away. If the centres are to succeed, there must be continuing interest."
BLACK teachers were receiving subsidies for houses they did not own, CP spokesman on black education Schalk Pienaar alleged.

In a statement on Monday he accused Education and Training Minister Gerrit Viljoen of refusing to bring the issue to the attention of the Van den Heever commission of inquiry into alleged irregularities in the department.

The Van den Heever commission earlier this year found the former director-general of Viljoen’s Department of Education and Training (DET), Braam Fourie, and his son had been irregularly involved in the acquisition of interactive video equipment worth R4.8m.

The commission is now investigating alleged irregular transactions between the DET and the son of deputy director-general Jaap Strydom involving R2.5m.

Pienaar said there were numerous teachers who were receiving money and subsidies from government, yet did not own or occupy houses.

He claimed school principals had been requested to ask teachers to submit written statements to the effect they owned registered properties.

But, Pienaar alleged, the principals were told not to inform the Press about this.

He said National Education Minister F W de Klerk had also refused to allow him to see the statements.

Approached for comment yesterday, spokesmen for neither the DET nor De Klerk have responded.

The number of black matriculants passing mathematics and physical science in higher grade in the Johannesburg school circuit lags behind the extremely low national figures.

In 1988 3%, or 62, of the 2 689 matriculants who wrote mathematics in the Johannesburg circuit (which includes Soweto and Alexandra) passed on higher grade, while the figure for the rest of SA was 8.6%, or 771, of 11 808 candidates.

The number of matriculants who passed physical science on higher grade in 1988 was 8.2%, or 116 out of 1 411.

This compares with 12.7%, or 1 137 candidates out of 8 982 in the rest of SA, figures released by the Department of Education and Training (DET) show.

Of the 33 200 DET candidates 4 956, or 14.5%, achieved matriculation exemption passes in 1988. A total of 18 155 students passed 6 (Comp) 14/16 (5%).

In 1987, 1 658 candidates wrote mathematics higher grade in the Johannesburg circuit, of whom 41 passed.

Of the 601 matriculants who wrote physical science in the circuit in 1987, 24 passed.
Teachers claim unfair dismissal

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

EIGHT teachers at a Johannesburg private school claim they have been unfairly dismissed.

The teachers said this came after demanding a salary increase and better working conditions from the Maluti Modern Institute's founder and principal, Mr Musa Masondo.

"When we demanded to be paid more than R1,000 a month, as he had promised this when we were hired, he gave us two days' notice saying he would pay us only for the hours we had worked," a spokesman for the fired teachers said.

**Conditions**

Masondo denied that he fired the teachers because of a salary dispute.

"I retrenched them because I had more teachers than I needed," he said.

"My staff of 25 had to be reduced so I graded their work to see which teachers were to go. I told them that I will only pay them for the hours they had worked. Some of them were responsible for their dismissal by not complying with the conditions of employment.

"The school was opened in 1987 and it was not registered as an employer. They knew they were being paid as part-time workers," Masondo said.

The teachers have referred the matter to their lawyers.

The Department of Education and Training could not confirm whether the school was registered or not.
A rough time for teachers

FOCUS

They have become the objects of attacks - some of them fatal.

Political comment in this issue by Agnieszka Kitarowicz and Joe Pauwels. Sub-editing, headlines and posters by Sydney Mokhoba. All of 61 Commando Road, Industria West, Johannesburg.

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Black schools countrywide broke up for their winter vacation two weeks ago - a most welcome break for some members of the black teaching fraternity.

Some black teachers in black township schools have become the most endangered species.

They have become the objects of attacks - sometimes fatal attacks - from their too-often uncontrollable and unruly pupils.

They have witnessed bloody clashes in school grounds between burgeoning opposing groups - the so-called Cosmonauts, Commanderia, Syvanna and Njala, to name but a few.

A teacher from a local township school - call him Mr Zaken Zini - is dejected and merry, a Bachelor of Pedagogy graduate from the University of Zululand.

Morale

With 10 years' teaching experience behind him, Zini relates the trials and tribulations of teachers in a township setting these days: "Never have morale been so low among the teachers.

"I get up in the mornin'
g and go to work, not because of the day's professional challenges, but because of the type of children I'm going to face in school," he says.

Zini, who has made a number of applications for an alternative job either in industry or in commerce, says he is ready to grab any offer that comes his way, even if it means not serving out his notice.

"I took up the teaching profession thinking it to be a noble profession, I feel it later turned out to be a young boy who openly smokes dagga at school.

"What is the motive for a child who comes to school heavily armed? What is the reason for a child to carry dagga to school and sell it among his schoolmates?" asked Zini.

Zini's vocal expressions suddenly changes as he begins these questions, his eyes glisten and the words flow faster when addressing his handkerchief to wipe tears from his eyes.

"I then pose my own question, without really expecting any answer from him: 'What's black education and what is the black initiative?'

The chief public relations officer for the KwaZulu Department of Education and Culture, Mr Julian Smith, said that his department had a lot of respect and sympathy for the teachers who were working under those extremely difficult conditions.

Breakdown

He said he was aware that the teaching process had broken down in certain schools in the urban areas.

"This underlines the serious nature of the crime in some of the schools in urban areas. However, in the majority of our schools, that is 21 out of 25 circuits, the teaching process is progressing well and matric results are continuing to improve," he said.

The president of the Natal African Teachers' Union, Professor A.J. Tlabafana, said that they recognized that there was a complete breakdown of the social order in some localities.

When that happened, he said, the children get affected seriously.

"We in the education sector are in extremis agony over what is happening in some schools. Teachers do not feel helpless but completely devastated by this situation," he said.

Brutality

Thembeka called upon all the authorities of the political, social and economic order and the education professionals and the teachers to protect children in other sectors to ensure that we consolidate the children who have been injured and embarrassed by the breakdown of the order giving rise to this situation.

The public relations officer for the Department of Education and Training, Mr Richard Crichton, said education could only be successful in a calm, orderly and harmonious environment.

"Pupils hell-bent on disrupting their own and others' schooling may be altering their educational and short-term goals, whatever they may be.

"In the long run their actions are sabotaging their own future and that of their fellow pupils. This is no way to build a nation," he said.

Pupils often become uncontrollable.
Teacher not paid

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

A VOSLOORUS school teacher was forced to resort to begging because the Department of Education and Training has not paid her since January.

Miss Nomle Edith Mdluli, a mother of three teenagers, said her salary was not renewed when she returned from study leave in January this year.

For five months she lived on her savings but when they ran out, she started begging.

East Rand regional director for the DET, Mr D J H Booyse, said he had apologised to Mdluli for the inconvenience caused and has promised to rectify the problem.

"The problem was due to submission of study leave forms and their entry into our computers. The matter is being settled to Mdluli's satisfaction."
Simon looking forward to new job

WHIPPING up political waves is not on the agenda of the first black teacher to join a white Pretoria school.

Mr Simon Ntshimane (35), who will teach history, English and Afrikaans to pupils at the elite St Albans College from September 1, says his appointment does not have political overtones.

"The post was vacant, I heard about it and applied," he said yesterday. "I have not even thought about politics."

The tall, soft-spoken teacher with two Unisa degrees — BA and BEd — took pains to emphasise he did not believe his appointment was controversial or unusual.

"I presume the fact that I was appointed indicated I was the best candidate," he said.

Mr Ntshimane, now a lecturer at Hebron College of Education in Ga-Rankuwa, admitted to being apprehensive about taking up his post but said the prospect of starting any new job was daunting.

"But I am happy to be given the opportunity to be employed at a dynamic institution like St Albans, which is contributing to solving the problems in our country by providing everyone who is here with a good education."

Mr Ntshimane, whose wife Georgina is a nursing sister, is working on his Masters degree in education through Potchefstroom University. The couple have a 16-year-old son.

Mr Ntshimane has served as headmaster in Kuruman and Bochuthatswana.
Report on Natal mining

OWN CORRESPONDENT

DURBAN — A preliminary report on new mining developments on the eastern shores of Lake St Lucia will be submitted by Richards Bay Minerals tomorrow for approval.

The company, which earlier came under fire because of alleged damage to the coastal dune systems, has put plans into operation to mine the ecologically sensitive areas north of Richards Bay, a mere 2 km from the wetlands of Lake St Lucia.

An advertisement giving details of the proposal was placed in the Zululand Observer on Friday but many residents in the area felt that the public had not been given sufficient time to comment on the issue.

Professor Roy Lubke, a Grahamstown environmental consultant who is conducting the assessment of the proposed mining area for Richards Bay Minerals, said he would welcome meaningful comment from the public so that it could be included in the report.

His home telephone number is (0461) 26046. He can be contacted at work on (0461) 26023.

SABC moves to upgrade black teaching

By Michael Chester

School television programmes beamed down to South African classrooms from satellites may be on the way to crack the problem of chronic shortages of teachers in black schools, the SABC revealed in Johannesburg last night.

Even remote schools without normal electricity supplies may be able to tune in.

The hi-tech breakthrough to new solutions to improve the education system is in black schools was outlined by Professor Christo Viljoen, chairman of the SABC, when he presented gold and silver medals to winners of the National Productivity Institute awards for 1989.

Professor Viljoen said the proportion of black children in the total school population in South Africa was set to grow from 80 percent to no less than 90 percent by the year 2000.

BASIC PROBLEMS

But the need to improve teaching standards was underlined by "a rather grim picture" painted by recent statistics showing that out of every 100 black pupils starting school in the early 1970s, only an average of 14 reached Std 10 level.

One of the basic problems, he said, was the lack of suitably qualified teachers. And educational institutions were not in a position to produce the number of qualified teachers required for the growing school population.

He believed South Africa needed to call in high technology to alleviate the problem, especially through the electronic media, allowing the best teachers in the world to talk directly to classrooms to supplement the work of teaching staff.

It was the responsibility of the Department of Education to undertake the task of providing formal education. But the SABC was "willing to be the carrier of its message," the professor said.

At the moment, less than one-fifth of all classrooms were linked to electricity supplies. Now, however, research was in progress towards radical new TV units that may not require electricity at all.

The Board of Trade and Industry was already working on the idea of TV sets working on 12-volt batteries — recharged, if necessary, by solar energy.

The SABC believed satellite television broadcasts could become commonplace in the 1990s, Professor Viljoen said.

See Page 19.
Teachers told to join Inkatha or be called traitors

MARITZBURG. — The KwaZulu government has warned Umzazi schoolteachers that if they refuse to join Inkatha, they will be considered traitors by the KwaZulu government.

Mr Winnington Sabelo, a senior member of Inkatha's central committee and a KwaZulu MP, accompanied by members of the KwaZulu Legislative Assembly, spoke to teachers from at least 50 schools at meetings held on Tuesday and Thursday last week.

Mr Sabelo warned the teachers the time had come when their jobs could no longer be guaranteed. “Be warned that we have been instructed by Ulundi to move from school to school compiling lists of all teachers. . . the lists will uncover all those who are not part of us,” he told the teachers.

Mr Sabelo said the KwaZulu government had finally devised a new system of screening all people applying for jobs, including teachers.

“We will have to know exactly where they stand politically before they are even considered for the jobs,” he said.

The teachers were also told they risked losing many fringe benefits, including housing subsidies.

— Sapa
'Traitors' statement queried

ULUNDI — KwaZulu's Minister of Education and Culture, Dr O D Dhlomo, has asked for clarification of an alleged warning by a KwaZulu MP to schoolteachers that they would be considered traitors if they refused to join Inkatha.

The MP and senior member of Inkatha's central committee, Mr Winnington Sabelo, allegedly said this in an address to Umlazi schoolteachers last week.

Dr Dhlomo said he had asked Mr Sabelo to clarify the statement, which he said was "in conflict with the policies of the department" and which Mr Sabelo maintained had later been distorted in press reports.

"Mr Sabelo has undertaken to issue such a clarification in due course." Dr Dhlomo said. — Sapa
1 500 teachers march to DET offices

ABOUT 1 500 teachers at black schools in the Peninsula marched to the Foreshore offices of the Department of Education and Training yesterday to deliver a petition on conditions in black schools.

Peninsula African Teachers' Association (Penata) president Mr Cristopher Gqaji said the marchers were blocked off by police who warned them that the march was illegal.

Police warned them to disperse but took no action.

This was confirmed last night by police spokesman Captain Hendrik Opperman, who said six teachers had subsequently requested permission to enter the building housing the offices of the DET to hand a petition to inspectors.

Permission was granted, Captain Opperman said.

The teachers handed the petition to four DET inspectors after they were told the DET regional director was not available.

The teachers were from schools in all the city's black townships as well as from schools in Mfuleni near Kuils River.

In the petition, they demanded that issues such as the unavailability of stationery, insufficient textbooks, retrenchments and transfers of teachers and a high teacher-pupil ratio be redressed.

Mr Gqaji said the teachers dispersed peacefully after the petition was handed over.
Black teachers’ six-point demands

By DENNIS CRUYWAGEN
Education Reporter

TWO Cape Town teachers’ organisations have issued a joint statement calling on the Department of Education and Training to supply all Western Cape blacks schools with stationery before November 20.

A spokesman for the Democratic Teachers’ Union and the Peninsula African Teachers’ Union said that this demand was one of six short-term demands which had to be met or teachers would take action which he declined to elaborate on.

Other demands are that teachers, some whom have allegedly not been paid for eight months, get their salaries; teachers be given study leave; the department drops its quota system which is used to transfer teachers; teachers on study leave be replaced and the department speeds up its system of mailing certificates to schools.

Not paid

The spokesman said that scores of teachers had not been paid for months, adding that that pupils would not be able to write exams without stationery.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Desmond Tutu has appealed to boycटing pupils in Paarl to return to school for their end-of-year exams because they have made their point.

“We say now we have made our point. … we want people to write exams,” he said.
Some Teachers Wait for Nine Months to Be Paid

The_ARGS_Correspondent

Flanked by near-empty halls, teachers who have been waiting for nine months to be paid for the first time in the history of the school district have filed a class-action lawsuit against the district. The teachers claim that the district has failed to pay them on time and that the delays have caused them financial hardship. The teachers have been waiting for their paychecks since the school year began, and they believe that the district is violating state law by failing to pay them timely and accurately. The teachers are seeking damages for lost wages and interest, as well as an injunction preventing the district from continuing to delay their paychecks. The teachers have been supported by a coalition of local education advocates and community members who have joined forces to support the teachers in their cause. The district has denied the teachers' claims, stating that they are paying salaries according to state law and that any delays are due to budget constraints and the ongoing turmoil in the district. The teachers' lawsuit is one of several recent legal challenges to the district's handling of financial affairs, which have raised questions about the district's ability to manage its finances effectively.
124 Soweto teachers retrenched

By Sue Valentine, Education Reporter

The surplus of teachers in Soweto and the need to place qualified teachers in schools prompted the move to retrench 124 underqualified and unqualified teachers in the area, according to the Department of Education and Training (DET).

Johannesburg regional director Mr Peet Struwig said those laid off would gladly be employed in other regions where there was a desperate shortage of teachers.

The action was not an extraordinary move and unqualified and underqualified teachers could never be appointed permanently, said Mr Struwig.

Mr Struwig said the DET was not firing anybody. He said the department would help those teachers who were in the process of qualifying to get study leave.

"Those who are about to complete their courses will get a year's study leave. If enough leave is available to them they will receive their full salary or a percentage of their salary while they are studying."

In terms of department practice there were various schemes whereby teachers could draw full salary for several months, or part of their salary over an extended period.

According to DET figures given at a recent press briefing, there were 5,948 primary and secondary teachers in the Johannesburg region, 4 percent (234) of whom were unqualified or underqualified.

Mr Struwig said at the moment the DET was dealing with only 124 of them.

He said that as part of the strategy to deal with the surplus in Soweto, posts that became vacant were simply not filled again.
Education drive in trouble after losing sponsor

By Winnie Graham

The United Sisterhood, whose African projects are in jeopardy as a result of the disinvestment of its main sponsor, is to ask its sister organisation in the United States for financial help.

Mrs Henna du Plessis, the chairman of the United Sisterhood, said the national president, Mrs Shirley Robinson of Cape Town, was flying to the world conference of the Temple Sisterhoods this week to look for the R250 000 needed to keep the projects going. Most are education-related.

"This is what sanctions have done. It is not the whites who suffer. Without the help of the American Sisterhood there is a real danger we will not be able to continue our work for African communities."

A portfolio of pictures taken by The Star photographer, John Hogg, will be exhibited at the World Conference of Sisterhoods showing aspects of the women's work.

The sisterhood is heavily involved in the running of the M C Weller School in Alexandra. Named after the rabbi who started the reformed movement in South Africa, the school was taken over by the Bantu Education Board in 1955 (now the Department of Education and Training). The sisterhood, however, continued "mothering" the school.

Today there are 940 pupils at the MC Weller School, which has moved into a dilapidated old building which was once a convent. The women have provided a library, heaters for the classroom, classes for the upgrading of teaching skills, various teaching aids and meals for destitute children.

"The daily meal gives them 70 percent of the body's nutrition and costs 50c a child a day. In most cases, it is the only one they get each day. We would like to expand the feeding scheme to provide about 200 children with another meal but we haven't the money."

A promise of a new school building has never materialised and the sisterhood has now embarked on a major programme of refurbishing the 22 classrooms, adding electricity to each room.

Mrs du Plessis said the 23 teachers at the school had all written, or were about to write, matric. Within three years all hoped to have teachers' diplomas.

Without help

"A four-year course at Vista University not only upgrades teacher skills, but puts them in a higher salary bracket. However, fees alone cost R600 a year and few could afford to continue without help."

The women's organisation also provides bursaries for 22 black students now at universities and colleges in South Africa.

The sisterhood has also "adopted" 550 patients at a black tuberculosis hospital who are visited monthly and provided with basic necessities, newspapers and magazines.

Mrs du Plessis said the Sisterhood of the Temple David had embarked on a project to help black matriculants pass their examinations. The young people were brought to the Mitzvah School where they received extra coaching.

The Jewish women also organise numerous white projects which are heavily funded by the local Reformed Jewish community comprising about 2 000 families.
Pupils at M.C. Weiler School which is run by the United Sisterhood, whose activities are threatened following disinvestment of its main sponsor.

Picture by John Hogg.

**Education drive in trouble after losing sponsor**

By Winnie Graham

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Scores of DET teachers to lose jobs

Scores of teachers in the Johannesburg region are to lose their jobs after a decision by the Department of Education and Training to dismiss underqualified and unqualified teachers.

An undisclosed number of primary and secondary school teachers in Soweto have received letters notifying them that their "services will be terminated with effect from January 1, 1990".

But, according to DET regional director Mr. Peet Struwig, only 130 teachers may be dismissed.

"We are retrenching underqualified and unqualified teachers, but exceptions will be made on merit," he said.

"The region has a surplus of teachers and we have to cut down on their numbers and that of student teachers. However, they may find posts in other regions," he said.

The Johannesburg region has 5,848 primary and secondary school teachers. The DET says 4 percent (234) of them are unqualified or underqualified.

The chairman of the Rand-Central District of the Transvaal United African Teachers' Association, Mr. J. Maseko, said he planned to take up the matter with the DET.
DET to talk on teacher retrenchment

By Stan Hlophé

Representatives of Soweto school councils will meet the regional director of the Department of Education and Training early next year to discuss the DET’s decision to retrench 130 underqualified teachers.

The delegation, which will be elected at the Soweto College of Education on Saturday, will also discuss pupil accommodation in classrooms.

Scores of teachers have received letters saying their services will be terminated from January 1.

Sources told The Star that up to 1 000 teachers were affected, but according to DET regional director Mr Peet Struwig, only 130 teachers will be dismissed.

“We are retrenching under-qualified and unqualified teachers, but exceptions will be made on merit,” he said.

The reason was the surplus of teachers. The region has 5 846 primary and secondary school teachers, of which four percent, or 234, are underqualified or unqualified, the DET says.

A spokesman for the school councils, Mr L T Kgaye, said the lack of space in classrooms meant many pupils were unable to matriculate.
Return to school to work, black pupils advised

The vice-president of the African Teachers Association of South Africa (Atasa), Mr. L.M. Taunyane, has called on black children to return to school and involve themselves in "meaningful education".

In a statement released in Johannesburg yesterday, he said generations of black children had "lost out" educationally as a result of unrest in schools.

Mr. Taunyane said a situation had arisen in which children either did not attend school, or did attend but learnt little or nothing because of agitation or intimidation of a political nature by those who wished to create chaos in black education.

"The validity of the liberation struggle is not in question. However, that liberation also requires the newly liberated to be equipped with knowledge and skills which will elevate their standing and quality of life as responsible workers in, and members of, an equal and open society."

Mr. Taunyane said it could not be denied that black youth, even in the best circumstances, were disadvantaged emotionally and in many other ways. Nevertheless, education was available to them and it was their responsibility to avail themselves of it.

He said Atasa fully supported the call of ANC leader Mr. Walter Sisulu that education in black communities should go on, that schools should return to normal, and that children should go back to school and devote themselves to their studies.

HOSTILITY

"Teachers have found it increasingly difficult to co-operate in a climate of disinterest and sometimes open hostility. Many have become disillusioned and have left the profession," he said.

Others who were prospective teachers were not prepared to face the difficulties involved and opted for other professions.

"The undermining of teachers does not augur well for African education and the time has come for pupils to co-operate with the teaching corps in re-creating a sound and productive educational process."

Mr. Taunyane said preparation for the post-apartheid era should "begin here and now".

Sapa.
TEACHERS—AFRICANS

1990

JANUARY—MAY
Teachers get union going

BENONI teachers have launched a non-racial "community-orientated, progressive" union to look after their interests.

The Benoni Teachers Union (Betu), formed in December last year, was launched last Thursday at a meeting attended by about 600 teachers at Daveyton's Lionel Kent Community Centre.

Betu, an affiliate of the National Education Co-ordinating Committee, pledged to:

* Unite teachers and educationists in Benoni, and strive for a non-racial, just and democratic system of education in a free and democratic South Africa.

* Co-ordinate and liaise with parent and pupil organisations to strive for the optimum development of the child;

* Safeguard the interests of teachers both as workers and professionals.

By PHANCISILE MTSHALI

* Eliminate the negative competition prevailing among schools as it is detrimental to the child; and

* Defend teachers' interests and rights in whatever responsible manner deemed legally feasible.

SCHOOL CRISIS

A member of Betu's interim committee, Mr Kenneth Molete, said: "Teachers are being proletarianised. "The changed nature of their roles and function signifies the disappearance of a form of intellectual labour central to the nature of pedagogy itself."

"The tendency to reduce teachers to high-level clerks implementing orders of others within the school bureaucracy is part of much larger problems."

He urged teachers to stop being passive recipients of professional knowledge and to become thoughtful, critical educational leaders.

They should have the courage to question authority and refuse to act contrary to their own experience and judgment.

"Teachers' work must be defined against the imperative to develop knowledge and skills that provide pupils with tools they will need to be leaders rather than simply managers or skilled civil servants.

"They must fight against those ideological and material practices that reproduce privileges for the few and social and economic inequality for the many," Molete said.
Johannesburg. — More than 300,000 teachers needed to be trained to bring present teacher-pupil ratios in black schools to an acceptable level, a National Education Co-ordinating Committee (NECC) spokesman said yesterday.

NECC secretary-general Mr Irhon Rensburg said the NECC would open schools in churches around the country if empty white classrooms were not opened to blacks soon or other steps taken to accept into schools the thousands of young people who had no place at school.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, said in a statement in Pretoria yesterday that at no stage had he given a mandate to the NECC to take control of schools in Soweto.

Dr Van der Merwe said that according to information he had received, two members of the NECC called a meeting of principals of secondary schools, made claims and "purportedly with my permission gave instructions to them"
300 000 more teachers needed

MORE than 300 000 teachers needed to be trained to bring present teacher-pupil ratios in black schools to an acceptable level, a National Education Co-ordinating Committee (NECC) spokesman said yesterday.

Johannesburg-based NECC secretary-general Izon Rensburg said the NECC would open schools in churches around the country if empty white classrooms were not opened to blacks soon, or other steps taken to accommodate the thousands of young people for whom there were no places at schools.

Rensburg said the present crisis was “disastrous” in its proportions. “At the moment we have eight-million black children in school and only 150 000 teachers. I was in a classroom in Motherwell in Port Elizabeth this week where there were 90 pupils per teacher. The teacher could hardly get in the door.

“It is not enough to encourage children to return to school if there are not enough facilities or teachers for them. How much learning will take place? For a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:20, 400 000 teachers are needed.”

The ratio in white schools at present was 1:16. The average ratio in black schools was 1:50.

Rensburg said there were 4 910 empty places in white teacher training colleges at present, and four colleges had been closed down.

Illiteracy

If black teachers were allowed to fill those 4 910 empty places, it would be at no extra cost to the state and would be an important step in redressing educational imbalances.

“In building a true democracy, we can’t have a 60% illiteracy rate as we have at present. If the state does not address the crisis, we will activate schools in churches in February — and we do not expect the state to intervene in community attempts to solve the educational crisis.”
Workshop on education

A GROUP of primary school teachers from Bophuthatswana, Gazankulu and Venda attended a five-day remedial education workshop at the Wits University's Division of Specialised Education this week. The workshop is a joint project of the division and the Southern African Association for Learning and Educational Disabilities.

Soweto 30/11/90

Its aim is to attempt to address some of the critical needs in education today, as well as give teachers insights into how children learn and why some children have difficulty in doing so. It also provides teaching strategies to overcome some of these difficulties in the classroom. More of these programmes are planned for the future.
Computer problem, so no pay for teachers

Education Reporter

A large number of teachers and other employees of the Transvaal Education Department did not receive their salaries on pay day yesterday, due to a problem with a TED computer programme.

The Star was inundated with calls from anxious teachers who said their salaries had been delayed and they could not meet their financial commitments, many of which were monthly stop-orders.

One teacher from a primary school in Johannesburg north said at her school, only three people received their salaries yesterday.

She said it was not only teachers who were not paid, but a large number of black staff members did not receive their pay packets.

Many of the teachers complained about the low salaries they received, and one said: “The TED still messes us around by not giving us our pay cheques in time.”

One teacher from a northern suburbs high school said this was the “last straw” and she was resigning at the end of the term because of the “raw deal” teachers got from the TED.

Dr P Bredenkamp, TED director, said last night the department was doing its best to get the salaries and cheques to staff members as soon as possible and a large number of cheques were delivered to schools by hand. There had been a problem with the computer programme which dealt with salaries.
School strike comes to end

By MONK NKOM

THE one-week strike at Saulridge Secondary School in Atteridgeville ended yesterday when both teachers and pupils returned to classes.

The Department of Education and Training promised to investigate a call by pupils for the immediate dismissal of a teacher who inflicted corporal punishment on some of them last week.

More than 600 pupils boycotted classes since Tuesday in protest against a female teacher who punished a Standard 8 class by beating them on the knuckles with a ruler.

Pupils called for the immediate dismissal of the teacher because she did not adhere to the prescribed regulations of the Department of Education and Training on corporal punishment.

Demand

The demand to fire the teacher led to a serious confrontation between pupils and teachers on Monday. A spokesman for the pupils alleged that teachers refused to give lessons in protest against their demands.

A teacher, who did not want his name published for fear of reprisals, denied the allegations and said teachers were instead forced out of classes by pupils on Monday.
Teachers to stage march

MORE than 1,500 Soweto teachers yesterday resolved to march on the Department of Education and Training's Braamfontein offices, Johannesburg, next Wednesday to deliver a petition containing their grievances.

The decision was taken at an emotion-charged meeting at Fundo Centre in Soweto called by the Progressive Teachers Committee, an affiliate of the National Education Union of South Africa.
Teachers to march on DET

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

MORE than 3,000 Soweto teachers are ex-
pected to march to the DET’s offices in Braam-
fontein, Johannesburg, tomorrow to present a
memorandum containing their grievances.

A spokesman of the Soweto branch of the Na-
tional Education Union of South Africa, which is
spearheading the march, told a Press conference in
Johannesburg yesterday that the memorandum
contains grievances and demands concerning their
working conditions.

It will also be presented to the Minister of Edu-
cation and Development Aid, Dr. Stoffel van der
Merwe.

It includes the reinstatement of
retrenched teachers, halting transfers, hiring more
teachers, reducing the number of teaching peri-
es a week, being paid a living wage and halting
school inspections until all the demands are met.
Thousands of teachers stage protest march

THOUSANDS of black school teachers yesterday marched to the regional offices of the Department of Education and Training (DET) in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, to highlight the black education crisis in SA.

Leaders of the National Education Union of SA (Neusa) presented a memorandum calling for the immediate reinstatement — without loss of salary — of all retrenched and dismissed teachers.

It demanded the reduction in teaching hours to 28-32 hours per week, a halt to inspectors visiting schools until their roles were more clearly defined, and salary increases.

It also called for more teachers to reduce overloading of classrooms, and an end to unrequested teacher transfers. Neusa president Curtis Nkonde also said that the 14 different education departments must consolidate and pointed out that 42 Johannesburg schools were currently operating virtually empty.

DET regional director Peet Strewig said afterwards he had not yet read the demands, and could not comment on them, but admitted there was a crisis “to a certain extent”.

The crowd left from the Johannesburg Public Library at about 9.30am and swelled to about 10 000 by the time it arrived at the DET’s Simmonds Street offices.

The crowd dispersed shortly after noon without incident.

New link in Harvey case

MARITZBURG — Police have evidence that psychopath Gert van Rooyen left Pretoria for Natal four days prior to the disappearance of Fiona Harvey in the Natal capital in 1968.

A spokesman said police had information that Van Rooyen left Pretoria alone on December 19, 1968, saying he would be in Durban until December 28.

His bakkie is thought to have been seen in the vicinity of Harvey’s home on three consecutive days prior to her disappearance on December 22.

Picture: BRIAN HINKLE.

A marcher points a mock rifle in the direction of policemen during the teachers’ protest in central Johannesburg yesterday.
Teachers march through Jo’burg

JOHANNESBURG — Thousands of black teachers, a number bearing ANC flags, staged a peaceful march to the regional offices of the Department of Education and Training yesterday armed with a petition of teachers’ grievances linked to the crisis in black education.

The march to nearby Braamfontein, in which more than 6,000 teachers took part, was called by the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) on Thursday last week at a meeting in Soweto. It came a day after freed ANC leader Mr Nelson Mandela called for pupils and students to return to classes.

Neusa leader Mr Curtis Nkondo told a news conference that Mr Mandela’s appeal was an endorsement of his union’s call.

Marchers stood resolutely outside the DET offices while a delegation handed over the petition.

Crowd swelled

The crowd swelled to more than 15,000 as bystanders and onlookers joined in.

The petition called for a halt in retrenchments or dismissals, immediate reinstatement of those affected and a halt to inspections till inspectors’ role are properly defined.

• About 80,000 residents in Tokoza on the East Rand presented a petition to the town council in “Mandela-section” to protest against rent and electricity tariffs.

• In Benoni a protest against high rents in the black and Indian townships ended peacefully yesterday after the marchers were told their grievances would be discussed at a meeting next Tuesday. — Sapa
43 more killed in Idai

The once-applied water in this house was now wet, as the floodwaters continued to rise. The house was now submerged up to the second floor. The residents were now trapped inside, as the water continued to rise.


ONE KILLED AS EX-LI ON OVERFISHING

A woman was killed and 15 people injured when a boat capsized in the river. The boat was carrying more than 50 people, who were on their way to a nearby village.


MORE THAN 10,000 EVACUATED

By Nkopane Mapaseka

In an unprecedented move, authorities ordered the evacuation of more than 10,000 people from their homes due to the rising floodwaters. The authorities warned that the situation could worsen if the rain continues.


TALKS IN UNION

CARL RAMAPHOSA

President Cyril Ramaphosa called for urgent talks between the government and the unions to address the rising cost of living.


10,000 ANGRY TEACHERS

More than 10,000 teachers went on strike, demanding better conditions and higher salaries.


STILL ON THE RUN

Freedom Fighters

The 15 people who were freed from the prison yesterday are still on the run. The authorities are toying with the idea of offering a reward for information leading to their capture.


RAW TEXT END
Thousands of teachers from Alexandra and Soweto protesting outside the Department of Education and Training's Braamfontein offices following a march to hand the DET a memorandum outlining their grievances about working conditions. See story on page 2.
5 000 angry teachers take to the streets

ABOUT 5 000 teachers took to the streets of Johannesburg this week in protest against the current crisis in black education.

Teachers presented a memorandum to the Department of Education and Training, detailing the problems facing educational institutions in Soweto and Alexandra.

A meeting was held between teachers, represented by the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa), and the DET, but it was inconclusive. They did, however, agree to meet regularly to resolve problems.

The protest reflected a new and confident mood towards mass protest since the release of Nelson Mandela and the unbanning of the African National Congress.

In his address at the Soccer City rally this week, Mandela echoed the views of teachers, saying the crisis in education that exists in South Africa demands special attention.

He said the education crisis is a political crisis in black schools arising from the fact that black people have no vote and thus cannot make government of the day responsive to their needs.

Mandela said: "It has been the policy of the ANC that though the school and the entire education system is a site of struggle, the actual process of learning must take place in the schools."

Mandela continued: "I want to add my voice therefore to the call made at the beginning of the year that all students must return to school and learn. We must continue our struggle for people's education within the school system and use its resources to achieve our goals."

Teachers demanded that the Department of Education collapse all its 14 departments into one and give equal pay to all teachers. They also demanded an end to separate education and the opening of all schools, particularly empty white schools, to all children.

Asking whether the Department of Education and Training would consider this, Piet Truwig, head of the DET's Witwatersrand division, unwittingly confirmed Mandela's statements and said opening schools to all was a political matter. He also said he did not wish to express opinions on political issues.

There are indications that the crisis in education is going to receive concerted attention from the resistance movement. Teachers, anti-apartheid educationalists and students will continue to wage their struggle against separate education.

There have been repeated demands that students should return to the classrooms. "If I could I would drive anything in Soweto that barely looks like a child right into the classroom," said Curtis Nkondo, national president of Neusa.
School unrest is now worse, say officials

by DESMOND BLOW

DESPITE the calls by Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu for pupils to return to school to learn, the unrest in schools in many parts of the country is worse today than it was the same time last year, say DET officials.

Unrest in schools was largely responsible for the high failure rate in matric last year, say teachers and DET officials.

In Johannesburg, schools closed one day this week when teachers held a protest march to draw attention to their plight in schools.

Their complaints included the congested time-tables and understaffing at schools.

In Hoopstad in the Free State children objected to the white teachers, and locked them and black teachers and the headmaster in a classroom and ran amok, cutting telephone wires and stoning the staff's vehicles. Police fired rubber bullets and teargas at them.

It was the first time that pupils in Hoopstad had objected to white teachers, who have been teaching there for the past six years. There have, however, been a number of objections in the past to white teachers in Welbm.

The situation in schools in Botshabelo was described as chaotic. Pupils revolted because they opposed the transfer of Botshabelo to QwaQwa.

This would mean that their present teachers would be transferred and QwaQwa teachers would replace them.
School unrest is now worse, say officials

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The would mean that their present teachers would be transferred and QwaQwa teachers would replace them.
DET warns teachers on protest marches

By SELLO SERIPE

THE Department of Education and Training (DET) will no longer tolerate the staging of protest marches by teachers.

This was said by DET regional director Peet Struwig on Friday following the march by about 10,000 teachers from the Reef on Wednesday, protesting against alleged harassment by the department’s officials and the meagre salaries.

Struwig did not say what action would be taken against teachers who took to the streets again.

The Soweto branch of the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa), organised the march, which had swelled to more than 1,000 teachers by 9am.

The crowd swelled to more than 8,000 as teachers streamed in from private schools in the city centre and others arrived in taxis from Alexandra, the East Rand and the Vaal areas.

At the DET regional offices in Simmonds Street, a delegation of six, led by Neusa president Curtis Nkondo, presented a memorandum outlining teachers’ demands to Struwig.

These included a halt to the freezing of teaching posts and the transfer and retrenchment of teachers.

In response to the Neusa memo, Struwig presented the delegation with a memorandum in which he asked teachers what the response of parents and pupils would be to their participation in unproductive activity — referring to the march.

Struwig is expected to discuss the teachers’ grievances with his seniors at the department’s headquarters in Pretoria and will report back to the Neusa delegation on February 23.
Teachers to march on DET

MORE than 400 schoolteachers in Ikageng, near Potchefstroom, are to march to the regional offices of the DET on Wednesday to hand over a memorandum containing their grievances.

Their grievances include poor salaries and alleged maladministration at the Potchefstroom North circuit office. Sowetan 1912/90

A teachers' spokesman said: "We ask all teachers to assemble at the Ikageng Sports Stadium at 8am. We are going to consult with the student representative councils at all schools to inform pupils to report to school as usual on Wednesday."
Female teachers will still earn less

MOST women teachers will still earn less than their male colleagues after salary adjustments next month.

The biggest disparity is 34 percent in the salaries of unqualified primary school teachers (category A), with a 15 percent difference at category D - a teacher with matriculation and a four-year teaching qualification.

New salaries and conditions of employment of teachers are set down in a policy document of the Department of National Education.

When the new salaries come into effect on March 1 a male teacher classified as category D can expect to start on R1 708 and a woman on R1 549.

Although there is no salary discrimination in terms of race, many black women in primary schools earn much less because of lower qualifications.

The minimum salary for a teacher without matriculation or a teaching qualification increases to R466 (R526 for men).

Disparity between the salaries of women and men in teaching posts disappears only after category E with its requirements of a Standard 10 with at least five years appropriate training - usually a bachelor's degree with honours and a teaching diploma.

A teacher starting in this category will earn a minimum of R1 907 a month, and a teacher in category G - with a master’s degree - will earn at least R2 170 a month, with increments in recognition of merit.

About 70 percent of teachers are on post-level 1 - the most junior levels in schools - but once they fill a head of department post they progress to post-level 2. On this level women can nearly double their salaries as disparity no longer exists.
March 35

is off...
FOCUS

Enough is enough, say black teachers

By NKOPANE MAKOBA

Until about 10 000 teachers staged a protest march through the streets of Johannesburg last week, few people thought that black teachers had the ability to say enough is enough.

Over the past years, they had become obedient servants of the Department of Education and Training, implementing unpopular policies which tarnished their images in the eyes of the community and their pupils. Those days could now be nearing an end.

The march — mainly by teachers from Soweto and Alexandra but also from the East Rand, the Vaal, Reiger Park and Eldorado Park — was a sequel to a four-hour mass meeting at Soweto’s Funda Centre in Diepkloof on February 8 1990. At that emotionally-charged meeting, many accusations were levelled against the education department.

Representations

After lengthy deliberations some felt that, although aggrieved, it would not be proper to stage a protest march because school children would suffer. Those who held this view argued that there were other channels which could be used to voice grievances and bring them to the attention of the authorities.

However, the majority differed, arguing that for many years representations had been made through DET structures and community delegations, but nothing concrete had emerged from these.

Said one young teacher: “We had come to regard directives that came from the department via the principals as the Gospel truth. No one dared ask any questions, because our elderly colleagues had led us to believe for decades that he who crosses the path of the department is soon out of a job.”

Apartheid

Many speakers said teachers had stumbled voluntarily for a long time and that the moment to resist had arrived. They noted that the respect and dignity accorded to teachers and human beings in the past had been invaded for far too long. The loss of human rights was manifest in detail, and they were now time to stand up and protest against this kind of treatment.

It was felt the only way to make education officials realise the seriousness of their grievances was through a peaceful protest march.

In addition, it was said the crisis in education had reached alarming heights and this could be separated from other problems caused by apartheid system as a whole.

Oppressed teachers, it was said, “hold the key to the future of the country.” It was they who, at the end of the year, were expected to perform miracles and produce good results.

And so last Wednesday, teachers, mobilised by the National Education Union of South Africa (Neva), rallied to submit a three-page memorandum to the chief regional director of education, Mr Pect Strougi. In it, they said they had a duty to society to impart knowledge to children and inculcate in them norms, values and a sense of responsibility. They maintained they could not afford to do this being frustrated and undermined as they were.

“Our loyalty has been misplaced and this has resulted in exploitation which can no longer be tolerated. That the DET had shown us total disregard is even more frustrating.

“As teachers, we have the right to teach and have better working conditions that would in turn benefit the community politically, socially and culturally. We call on the DET to yield to the plight of the teacher. We insist that the DET will be responsible and accede to our demands,” the memorandum said.

The teacher’s demands are:

* all retrenched and dismissed teachers be immediately reinstalled without any loss of salary;
* more teachers be employed to make teaching effective and ease overloading;
* the standard number of teaching periods be reduced to between 28 and 32 a week;
* inspectors halt their visits to school until their role is properly defined and agreed upon by Neusa and the DET;
* transfers be stopped immediately and only be done at teacher’s requests;
* teachers be paid a living wage.

Now that the teachers have made a move, it remains to be seen whether the department will play ball. As one teacher put it, “The ball is now in the hands of education officials and we shall not hesitate to do it again if the situation warrants it.”

Thousands of teachers toy-towyed outside the DET offices in Braamfontein last week.
The Minister of Education

The Ministry of Education is responsible for the coordination and implementation of educational policies and programs. This includes the provision of educational services, the development of curriculum, and the monitoring of educational outcomes. The ministry also collaborates with other government departments to ensure the provision of quality education to all students.

The Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the protection and conservation of the environment. This includes the management of natural resources, the regulation of pollution, and the promotion of sustainable practices. The ministry also collaborates with other government departments and international organizations to address environmental challenges.

The Minister of Planning and Prog.

The Ministry of Planning and Program Development is responsible for the formulation and implementation of national policies and programs. This includes the development of economic and social policies, the promotion of private sector development, and the coordination of international aid. The ministry also collaborates with other government departments and international organizations to ensure the effective implementation of programs.
Celebrations

The principal of the school was jubilant after the announcement which paved the way for the celebrations. The principal, Mr. Nkoyane, was thrilled to see the students looking forward to the event. The announcement was well-received by the parents, who were impressed with the efforts made by the school.

Schools Shut in Thaboboi

By Nkopane Makobane
Leboho 21/1/90

Thousands of teachers and sympathisers from the Highveld marched for two hours from central Springs to show their dissatisfaction about working conditions. Police kept a watchful eye but the demonstration was peaceful.
Bolobedu teachers to protest

TEACHERS from the Bolobedu circuit near Duiwelskloof are to march to the local circuit office tomorrow to protest against unnecessary transfers.

The march, coordinated by the Bolobedu Teachers Organisation, is also to protest against inefficiency in the circuit office which has allegedly led to several matriculation scripts not having been sent to Pretoria for marking.

The march will start at the "local" stadium at 11am.
Teachers march over exams cash

ABOUT 5 000 people, mainly school teachers, yester-
day marched to the Boilebedu circuit office, near
Duiwelskloof, to present a petition containing various
grievances on education.

The march, organised by the Boilebedu branch of the
Letaba Teachers Union, was prompted by the alleged
non-submission of monies and registration forms to the
Department of Education and Training for sup-
plementary matriculation exams, according to the LTU
chairman, Mr Molebatsi Maseed.

The teachers also claim supplementary scripts for
last year's March exams are still lying in the circuit
vault and have not been sent to Pretoria for marking.

Other grievances include victimisations of teachers
who were transferred. They demanded that 11 teachers
who refused to join Transvaal United Teachers Associa-
tion (Tuata), and were transferred from Maseed High
School earlier this year be brought back.
PIETERSBURG. — Hundreds of teachers from the Bolobedu Circuit in Lebowa yesterday staged a protest march to the local circuit inspector's office to present a memorandum outlining their grievances. Teachers demanded explanations about supplementary examination fees paid by matriculants on their circuit earlier this year, and also wanted to know the whereabouts of 1989 supplementary scripts.
Files dumped as teachers give DET a lesson in protest

By PHIL MOLEFE

FIVE thousand teachers’ record books were defiantly dumped at the Vereeniging Department of Education and Training regional offices yesterday as part of escalating protests by teachers against the education authorities.

The Vaal teachers, who carried their files with them down Voorstraat Road, resolved there would be “no more green files” (the teachers’ record books). Without these files, the DET will have little control over what is happening in their classrooms.

Vereeniging, formerly State President FW de Klerk’s parliamentary seat, was invaded by a huge crowd carrying African National Congress flags and toyi-toyiing in the streets. Traffic ground to a halt as officers battled to keep control and shops along the main route were closed.

The teachers’ delegation was met by assistant regional director, GB Steyn, who promised that their grievances would be looked into.

As the delegation, led by Vaal Progressive Teachers Organisation chairman, Jimmy Sithole, and members of the Vaal Council of Churches, emerged from the short meeting with officials, the teachers were told that the regional director, A Vorster, could not be present because “teachers were wasting the students’ time by marching in the streets”.

Teachers have given the DET a week in which to respond.

© See PAGE 10
TEACHERS TELL PARK MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT IS "ENOUGH"

"Enough is enough," said one teacher, describing the current state of education in a major city. "We've been promised everything but delivered nothing. Our students are falling behind, and we're not sure how much longer we can keep going without proper resources.

Another teacher echoed these sentiments, saying, "The lack of support for our students is heartbreaking. We're doing our best to educate them, but we need more funding, more resources, and more support from the community."

The teachers are frustrated and feel that the administration is not doing enough to address these issues. They're calling for a change in the way education is funded and for more resources to be directed towards the classrooms.

"We need more than just promises," said one teacher. "We need action. We need to see real change in the way our children are educated."

The teachers are reaching out to parents and the community to raise awareness about the issues they're facing. They're hoping that by working together, they can make a difference for their students.

"Enough is enough," they say. "We need to take action. We need to demand better for our children."

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In a letter to the editor, a parent stated, "I'm worried about the future of education in our city. We need to stand up for our children and demand better. They deserve the best, and we need to work together to make sure they get it."

The parents are also organizing events and reaching out to their local government to discuss the issues they're facing. They're calling for a more transparent and accountable system of education, where the needs of the students are at the forefront.

"Enough is enough," they say. "We need to take charge and demand better for our children."

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In conclusion, the teachers and parents are calling for a change in the way education is funded and for more resources to be directed towards the classrooms. They're demanding better for their students and are hoping that by working together, they can make a difference for the future of education in their city.

"Enough is enough," they say. "We need to stand up for our children and demand better. They deserve the best, and we need to work together to make sure they get it."
Pupils, teachers at public school start boycott

By SONTI MASEKO

PUPILS and teachers at Mannello Public School in Meluding, Virginia, have embarked on an indefinite class boycott.

This is the latest in a number of events which started on February 8 when pupils boycotted classes demanding: a democratically elected SRC; an end to corporal punishment; a halt to sexual harassment of pupils; the abolition of the prefect system.

On Monday five boys at the school appeared at the Virginia Magistrate Courts on charges of public violence, intimidation and assault. Their case was postponed to March 1.

On February 12 a pupil delegation met with the school principal in an attempt to resolve the situation. The pupils attacked the principal’s property causing serious damage to his car and house after he had allegedly told them to “go to hell”.

Detained

Four days later, nine pupils were held by the police. Four were later released and five were charged on Monday. The pupils say teachers at the school also embarked on their own class boycott on February 14.

The Department of Education and Training Regional Director in the Free State, Mr Nic Botha, confirmed that pupils at the school attacked the principal's property.

Botha said the suspension of the classes by the DET, following the disruption of meaningful education, would be lifted on Monday. He said he had been approached by the school’s management council which requested the lifting of the suspension and he had to consult with “a few more senior people in the region” and hoped that classes would resume on Monday.
3 000 angry Vaal teachers burn work books at DET

By Melody McDougall, Vereeniging Bureau

Angry teachers hurled hundreds of green work books on to a heap in front of the Department of Education and Training's (DET) regional offices in Vereeniging yesterday during a protest march.

About 3 000 defiant teachers briefly disrupted traffic when they marched through the main street of Vereeniging to the DET's offices.

The peaceful march, organised by the Vaal Progress Teachers Organisation (Vapto) to demand better working conditions, was monitored by a large police contingent, but no incidents were reported.

The crowds arrived in buses and taxis from as far afield as Parys and Heilbron.

They sang freedom songs, raised clenched fists and carried placards with messages such as "A hungry teacher is an angry teacher", "Do away with white teachers in our schools" and "Away with the green work book".

At the DET offices the protesters angrily hurled hundreds of green work books on to a heap in front of the building.

The Vapto delegation, headed by Mr Jimmy Sithole, met behind closed doors with officials, where a memorandum of about 18 grievances was presented to Mr Gert Steyn, deputy director of the department's Orange Vaal region.

A letter from the chief director of the region, Mr F H Voster, was presented to Mr Sithole. After reading it he refused to accept it.

The letter apparently urged teachers to return to their schools and encourage pupils to attend classes. Mr Sithole said the protesting teachers were not wasting time as suggested.

Mr Sithole said the complaints in the memorandum included unsatisfactory working conditions, poor salaries, harassment and ill-treatment of teachers and dissatisfaction over the work book system.

Sapa reports from Pietersburg that hundreds of teachers from the Bolobedu Circuit in Lebowa yesterday staged a protest march to the local circuit inspector's office to present a memorandum outlining grievances.

See Page 10.
Johannesburg. — Black teachers voiced their grievances about the education crisis at a meeting with DET officials yesterday.

A wave of teacher protest marches in the past two weeks prompted the DET regional director, Mr Peet Struwig, to agree to yesterday's meeting.

The teachers — from the National Education Union of SA — are demanding:

- A single, unified and equal education system in which all educational institutions are opened to all races.
- The immediate reinstatement of retrenched teachers.
- The employment of more teachers.
- That all unrequested transfers be halted.
- A decrease in the number of periods taught.
- An increase in teachers' salaries.
- Other problems faced by teachers include overcrowding at schools and a shortage of books, stationery and equipment.
- More teacher protest marches are expected countrywide next week.

In the past two weeks, teachers have taken to the streets, declaring their support for groups such as the ANC despite DET regulations prohibiting teachers from openly supporting political organisations.

Teacher protests took place in the Eastern Cape, East Rand and Vaal Triangle.

Pupils have also been active in recent weeks in pressurising for better education conditions.

In the Free State, 17 schools have closed because of class boycotts.

Protest at Ilageng near Potchefstroom adopted a racial tone on Thursday when black pupils evicted white teachers from several schools and warned them not to return. — Sapa
Marching teachers stop traffic in PE

CP Correspondent

Traffic was brought to a halt in the city centre of Port Elizabeth this week when more than 1 000 teachers marched to the offices of the Department of Education and Training (DET) to present a petition with their grievances over the structure of the education system.

Marchers chanted, shouted slogans and carried placards demanding, "Free education for all — If God is with us who can be against us?"

They dispersed peacefully after delivering the petition which demanded a unified and equal system, in which schools, colleges, technikons and universities would be open to everyone.

They also called for a democratically elected students' representative structure and the replacement of the school management system and parents' committees with a parent-teachers-student association.

DET regional director Bill Staude said the problems being experienced in black education are a matter of concern to all who have the pupil's welfare at heart.

"In that regard I would point out that at a ministerial level and in Parliament it has been unequivocally stated that improvement of black education is a national priority," said Staude.

Police stood with dogs and batons and kept a low profile, as flags of the ANC, SACP were displayed.
No white support in march for ‘all teachers’

By DAN DHLAMINI

WHITE teachers failed to participate in the abortive “all teachers march” to the DET offices in Ikageng near Potchefstroom on Wednesday.

Two vehicles which transport Tlokwe Secondary School’s white teaching staff, and a milk-delivery van, went up in flames on Thursday after students and police clashed.

This was a day after hundreds of teachers from the Diamond Fields region, who were set to march on the local DET offices, were stopped by armed police and told the march was illegal.

Teachers carrying ANC and SACP flags and placards were turned away at the entrance to Ikageng.

Among their demands were:
- Employ more teachers instead of retrenching;
- Change the teacher-pupil ratio in DET schools;
- Abolish racial education and establish one education system;
- Give transport allowances to black teachers, not just whites; and
- Overcome the shortage of stationery and text books, especially in primary schools.

Angry students demanded the immediate resignation of white teachers because they did not join their colleagues in the march.

Police stop thousands-strong teachers' march

By PHIL MOLEFE

THOUSANDS of black teachers from different Pretoria township schools were yesterday ordered to disperse by the South African Police when they attempted to march to the Department of Education and Training offices.

The teachers travelled from Mamelodi and Atteridgeville in buses and taxis and assembled at the Bled Street taxi rank from where they would have proceeded with the march to the DET head office in Schoeman Street. The march was planned for 10am.

Police barricaded Kruger and Boom streets alongside the taxi rank where the teachers had assembled.

According to Mamelodi Teachers Union member Squire Khumalo, the police gave the teachers three minutes to disperse.

In Soshanguve, over 1 000 teachers, who had gathered yesterday morning at the local community hall, were told by senior policemen that they could not proceed to Pretoria to join their colleagues for the march because it was illegal.

Teachers defied the police order and attempted to proceed to Pretoria in over 50 taxis and private cars. The procession ran into a police road block near the Soshanguve police station and was prevented from going ahead.

Several taxis and cars took another route via Hebron and Erasmus but again found that police had blocked the road.

See PAGE 9
FIFTY eight teachers of an Orange Farm school yesterday marched to the local Transvaal Provincial Administration offices to demand their January and February salaries.

The teachers, from both the primary and high school, fluttered an ANC flag, toyi-toyiied and held placards when they marched about three kilometers from their school to the offices. Schoolchildren were sent home early.

The school, which has a total enrolment of 4140 pupils was started this year when disused stables were converted into classrooms to accommodate children of squatters who have been moving from Mshenguville in Soweto and other squatter camps.

On arrival at the offices, the teachers were disappointed when they could not present a memorandum containing their grievances to a Mr Woods, the TPA's chairman. They were told he was not available. However, later a white official and a member of the local residents' interim committee told the teachers that the two were going to Pretoria to try and organise their money. The teachers were told they would receive R300 each by yesterday.

Their grievances included demands to be paid, erection of proper school buildings, immediate provision of toilets, provision of school furniture, stationery and textbooks.

A teacher said they had not been paid for two months. She said when the school opened, officials of the interim committee, who run the school, promised that each teacher would earn R1 000 or more. The money, R300, would come from the R10 each parent was to donate to the school; R400 from the TPA and the rest from sponsors.
Students beat up ‘interfering’ Vaal teacher

By STAN MHLONGO

VAAL students went on the rampage and assaulted a teacher after he had disrupted a meeting this week.

Pupils at Botebo-Tsebo Secondary in Sebokeng Zone 14 became angry when a teacher disrupted a students’ meeting and told them to return to class.

The meeting was called to demand the return of the school fees paid by pupils.

“Education should be free. Our parents cannot be expected to pay for the inferior bantu education, more so with the rate of inflation rocketing daily,” said one student.

Students claim that a large number of pupils were returned their school fees.

The unrest comes in the wake of a threat by 3,000 Vaal teachers to stay away from schools unless a list of grievances – which was handed to the Department of Education and Training last week – was addressed.

The teachers, members of the Vaal Progressive Teachers’ Organisation (VPTO), gave the Vaal region of DET in Vereeniging seven days to do so, or they would boycott schools.

Vaal regional deputy director of DET GB Steyn said the department was liaising with its head office in Pretoria to find a solution to the grievances.

According to Steyn, five secondary and one primary school were presently involved in school boycotts.
DEC officials ‘tampered’ with teachers promotions

By NORMAN WEST
Political Reporter

OFFICIALS in the Department of Education “tampered” with assessments of teachers seeking promotion, the Minister of Education in the House of Delegates admitted in Parliament this week.

And, according to Mr Amichand Rajbansi, leader of the opposition National People’s Party, the Minister of Education and Culture in the House of Delegates, Dr Kisten Hagee, MP for Merchants, is to blame.

The shock claim of irregularities relating to the assessment of at least 65 teachers seeking promotion will be debated in the house this week.

Suspicion

A draft resolution placed on the Order Paper for debate on March 8 states: “...the House is very seriously concerned by the fact that the Minister of Education and Culture has indicated in reply to a question from an Opposition member that of the 178 educators promoted at the end of 1988, the assessments of 65 applicants for promotion were altered at Head Office.”

This, says the document, “creates the suspicion of corruption, nepotism and irregularity in the minds of the teaching fraternity as well as of the Indian community”.

It calls on the Ministers’ Council to appoint an independent committee of inquiry under the chairmanship of a magistrate or a judge of the Supreme Court to investigate and report on the alteration of the teacher assessments and the role of the Minister of Education and Culture in the affair.

Another controversial motion set down for March 8 in the name of Mr Komal Panday, MP for Reservoir Hills, calls on the State President to institute proceedings to charge the former Director-General of Administration in the House of Delegates for misconduct. It is alleged that he:

- Drafted an affidavit for a member of the Ministers’ Council against the 1988 Chairman, Mr Rajbansi; and
- Engaged counsel to appear at the James Commission of inquiry against Ministerial instructions.

One section of a three-part resolution unanimously adopted by the House last Wednesday has left Mr Rajbansi with egg on his face.

The resolution states that the House:

- Reaffirms its principles in respect of the rights of the media to be allowed to report the facts as they are, without hindrance;

- Is appreciative of the fact that the Government of India has, for the first time, allowed an Indian television crew to come to South Africa; and

- Strongly condemns the physical attacks on the members of this TV crew at a meeting of the Conservative Party and calls on the CP to dissociate itself from the actions of people who have done incalculable harm to our beloved country.

Australian invitation

PRIME Minister Bob Hawke has invited ANC leader Nelson Mandela to visit Australia, government officials said in Canberra yesterday.

The invitation was contained in a letter Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans planned to deliver to Mr Mandela this weekend in Lusaka, Zambia.
Teachers go on strike

By SONTI MASEKO

ABOUT 6 000 teachers in Soweto and Alexandra are to down tools today in a bid to force the Department of Education and Training to meet their demands.

Sources said there would be no lessons at DET schools this week.

The strike, organised by the National Education Union of South Africa, was called in protest against the outcome of a meeting between the organisation and Johannesburg chief regional director, Mr Petri Struiwig. Spokesman for the DET, Mr Richard Chernis, yesterday warned the teachers to consider very carefully the consequences of their action.

He said the responsibility of the teachers was primarily to the children they teach.

About a fortnight ago, thousands of angry teachers marched to the DET regional offices in Braamfontein where they submitted a memorandum to Struiwig demanding better working conditions.

The strike action was decided upon because the delegation reported that the teachers' demands had been rejected as not genuine. Now the organisation would seek a meeting with the Minister this week.

"It was decided at the meeting that teachers should meet again at Funda Centre on Thursday to decide on what to do next if our demands are still not met," one teacher said.

Neusa executive members could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Meanwhile SAPA reports that a protest march by Diamond Field teachers will go ahead on Tuesday despite permission being denied by the Potchefstroom Town Council and the chief magistrate, a spokesman for the Diamond Field teachers' co-ordinating committee said on Saturday.

The protesters will present a petition calling for nonracial education, better working conditions and equal treatment for all teachers in South Africa.

The march will begin at 12 noon from the Ramosa Sports Stadium, Beageng township, and proceed to the Department of Education's Field regional offices.
Soweto teachers go on strike

JOHANNESBURG. — About 6,000 teachers in Soweto and Alexandra township began a strike yesterday and there are fears it will extend throughout the year unless the Department of Education and Training meets teachers' demands.

One of the Soweto teachers at a conference here yesterday said teachers would not be on strike had it not been for the arrogant attitude with which the DET had dealt with a memorandum of teachers' demands recently handed to regional director Mr Peet Struweeg.

"That attitude is going to continue until there is a radical change (in the education system for blacks)," he said. — Sapa
On Strike
Teachers Go

BY Nkopane NakoBane

TEACHING in the Department of Education and Training is on strike.

SOWETO

COURT YEAST

2030

325

MR MOTHEPENG

EATED HEAD

SCHOOL
6 000 teachers
in strike action

TANIA LEVY 325

THE black education crisis intensified yesterday when more than 6 000 teachers in Alexandra and Soweto "downed chains", leaving 215 000 pupils without instruction.

There are fears that the refusal to teach will be taken up nationwide, and pupils have planned to show support for the strike action by demonstrating at schools tomorrow.

The strike has been called by the National Education Union of SA (Neusa) "to show the Department of Education and Training (DET) that effective teaching and learning are impossible under present conditions".

Neusa spokesman Veli Mayandu said yesterday the decision was taken at the weekend during a report-back session on last week's meeting between Neusa and DET Johannesburg regional director Peet Struwig.

Teachers were "struck numb with disbelief" that their grievances had not been taken seriously, Mayandu said.

A list of grievances had been handed to Struwig at the end of a march by about 3 000 teachers to Johannesburg DET offices on February 14.

Grievances included congested timetables that required teachers to teach 42 periods a week; freezing of posts; transfers of teachers to rural areas and; dismissals.

National Education Co-ordinating Committee general-secretary Bron Rensburg said at least 120 teachers were retrenched in Johannesburg last year. This was ludicrous when teacher-pupil ratios of 40:1 existed in black schools.

Struwig said yesterday he was astounded that a strike had been called as he had believed an agreement had been reached at last week's meeting.

Neusa had agreed to take up its grievances with Education and Development AfD Minister Deodin van der Merwe.
DET 'attending' to strikers' problem

CAPE TOWN — The Government said last night it had "already given attention to" the problems of 6,000 black teachers who went on strike in Soweto and Alexandra yesterday.

It was reacting to the warning by the National Education Union of SA (Neusa) that the strike would spread countrywide if demands made two weeks ago were not met.

Dr Bernhard Louw, director-general of Education and Training said in a statement that the department held discussions with Neusa on February 23 this year about its demands.
Teachers on the march

MORE than 2,000 teachers from the Western Province yesterday marched in protest against the Department of Education and Training. The demonstration was called by the South African Federation of Teachers. Teachers and students in Pretoria said yesterday that teachers would not accept an offer of a 10% salary increase. The situation in the township of the Province was said to be tense. Some teachers reported that there were disturbances in the township. Teachers were protesting against the high cost of living and the lack of adequate resources in the schools.
Change in policy needed — DET

A CHANGE in education policy was needed to solve the crisis in black schools, Department of Education and Training Johannesburg regional director Peet Strawig said in an interview yesterday as teachers in Soweto and Alexandra refused to teach for a second day.

Government would respond to the situation as soon as possible, an Education and Development Aid spokesman said.

Strawig said until policy was changed, pupils and teachers should apply themselves under the existing system.

He said he believed effective education was possible in the existing system.

At Reologile High School in Alexandra, for example, a 92% pass rate had been achieved last year, despite a 69% growth in pupils which had led to a teacher-pupil ratio of about 1:46.

He said the ratio was not the norm in Alexandra and Soweto. However, the average ratio of teachers to pupils in the Johannesburg region, which had an oversupply of teachers, was 1:28 at high schools and 1:30 at primary schools.

These ratios were rejected by the NECC and the National Education Union of SA (Nenua), representing the striking teachers, which said the ratios were more like 1:50.

One of the demands being made by striking teachers is a moratorium on retrenchments.

Strawig said there had been no retrenchment of permanently appointed teachers last year.

The 124 teachers whose services were terminated had been employed on a temporary basis. Strawig said 22 of them had ended their contracts with the department, 60 had taken study leave and the rest had been invited to discuss their cases with the DET.

Nenua spokesman Fred Sikhakhane said teachers would decide on future courses of action at a report-back meeting in Soweto tomorrow.
When workers go on strike, they are not only hitting the corporation and their own salary but also the economy as a whole. The cost of lost productivity, the ripple effect on other industries, and the potential for a national economic slowdown are significant. In addition, the strike creates uncertainty and instability for businesses and consumers alike, leading to reduced confidence and expenditures.

Reuben

Figueroa

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corporation's
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human
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My

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thriving.

Tham

Mazawu

The
corporation's

director of
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Reuben

Figueroa,

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Pupils march for teachers

Students from KwaMahlolo High School in Zone 10, Meadowlands, Soweto, demonstrated yesterday appealing to the Department of Education and Training to meet demands by 6 000 striking teachers from Alexandra and Soweto. The teachers are demanding better working conditions.
THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

EDUCATION (1)

The Minister of Education, the Honourable Robert E. W. Logan, and the Minister of Transport, the Honourable E. M. Andrey, have today issued the following:

SOME CROP OF EDUCATION ENCOUNTER.

1. The number of pupils in the Ministry's schools for the academic year 1993-1994 is 1,234,567.

2. The budget for the Ministry of Education for the fiscal year 1993-1994 is $789,000.

3. The Minister of Education has announced that the Ministry will be opening new schools in the following areas:
   - District A
   - District B
   - District C

4. The Minister of Education has also announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:
   - English Language
   - Mathematics
   - Science

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

TRANSPORT (1)

The Minister of Transport, the Honourable E. M. Andrey, has today announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:

1. The number of new buses acquired by the Ministry in the fiscal year 1993-1994 is 123.

2. The Ministry has also announced that the following new roads will be opened:
   - Road A
   - Road B
   - Road C

3. The Minister of Transport has announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:
   - Road Repair
   - Traffic Management
   - Public Transportation

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

FINANCE (1)

The Minister of Finance, the Honourable R. E. W. Logan, has today announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:

1. The Ministry has announced that the following new programs will be implemented:
   - Education Programming
   - Transportation Programming
   - Revenue Programming

2. The Minister of Finance has also announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:
   - Economic Development
   - Fiscal Management
   - Public Service Reform

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY:

ENERGY (1)

The Minister of Energy, the Honourable E. M. Andrey, has today announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:

1. The Ministry has announced that the following new programs will be implemented:
   - Renewable Energy Programming
   - Energy Efficiency Programming
   - Energy Conservation Programming

2. The Minister of Energy has also announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:
   - Oil and Gas Production
   - Power Generation
   - Energy Storage

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH:

HEALTH (1)

The Minister of Health, the Honourable R. E. W. Logan, has today announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:

1. The Ministry has announced that the following new programs will be implemented:
   - Public Health Programming
   - Medical Research Programming
   - Mental Health Programming

2. The Minister of Health has also announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:
   - Disease Control
   - Health Promotion
   - Medical Education

THE MINISTER OF LABOR:

LABOR (1)

The Minister of Labor, the Honourable E. M. Andrey, has today announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:

1. The Ministry has announced that the following new programs will be implemented:
   - Employment Programming
   - Labor Relations Programming
   - Training and Education Programming

2. The Minister of Labor has also announced that the Ministry will be implementing new programs in the following areas:
   - Wage and Hour Laws
   - Workforce Development
   - Occupational Health and Safety
The Minister of Education

Dear Mr. Minister,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the current state of education in our province. The recent assessment results have shown a worrying decline in academic performance among our students. This is particularly concerning as we are facing significant challenges in the job market, where a strong educational background is essential.

I would like to suggest the implementation of a comprehensive educational reform that focuses on improving the quality of teaching and learning materials. This includes investing in teacher training, modernizing the curriculum, and providing students with access to digital learning resources.

I also propose the creation of a task force that will work closely with educators, parents, and students to develop a detailed plan for improving the education system. This task force should be provided with the necessary resources and support to ensure the success of the proposed reforms.

I believe that these steps are crucial for the future of our province and its citizens. I am confident that with your leadership and support, we can make significant progress in the field of education.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

The Minister of Education

In response to the Minister's letter:

Dear Minister,

I appreciate your concerns regarding the current state of education in our province. I completely agree that we need to address these issues head-on to ensure a bright future for our students.

I am pleased to announce that we have already started discussions with various stakeholders, including educators, parents, and students, to develop a comprehensive plan for educational reform. We believe that by focusing on improving the quality of teaching and learning materials, we can significantly enhance the educational experience for our students.

I will ensure that the necessary resources and support are provided to the task force to ensure the success of the proposed reforms. My team and I are committed to working closely with you to implement these changes.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]
Black teachers decide to go on with strike

By PHIL MOLEFE

MORE than 6 000 Johannesburg region teachers yesterday decided to continue with the "no-teaching-campaign" until the Department of Education and Training meets their demands.

This is the first time black teachers have gone on strike and some have warned that the action might spread nationwide.

Primary and high school teachers from Soweto and Alexandra packed the Regina Mundi Church hall in Soweto to reassert their week-long action of refusing to teach in protest to the DET's "intransigence" to their demands.

The meeting was a follow-up to the teachers' march to the DET offices in Braamfontein where they handed over a petition to regional director Piet Struwig.

The teachers are demanding a living wage, reinstatement of teachers who were dismissed or retrenched from their posts and the creation of comfortable conditions of employment in black schools.

Almost all the schools in Soweto were deserted at midday yesterday when thousands of teachers attended the meeting.

Meanwhile, the National Education Union of South Africa, which represents the teachers, met DET director-general Dr Bernhard Louw yesterday afternoon in an attempt to resolve the strike.

A spokesperson for Nesa Soweto branch said the teachers would be guided by the meeting between the delegation and Louw.

In another development, the DET has warned teachers, in letters that were sent out yesterday, that their action was viewed in a serious light and legal action could be taken against them in terms of section 22 of the Education and Training Act of 1979.

The teachers were enraged by the letters, which were dated March 7, and responded by singing "Nako e fihlile ya hore o suhe Struwig" (the time has come that Struwig should give way).

National Education Crisis Committee member Ithron Rensburg said the teachers' action was in line with the call by the organisation for students to go back to school.
PRETORIA. — About 1,800 striking Department of Education and Training teachers demanding salary increases held a protest march through central Pretoria yesterday.

DET officials confirmed that marchers arrived at the department's head office and regional offices, where they sang and danced. Marchers said they were demanding a pay increase of 70%.

The DET said in a statement that the teachers' strike left more than 100,000 pupils in the Pretoria area without teachers.

And in Soweto, about 20,000 teachers gathered in and around the Regina Mundi Church yesterday to review their strike action.

The teachers are calling for the reinstatement of retrenched colleagues, an end to the policy of freezing vacant posts and a "living wage." — Sapa
dispenation for the new South Africa
in a spirit of goodwill and trust to negotiate a just
The meeting together of all South African leaders
apartheid legislation
of all political prisoners and the repeal of all
The lifting of the state of emergency, the release
The steps taken by our leaders towards reconciliation
solution to this country's problems
The validity of violence and confrontation as a
equality in a democratic society
The right of all South Africans to freedom and
Apartheid and minority white domination of South
Apartheid with all just-minded South Africans in:

(Central United African Teachers Association) TUTA
MORE than 5 000 teachers in the Department of Education and Training's Johannesburg region yesterday resolved to continue their week-long strike in a bid to force the department to attend to their demands.

However, this decision is subject to change at another meeting, scheduled for Monday, to hear a report-back from a delegation of the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa).

The delegation, led by Neusa national president Mr Curtis Nkondo, was to meet with the DET's director-general, Dr Bernard Louw, in Pretoria yesterday afternoon but the meeting did not take place.

Mr Fred Sikhakhane, secretary of the Soweto branch of Neusa, said other means would be devised this weekend to meet Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, the Minister of Education and Development, so that the delegation can report back on Monday.

Yesterday's emotionally charged meeting at the Regina Mundi Catholic Church in Moroka, Soweto, also resolved that teachers at adult education centres and special schools should join the strike.

The DET and regional

DET circulars anger teachers

chief director, Mr Peet Struwig, in particular, came under fire for issuing letters to teachers this week.

Among other things, the letters reminded teachers of the mass resignation of teachers in 1977 which "led to untold misery and despair because of loss of pension, housing subsidies, leave, study leave and a 13th cheque".

The letter also warned teachers that their action was in contravention of Section 22 of the Education and Training Act.

The legal implication here was that they may be charged with misconduct, the letter said.

Mr Velaphi Nnyandu, an executive member of Neusa (Soweto branch), said they took strong exception to Struwig's threats.

He said teachers did not expect the DET to issue warnings, but to address their demands.

The meeting was told the protest action had been 95 percent successful, barring a few schools where principals had decided to continue with lessons.

Principals and heads of departments at these schools were reminded that they were also teachers.
Govt concern as pupils ignore back-to-school call

CAPE TOWN — Nelson Mandela's call for pupils to return to school appeared to have had little impact on students in several parts of the country, Deputy Education and Training Minister Piet Marais said yesterday.

Marais said in an interview he was not that pessimistic to believe the lack of discipline among students had reached a point where no one could control them, but was worried at the lack of impact of the ANC leader's call.

He was also concerned at the National Education Crisis Committee's (NECC) failure to come forward for further discussion with government at a time when on average there were 72 000 pupils out of school.

Government was worried that the organisation, which it regarded as an umbrella body with which it could negotiate an end to stayaways, might not have the necessary authority among pupils and teachers.

Giving details on the renewed crisis in black education, Marais said that on Tuesday, no tuition took place at the 60 secondary schools in the Johannesburg region.

Although there was still a high degree of absenteeism among pupils at these schools, the main reason for this was the teacher strike.

Marais said there was no way his department could meet striking teachers' demands for an 80% increase on top of the 22% they had already received.

Other demands such as the call for a reduction of taxation fell outside the ambit of his department.

Proposals

MATTERS such as the call for an improvement in the teacher-to-pupil ratio and in facilities had already been the subject of discussions with the NECC. It had been agreed these areas would be further addressed in a follow-up meeting, but as yet no request for a meeting had been forthcoming.

The NECC had also undertaken to come forward with proposals to involve parents and the community in the running of schools as well as for the establishment of student representative councils (SRC). Government was quite prepared to work in co-operation with the NECC as it regarded the demands put forward as being reasonable.

While government welcomed Mandela's call for pupils to return to school, it was clear many pupils and teachers were not prepared to respond to it.

The teachers' strike made it difficult to gauge what impact Mandela would have had on pupils in the Johannesburg region, which has traditionally been plagued by absenteeism.

Marais said on average last month there were 72 000 pupils absent from DET schools each day.

Government had contingency plans in place to combat stayaways but would prefer not to act without talking to the NECC.

He appealed to the organisation to come forward and work with the department to restore order. It was his job to fight for extra money for black education, but he could only succeed with the co-operation of teachers and pupils.

© Comment: Page 6
Education and Development Aid Minister Stoffel van Der Merwe and United Municipalities of SA (Umase) president Tom Boys at a meeting in Johannesburg yesterday. The meeting was called by Umase to discuss the crisis in black education.
Pretoria's teachers in pay protest

By Kalzer Nyatsumba

More than 1,800 teachers from townships around Pretoria yesterday assembled at Church Square in Pretoria before sending a 50-man delegation to present a memorandum to Department of Education and Training (DET) officials.

The teachers, who demanded a higher salary increase and absolute parity in salaries and working conditions between male and female teachers, were closely watched by police at Church Square as they shouted "Viva!", danced and sang freedom songs.

PETITION

A delegation of 50 teachers then marched from Church Square and handed a petition to DET northern Transvaal regional chief director Mr Job Schoeman.

The DET later issued a statement saying the teachers had left more than 10,000 pupils in the Pretoria area without teachers.

Teachers in the township of Soshanguve outside Pretoria — who also participated in the march — had earlier decided to continue with their strike in protest against the way teachers were treated by the DET.
Pupils missing education as teachers make protest

By CONNIE MOLUSI

THOUSANDS of pupils countrywide are losing valuable school time as the Department of Education and Training and teachers are locked in a struggle to resolve their differences.

Teachers under the auspices of the UDF-affiliated National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) are sticking to their demands for improved conditions, while the DET has appealed for a settlement.

Meanwhile the “chalks down” strike, which started in Soweto early last month, shows no signs of stopping, and thousands of pupils go without tuition.

More than 5,000 teachers in Soweto, Tembisa, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and Potchefstroom this week joined the dispute by marching to DET regional offices to present their grievances.

DET spokesman Richard Chems said the director-general and senior officials on Friday held a six-hour meeting in an attempt to end the strike. The DET is to respond to the demands tomorrow.

While teachers engage the DET, students have been flocking to schools in large numbers in response to the ANC call to them to return to school.

Since the beginning of February, DET offices countrywide have been flooded with petitions from teachers demanding better working conditions. The strike was sparked by a statement from the DET Johannesburg regional office that the grievances were not genuine.

In a circular to teachers, Johannesburg regional director Peet Struwig warned the strike was in contravention of Section 22 of the Education and Training Act and they may be charged with misconduct.

NECC secretary Ikron Rensburg said it was necessary to highlight the plight of teachers as workers, with a wide range of responsibilities to the community and to their families.

A Neusa spokesman said the strike would make the point that there could be no meaningful teaching and learning under current conditions.

Teachers’ grievances are:

- Congested timetables that require teachers to teach up to 42 periods a week;
- Overcrowding in classes;
- Freezing of posts;
- Transfer of teachers to rural areas;
- Retrenchment of teachers without consultation; and
- Insufficient textbooks.

Meanwhile, Sapa reports 67 whites armed with sjamboks and other weapons were arrested on Friday when they tried to disrupt a legal protest march by teachers from Thabong to the Welkom Civic Centre.

Forty-three were charged with obstructing police in the execution of their duties.
The teachers decided that if he failed to meet them tomorrow the teachers would call for his resignation and take further action which would include seeking a meeting with the DET's head office.

In his response to the teachers' memorandum Vorster said the demands falling within the ambit of his office had been attended to and those of a political nature had been referred to the Ministry of Education.
Pace teachers join strike

TEACHERS at Pace Community College in Soweto will today join the week-long strike by Department of Education and Training teachers in the Johannesburg region.

This was decided at a parents-teachers-students meeting at the school yesterday. About 1,000 people attended.

Mr Thamsanqa Kambule, the headmaster of Pace, told Sowetan yesterday that a great thought had been given to the matter before this decision was reached.

**Private school**

Parents were told that although Pace was a private school, as part of the community it could not function when other schools in the area were also not functioning.

"We agreed that pupils will report daily in their school uniform and do school work on their own. It was also agreed that for whatever time is lost, extra afternoon and Saturday classes will be held in future."
Struwig denies sacking rumour

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

THE Department of Education and Training’s Johannesburg regional chief director, Mr Peet Struwig, has denied rumours that he “dismissed” principals in the Naledi Circuit for refusing to accept circulars destined for teachers.

The Soweto has information that last Thursday, both primary and secondary school principals were summoned to inspectors’ offices in Ormonde, Johannesburg.

They were instructed to take circulars for teachers, reminding them of their contracts.

Dangers

The principals elected a five-man delegation to meet Struwig and warn him of the dangers of such a task.

Our source said Struwig insisted at the meeting that they take the forms and warned that failure to do so meant automatic resignation for the principals.

Contacted for comment, Struwig refuted the rumours and said it was “absolute nonsense”.

He confirmed that the principals had refused to accept the forms after they said they were afraid.

“At no stage did I ever use words like resign. I only told them that the choice was theirs,” said Struwig.
Warning to teachers on strikes

Teachers who have “downed chalk” in Soweto and Alexandra have been warned of the legal implications of their actions by the Department of Education and Training (DET).

Many teachers have received letters in which DET Johannesburg regional director Peet Struwig says they are “advised very strongly not to jeopardise their own future, that of the children and education in general”.

Struwig says a strike is totally contrary to professional ethics and behaviour and will have disastrous results.

This year, very little meaningful education has taken place and more than 40 days of irreplaceable teaching time have been lost, Struwig says. “Is national educational suicide not inevitable if you continue in this manner?”

Struwig has reminded teachers that in 1977 some teachers were forced into a mass resignation action which led to “un-
told misery and despair because of loss of pension, housing subsidies, leave, study leave and a 13th cheque”.

Sapa reports from Pretoria that the executive committee of the Council for Education and Training has held wide-ranging discussions on the education crisis with Education Department director-general J B Z Louw.

A joint statement released on Friday said the two sides thrashed out issues including school management councils and the approval by Education Minister Stoffel van der Merwe for the establishment of subcommittees to investigate and research specific areas within the DET.

They also discussed the administration of the DET’s Std 10 examinations in the light of the disastrous performance by black matriculants last year.
Jubilation as principal returns

Teachers from the township schools marched on the local circuit court office earlier that day, singing freedom songs and waving flags of the Black Consciousness Movement and the ANC.

Mokgele's transfer to Maqgato High School in Bothokwa, about 50 kilometres away, had led to school boycotts in the township.

The transfer was widely seen as victimisation of Mokgele by the Lebowa Government for allowing community organisations to hold meetings at the school hall.

Leaders and members of the Teachers Action Movement (Tem) and Seshego Education Watchdog Committee (Sewaco) and other community members on Friday attended a celebration braai at Mokgele's house in Zone 4.

Pupils at Masedibu are demanding that a teacher who allegedly hit a pupil on the head with a bottle should be transferred immediately.

The teacher, a Mr Teffo, had to be escorted from the school premises yesterday, Mokgele said.
HARARE'S Declaration mandated the Cosatu to coordinate teachers into progressive trade unions, Northern Trans-vaal Teachers Trade Union Executive Committee member, Mr S.L.E Senyane told more than a thousand teachers at the weekend.

Addressing the first open air meeting organised by the Sekhukhuneland Progressive Teacher's Union Coordination Committee at Jane Purse, Senyane said events in Eastern Europe had shown that if people were collectively organised they proved that they were more powerful then the government of the day, hence there is a need for teachers to unite.

It was resolved that teachers in the Nebo area would support Thursday's march by students and parents to Lebowokgoma to demand, among other things, delivery of books to schools, full paid maternity leave for teachers, recognition of democratic teacher, parent and student structures, and the dismantling of bantustans - Sapa.
Soweto teachers backed

STRIKING Soweto teachers are being supported by students, who have endorsed their demands for better conditions, the Soweto Students’ Congress said yesterday.

Sosco publicity secretary Mr Michael Dube said at a Press conference in Johannesburg that students understood the problems facing black teachers.

Up to 80 000 students and teachers are expected to march from Orlando Stadium to the Department of Education and Training’s regional offices on March 20 to present a petition of grievances and demands to DET regional director Mr Peter Struwig. - Sapa.
Minister praises teachers

EDUCATION and Development Aid Minister Mr. Stoffel van der Merwe yesterday praised the decision by striking black teachers to go back to school.

Mr Van der Merwe said he would welcome a meeting with teachers to discuss their grievances, suggestions and proposals.

He said the decision to go back to school was a "victory for reasonableness" and for everybody who had the interests of children and of education at heart. "One hopes this will pave the way for a return to normality so the students can get on with the job of acquiring knowledge and skills."

Mr Van der Merwe also paid tribute to those involved in efforts to bring the teachers back.

He said: government and the department acknowledged that there were many facets of the present education system that were not ideal but these problems were constantly assessed.
The Minister of Education

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End of strike victory

THE ending of the "chalk down" strike by teachers was a victory for reasonableness and for everybody who had the interest of the children and education at heart, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, said yesterday.

In a press statement Dr Van der Merwe said he hoped this would pave the way for a return of normality to the school scene so that students could get on with the job of acquiring knowledge and skills.

"The Government and the Department acknowledge that there are many facets of the situation that are not as they ideally should be. These conditions are being assessed by the Department."

Structures for the community to take part had been created in recent years specifically to enable people to air their grievances and to take a constructive part in black education.

Due to the present fluid situation, he was prepared to have discussions on education with any interested people.

"In this spirit I am prepared to meet representatives of the teachers who were involved in the chalk down to discuss their grievances, suggestions and proposals.

"The overall objective remains that the students should be in school and receive tuition enabling them to qualify and fulfill a meaningful role in society." — Sapa.
Stalemate continues

The current stalemate in resolving teachers' protest actions should be attributed to the deliberate refusal by the DET to meet legitimate and greatly supported teachers demands, says the Southern Transvaal region of the National Education Union of South Africa.

The union says it regrets that the meeting between a teachers delegation and the DET's director-general, Dr Bernard Louw, scheduled to have taken place last Thursday, was cancelled without prior notice by the Johannesburg regional director, Mr Piet Struwig.
**The Minister of Education**

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5 000 teachers in support of strike

By Monica Nicolson

More than 5 000 teachers from Soweto and Alexander townships yesterday voted overwhelmingly to continue their strike after an emergency mass meeting at the Regina Mundi church hall in Soweto.

"If we go back to school now, we will have gained nothing," a National Education Union of SA (Neusa) member said.

Neusa committee member Mr Veli Mnyandu said it had been incorrectly interpreted that teachers had decided unanimously at a meeting on Monday to conditionally suspend their strike and resume lessons. Not all the teachers had agreed on returning to school, he said.

Mr Mnyandu stressed that Neusa could not afford a decision which would split and demoralise teachers.

"We can't afford to be divided. Unity is of paramount importance," he said.

The strike over poor teaching conditions and facilities began 10 days ago, leaving more than 200 000 pupils without tuition.

In the long term, teachers are demanding a single education system, improved facilities, salary increases and the reinstatement of retrenched teachers.

Short-term demands include doing away with inspectors, smaller classes, the suspension of extramural activities and a lighter work-load.

A suggestion from a Tembisa representative that they form a co-ordinating committee to deal with strike-related issues was received enthusiastically by teachers. The representative said it would be easier to assess people's opinions and find a quick solution using a smaller representative group.

Mr Mnyandu urged teachers and committee representatives not to speak to the press until the dispute had been settled.
Lekoa students still working despite dispute with teachers

By HAPPY ZONDI

STUDENTS at Lekoa Technical College in Sebokeng will continue attending classes despite the stayaway by white lecturers, the student representative council said this week.

The SRC told City Press that lecturers, all of whom white, had stopped working on Monday without giving them any explanation.

It claimed that the rector, SV Coetzee, had accused the SRC on Monday of causing disorder on the campus.

"We did not know the disorder that he was talking about since everything was smooth until the lecturers failed to teach us," said the SRC.

The rector is also alleged to have called on the SRC to dissolve its present structure.

Following this, the SRC held a meeting on Monday at which the students were told about the rector's directive but refused to accept it.

"If there was chaos, how come it was so invisible? Is it strange that only the rector and lecturers managed to see it," said the SRC.

During the students' meeting, the lecturers left the campus and failed to return.

Next day, the students decided to meet the vice-rector Willem Dirks - the only staff member present.

He, in turn, said he was only prepared to talk to them if they elected five student delegates. The students refused to do so, saying the SRC was there to represent them. Dirks left without meeting them.

Among grievances listed by the SRC was the attitude of lecturers in class. Students said they were not allowed to voice their dissatisfaction.

"The lecturers use foul language, which at times is very insulting. Most of them even carry firearms in class," said the SRC.

"We have thus resolved to write a letter to the regional director. If we do not get a response by next week we will be compelled to call for a meeting with the Department of Education and Culture in Pretoria and state our case." The SRC claims that before the lecturers' stayaway Coetzee had called the SRC and expressed concern about a number of white teachers who were dismissed in two Lekoa schools two weeks ago.

"We told them we did not intend doing that as long as there was peace and progress in the institution," said the SRC.

The SRC said it suspected the lecturers were in solidarity with six white teachers dismissed at two other Lekoa schools.

Assistant regional director of Orange Vaal Jo- han van der Berg told City Press the students had called on the lecturers to speak to them and when they turned up, the students started demonstrating.

Van der Berg said there had been threatening placards at the gates of the institutions stating that white staff were not welcome.

Commenting on the staff's attitude and the use of foul language he said: "Black teachers do that as well, therefore this is irrelevant."

With regard to lecturers carrying firearms, he said other people also carried guns for security, but added that with regard to lecturers at Lekoa, this was untrue.

A CROWD of rowdy teachers and students carrying a large ANC flag disrupted a meeting called by the Transvaal United African Teachers' Association (Tuata) and demanded the teacher's body disband.

The meeting was held at Tuata Centre this week.

The group carried posters proclaiming: "Surrender means death" and: "Tuata please disband".

The group was led by members of the National Education Union of South Africa (Nessa) and other members of Tuata who have lost confidence in the association.

The slogan-chanting mob poured into the meeting and toyi-toying their way to the stage while a Tuata executive member was addressing the audience.

After the first session of toyi-toying, which lasted for nearly five minutes, the mob maintained order and allowed the speaker to continue.

Before he could finish saying: "We are united, children of one father, therefore...", the crowd started shouting slogans again which called for Tuata to stop down and disband.

The crowd continued shouting "ANC! ANC! ANC!" until the audience dispersed, including the Tuata executive on stage.

The disruptive crowd followed the audience outsite and continued toyi-toying and circling the audience - who were dumbfounded and watching helplessly.

Later, some of the group who disrupted the meeting in coup-like manner told City Press: "We wanted them to get our views, not to disrupt the meeting."

Others said that if Tuata claimed unity with all teacher bodies, they had no right to hold a second meeting while teachers were meeting in Regina Mundi.

The Ngann by Other members was also condemned by Tuata and the national direct.

Earlier in the meeting the members moured that called the meeting.

"Said Sir, not take plan and our thing is cancelled but we must not take part in it we teachers," said one of the students.

"Until our teachers are here," he said.

"Tuata will not strike, only we teachers will strike," said the students.

Students at Lekoa Technical College in Sebokeng hold a sit-in following the stayaway by white teachers. "They called their dispute with the rector.
Teachers in 'chalk-down' strike

By MONO BADELA

JOHANNESBURG - The "chalk-down" strike by more than 5,000 Johannesburg teachers is to continue, following a meeting at the Regina Mundi church in Soweto on Wednesday. Soul 15/13 - 21/1370

At the meeting, the teachers reversed a decision taken earlier this week to suspend their strike conditionally and return to work.

"The teachers have decided to continue strike action until their demands are addressed," NECC general secretary, Mr. Ihron Rensburg, said.

The teachers were due to return to school on Wednesday but most did not go back to the classroom, although DET's regional director, Mr. Pieter Strausig, reported some teachers were back at school.

The teachers' immediate demands include an end to visits by school inspectors and subject advisers and the suspension of extra-mural activities.

Long-term demands include the reinstatement of retrenched teachers, a minimum wage of R1,500 a month and an across-the-board increase of R500.

The striking teachers have received support from the students who on Monday endorsed their demands for better conditions.

Tens of thousands of students and teachers are expected to march from Orlando Stadium to the DET regional offices next Tuesday to present a petition of grievances.
Strike to go on, teachers decide

TEACHERS in the Johannesburg region of the Department of Education and Training yesterday resolved to continue with their strike action.

The decision to overturn a resolution to suspend the strike followed dissatisfaction by some teachers, who said Monday’s meeting - where the decision to end the strike was taken - had been “undemocratic and unconstitutional”.

The dissening teachers had then called a meeting yesterday. It was attended by more than 6 000 teachers from Soweto, Alexandra, the East Rand, Carletonville, and Kagiso.

Mr Thula Nxes, of the National Education Union of South Africa, told the meeting it was clear there were divisions.

He said many teachers felt that proposals that the strike be suspended had been made without them being consulted.

“Another feeling is that it is pointless to go back to the classrooms when the objectives of the strike have not been met. Many teachers have made it clear that they are not prepared to go back to their schools empty-handed.

“If this was the case, the purpose of the march and the ‘chalk-down’ would be defeating the purpose the strike was intended for,” he said to loud applause.

Nxes said his regional council believed the DET was capable of meeting the teachers’ short-term demands. The DET regions were using delaying tactics by saying the demands were beyond them and had to be referred to the Minister of Education.

“By suspending the strike we shall be demoralising and dividing teachers, not only in Johannesburg, but also in other townships. We must avoid doing things that will please the enemy.

The latter is very capable of working on any loophole that may arise,” he said.

The meeting also heard reports from various sub-branches in Soweto and Alexandra. All endorsed the decision to continue the strike until
Teachers reverse decision to end strike

MORE than 6 000 striking DET teachers from Soweto and Alexandra yesterday reversed an earlier decision to resume work.

National Education Co-ordinating Committee (NECC) secretary-general Iphron Rensburg called on teachers who had reported for work to obey the decision, to avoid a split in ranks that could lead to violence.

An earlier decision to suspend the strike and resume work was taken at a mass meeting organised by the National Education Union of SA (Neusa) at Soweto's Regina Mundi Church on Monday.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Rensburg said his committee would meet Neusa today.

The teachers were due to start work yesterday, but at the Regina Mundi meeting they decided the strike should continue until the DET met their demands.

The teachers are striking over what they have described as appalling teaching conditions and facilities.

They are demanding the reinstatement of retrenched teachers; employment of more educationists; a "living wage"; and an across-the-board increase of R500.

The strike is the first in three decades and started nearly two weeks ago.
DET forecasts further drop in black pass rate

WILSON ZWANE

BLACK matric pupils face the grim prospect of seeing their pass rates plummeting again this year.

DET Johannesburg regional director Peet Struwig said continued strike action by teachers from Soweto and Alexandra would take a heavy toll on this year’s matric results.

“Since there are 200 school days in a year and 46 of them have been lost through strike action.

“Even if we push ourselves and work on Saturdays and holidays there is still much lost time that cannot be recovered,” Struwig said.

A Soweto school principal who requested anonymity said yesterday that morale among pupils had hit rock-bottom because of the strike.

“Pupils feel that useful time has been lost. They come to school daily only to find that there are no teachers there.

“Some matric students are trying hard to make up for the time lost by studying on their own in the classrooms.

“But even if pupils can be motivated to work harder to make up for lost time, the results at the end of the year will not be as good as they would have been with uninterrupted tuition,” he said.

Matric pass rates dropped by 12% from 54% in 1998 to 42% last year. Last year 74,249 matriculants passed their examinations and, of those, only 17,553 gained university entrance passes.
No easy solution to Soweto teacher strike

BY CONNIE MOLUSI (E) 8330

However, there are signs of tension in the atmosphere.

A 60% hike in basic pay, an 80% increase in short-term teachers' benefits, and a cancellation of extra-mural activities were among the demands of the Soweto Teachers' Strike Alliance (STIA) last week. The strike was called for the third time in two months.

The strike, which began on Monday, was called by the Soweto Teachers' Strike Alliance (STIA) after a meeting of their representatives and union officials.

The Alliance was formed in response to the strike called by the Democratic Left Front (DLF) last month.

After a meeting on Monday, the Alliance decided to suspend its strike action as of midnight.

It was also said that some SA teachers' organisations continued to strike during the Alliance's strike last week.

The Minister of Education, Mr. M. H. Dlamini, said there seemed to be no voluntary agreement on the industrial relations front.

Van der Merwe said he will deliver the point to the authorities. He said he was prepared to consider their demands and have the situation examined.
Protestors disrupt meeting.

Tulra must be closed.

CITY PRESS, 18/3/40.
Striking teachers are not tempted by boost in Budget

By DAVID JACKSON and ALAN DUGGAN

THE strike by black teachers remained deadlocked this weekend as they vowed to stay out until their demands were met.

Some 6000 Soweto and Alexandra teachers this week reversed their earlier decision to return to their blackboards. And the R150-million Budget sweetener from Finance Minister Ben Pistorius has not helped them.

The Department of Education and Training said yesterday it would respond to teachers’ demands on Wednesday.

General secretary of the National Education Coordinating Committee Mr Henre Rentburg said that if teachers were to go back without having realised their short-term demands, “the whole strike action would have been worthless”.

These demands include improvement in conditions of service, which takes in demands for salary hikes and a reduction of the teachers’ workload, reduction of the overcrowding problem through provision of more classrooms and teachers and a promise that the Department of Education and Training would stop “the arbitrary transfer of teachers and arbitrary retrenchment without consultation”.

In the long term, the teachers want nothing less than the dismantling of “apartheid education”. It is the biggest show of black teacher muscle in three decades.

But the NECC’s Mr Rentburg said the strike was “not overtly politically inspired”.

“For the first time in 30 years teachers feel they have room to put pressure on the DET to meet some of their demands,” he said.

DET regional director Piet Struywig told the Sunday Times: “I met them (the teachers) on February 23 and I’ve left the door open to them to discuss whatever they want. I extended an invitation to talk but so far they haven’t come back to me.”

Bizarre

Democratic Party spokesman on black education Mr Ken Andrew said decades of neglect had left South Africa’s black education system at the point where only a conciliated effort could restore its credibility among pupils and the community.

“The first hurdle is the credibility gap. And, if you’ve relegated people to second-class education for generations, you cannot expect them to regain their trust overnight — especially not with small concessions.”

Mr Andrew said that in the meantime, the Government should provide “crisis funding” and a coherent plan for resolving the situation.

In his Budget speech this week, Mr Du Plessis announced a R150-million allocation to eradicate the backlog in black schools, and R200-million to the DET vote for capital projects.

But the long haul is only beginning. And teachers want the crisis to be tackled on an emergency footing.

Figures for the 1988-89 financial year show the Government spent R3 032 on educating each white child and R780 for each black child.

Positive

Black educationists, embittered by many years of official stonewalling, cite the bizarre anomaly of massively overcrowded black schools and white schools that have to shut down because they are nearly empty.

Education Minister Dr Stoffel van der Merwe said on TV this week that overcrowding and insufficient facilities in black schools had created a potentially “explosive” situation.

“I think if white teachers had to work under the conditions under which many black teachers work, there would have been an outcry.”

However, he said the Government had adopted a “very positive” attitude to black education and was trying to catch up with the “historical backlog”.

And the Minister of Education and Culture, Mr Pletten, recently announced a policy review that could see white government schools being opened to all.

But there was a proviso: they could admit black pupils only with the blessings of their parents’ organisations — which, according to disgruntled headmasters, have not been forthcoming.
Hope in school strike

THE Government is about to act on the Soweto and Alexandra teachers' strike following a meeting between the Deputy Minister of Education and Training and a delegation of parents' representatives at the weekend.

Mr Piet Marais said after Friday night's meeting that the striking teachers' demands would be addressed with the "utmost urgency" and that the department's response to the demands would be made known on Wednesday.

He said in a statement after meeting a delegation of chairmen of area committees and various school management councils of the Johannesburg region of the EDT that he had fruitful talks with parents' representatives and that it was agreed it was essential the situation in education be normalised as soon as possible.

Additional funds

"These representatives put certain requests to me pertaining to discussions with people and groups who have the interests of education at heart, the Government's and the department's reaction to demands made to it by teachers, the way in which this reaction should be communicated to the general public and the recognition that should be given to the elected leaders in the parent community."

In addition, he said the Government had allocated additional funds for black education.

The manner in which some of these funds are to be spent would be decided by the regional chief director in conjunction with the Johannesburg regional committee for education and training.

A spokesman for the parents' delegation said: "We asked to meet the Minister because we were concerned that unless the Government responded to the teachers' demands, the current crisis would not end and in the process our children would suffer.

"We expressed our support for the teachers' demands and told him of our own dissatisfaction with overcrowded classrooms and overworked teachers.

"We asked the Minister to urgently address the teachers' demands and to make himself available to meet all parties that have an interest in the current education crisis."

"He expressed willingness to meet anyone who wanted to contribute towards the ending of the crisis and we were pleased he was very positive in his approach."

Meanwhile, parents and teachers at Holy Cross School in Diepkloof, Soweto, decided at the weekend that the school will join the strike.

A spokesman for the parents-teachers' association, Mr K Masengi, said: "We decided as parents that our teachers should back the current action, although we are disturbed by the fact that our children are not being educated. We hope this crisis will come to an end soon because it has damaging effects on the children."
Schools appeal for more staff

By Stan Hlophe

Two high schools in Potchefstroom, faced with a critical teacher shortage, have sent an urgent appeal to the regional education director, Mr G. Merbold, to employ more teachers.

"The schools have more than 40 vacancies after white teachers, under community and student pressure, left the Bekkersdal and Tokwe high schools," said the appeal.

"The community believes the white teachers did not serve the interests of the pupils and had been given preference over their black counterparts.

"Mr David Sefanyetro, publicly secretary of the Diamond Fields Teachers' Co-ordinating Committee, said an appeal had been made to Mr Merbold to relieve the overworked teachers, who were faced with more than 8 000 pupils.

"We extend our appeal to the regional director to save the situation. There are many qualified black teachers who are without jobs," he added.

"He also announced that the two-week strike by teachers in the area in protest at short and long-term demands has been conditionally suspended and teachers and pupils were expected to return to class today.

"They had decided to go back to class after several short-term demands had been met. Long-term demands, which included a 60 percent salary increase and the building of a university and a college of education in the area, had not been met.

"Mr Merbold was not available for comment at the time of going to press."
No pay, so Fezeka teachers walk out

By PETER DENNEHY

The principal and several teachers at Fezeka Senior Secondary School in Guguletu "downed chalk" yesterday after not being paid for two months.

Twenty-seven of the 33 teachers said in a memorandum to the Department of Education and Training that they would not start teaching again until they had been paid.

The last time they had got paychecks was January 15. They said in the memorandum that they had made "numerous attempts to appeal to the department" to rectify the situation.

The other six teachers at Fezeka had been paid and pupils were attending classes under the supervision of the SRC.

Mr Jan van Eck MP, a DP spokesman on black education whom the 27 approached for help, said the situation was "intolerable".

"This sort of negligence and sloppiness - which would never be tolerated in white education - lies at the root of the continuing crisis in education," Mr Van Eck said.

Three weeks ago the Fezeka teachers had been required to sign sworn affidavits that they had not received their cheques, which 24 of the 27 did, but nothing had happened since then.

Mr Van Eck said he believed similar problems had been experienced at five junior schools in the Western Cape, but he did not know how many teachers were affected there.

The schools involved were Siyazingisa, Sonwalo, Litha, Msek i and Sokhanyo, he said.

The Deputy Minister of Black Education, Mr Piet Marais, who is also the MP for Stellenbosch, was taking the matter very seriously, Mr Van Eck said. He flew from Johannesburg late yesterday.
DET officials to cheque out Fezeka hassle

By PETER DENNEHY

TWO Department of Education and Training (DET) officials were flown to Cape Town from Pretoria yesterday with a cheque book to sort out salary problems at Fezeka High School.

Twenty-seven teachers at Fezeka stopped working on Tuesday after not being paid for two months.

An unknown number of teachers at at Sombambisane, Litha, Siyanzingisa, Mseki and Sokhanyo Primary Schools had also not yet received their February cheques.

Handwritten cheques

Mr Piet Marais, Deputy Minister of Education and Development Aid, confirmed yesterday that teachers at these schools had been affected.

He said the two officials would be at the DET area office on the Foreshore last night and this morning to issue handwritten cheques to the teachers.

The special arrangements had been made “because processing replacement cheques in the normal way would still take a few days”, Mr Marais said.

He said the original cheques, posted in Pretoria on February 16, had been lost in the post. The regional office in Port Elizabeth had taken steps to issue replacement cheques.

Mr Bill Staude, Cape regional chief director of the DET, said: “Certain procedures have been introduced which, it is hoped, will ensure that this unfortunate occurrence is not repeated.

“The inconvenience caused is very sincerely regretted.”
Teacher pay walkout gets swift response

By MICHAEL MORRIS and JOHN YELD

The government has moved swiftly to resolve a teachers pay crisis at six black schools in the Western Cape by sending officials to issue handwritten cheques after hours.

On Tuesday 27 teachers from Fezeka Senior Secondary School in Guguletu “downed chalk” and walked out in protest at not having received salary cheques since mid-January.

They sent a memorandum to the Department of Education and Training, saying “numerous attempts” to sort out the problem had proved fruitless, and that they had signed affidavits three weeks ago saying they had not had their cheques. They refused to teach until the matter was resolved.

The DET, which said the cheques for teachers at six schools had been lost in the post after being posted in Pretoria on February 16, launched an immediate contingency plan yesterday.

For two hours last night two officials manned an office on the Foreshore from 6pm to 8pm issuing handwritten cheques to the unpaid teachers.

UNUSUAL STEP

Teachers who did not manage to get to the office last night will be able to pick up their salaries today.

This unusual step was taken because issuing replacement cheques “in the normal way” would take a few days and the department was anxious to “obviate delays”, Deputy Minister of Education and Development Aid Mr Piet Marais said in a statement.

The affected schools are Fezeka, Sombambisane Primary, Litha Primary, Sinyangisa Primary, Mseki Primary and Sekhanyo Primary.

Mr Marais said that as soon as the problem had been identified, the regional office in Port Elizabeth had taken immediate steps to issue replacement cheques.

Regional chief director (Cape region) Mr Bill Staude said “certain procedures” had been introduced which should ensure the “unfortunate occurrence” was not repeated.

“The inconvenience caused is very sincerely regretted.”

However, the DET has been slammed by the Democratic Teachers’ Union, which said the non-payment was further evidence of “the maladministration and chaos which exist in DET”. 
Minister to meet Nusa in a bid to end teachers strike
THE entire teaching staff at Lehlabile High School in Mamelodi walked out yesterday morning in protest against a call by pupils for the suspension of the principal, Mr Billy Nkwe.

A spokesman for the Department of Education and Training confirmed the incident and said the principal, his deputy and heads of departments at another school - RETshabile Secondary School - were presently at the Mamelodi Teachers' Centre after the principal, a Mr Komape, was "suspended" by pupils on Tuesday.

A spokesman said teachers at many secondary schools in the northern Transvaal region feared for their lives and normal teaching had not taken place since January.

He added that two secondary schools in Pietermaritzburg - Malebo and Masefe - had been closed because of unrest and would reopen on April 14.

The DET spokesman said there had not been proper teaching at the following secondary schools: Mamelodi, Flavious Mareka, Sotridge, Phelindaba, Edward Phatudi and Ikatosong in Brits, where negotiations were yesterday going on between teachers, students' representative councils and the regional deputy director, Mr Christo Steyn.

A spokesman for the Mamelodi Students' Congress yesterday appealed to pupils at Lehlabile to report for classes on Monday.
Now ‘moderate’ teachers join ‘chucks down’ strike

Three weeks into their ‘chucks down’ strike, the teachers are in a stronger position than ever, with the largest ‘moderate’ group joining in.

PHIL MOLEFE reports

The teachers were involved in taking such a bold step. “However, in any issue of this nature, the parents and the students themselves should be consulted as the strike action affects them directly. The parents, while having the demands of the students, are not happy when the students are not receiving the lessons more especially since the students have failed so regularly and in large numbers over the years,” said Dumont.

He said since all the grievances listed are matters of common complaint throughout the country, “such a protest would have more effect if all teachers were involved in the struggle.”

Now, ‘moderate’ teachers join ‘chucks down’ strike

Mrs. Phumbi, a teacher at the school, stated that the teachers were forced to take such a step because of the dire situation in the school.

“With the students not receiving quality education, it is only fair that the teachers also have a say in the matter.”

Protesters come up against a human wall of policemen under the M1 highway bridge in Bloemfontein

Picture: AWGIS. J. Moloi

The process of ‘negotiation’ had begun in 1994 when students were first taken on a list of grievances to the offices of the Department of Education in Bloemfontein. Just a kilometre away the armed police contingent was determined that they should take an altogether different step.

It was student leader Werner Majoe who led the students back to the Statuary, grabbed the loudspeaker, and addressed what looked like a human sea of 50,000 students carrying ANC and SAPS flags and a solid barricade of armed security forces.

"Viva the ANC, Viva Wintchboro, vamos con el SACP," the crowd chanted.

"Command, we don’t want a confrontation. We want to get through without a confrontation,“ an officer from the police said.

"But Sir,“ said (Name) president of the students, "we are getting into a confrontation.

"Of course you,“ replied Supelberg.

Just after 2pm the rain poured down. It could dampen the spirits of the crowd. The police had to retreat a few metres in the march, but the students kept pushing forward to get shelter under the bridge. It had been a day of patience - the students had left a cold Tuesday morning when they gathered at the Orlando Stadium to start the march.

Then Supelberg, clearly shaken but not impressed, arrived.

He was met by a group of placard-carrying students who chanted, "No to the SARS, O Kwenzo, we demand our rights, the government has failed us.

Command, Strauss has finally arrived. He is inб avoidance in the courts.

In the memorandum the students are demanding, immediate effect, the supply of stationery and textbooks, more schools, librarians, and libraries, schools fully supplied with desks, chairs and tables, that the teacher-student ratio must be 1 in 25.

The students also demanded that all unused and water-used white schools be opened to black pupils.

Ortina Nkondo... Good response appointed by the conditions in which our colleagues in the township have to live.

“…As an association we really do not have sufficient insight and understanding of the negotiations which have taken place within the township to express a meaningful opinion as to whether the present action is only in the best way of resolving the problem,” he said, however, as a matter of principle his organisation does not support strike action.

Meanwhile, Alexandra and Tembisa teachers have vowed to continue with the strike until the DETF meets their demands.

All schools in these areas have ground to a halt and more than 350,000 students are not receiving education.

“Now we can call off the strike when we do not have anything in our hands,” said an Alexandria teacher’s representative.

“We said we do not want to teach 42 periods a week and we no longer want to teach overcrowded classes. So how can we go back to the same conditions?” he asked.

Said Yel Moyo of the National Union of South African Teachers: “How can a hungry teacher teach a hungry child?”

In support of the strike, the teachers are demanding a minimum wage of R12.00 a month plus a R30.00 increase across the board.

The 13 percent increase that the government is offering us in April is too little, too late,” said Moyo.

“Why can we only go back to classes when the DETF has met these demands?” he asked.

Similarly, the much-awaited meeting between the Minister of Education and DETF leaders in Pretoria, has been postponed and Ntsoala, who was in Pretoria, and Ntsoala, who was in Johannesburg, is yet to arrive.

A delegation of 20 Ntsoala officials, from various regional councils of the organisation including Transkei, Eastern Cape and Western, will be led by the Ntsoala deputy, Caruso Nkondo.

"We expect a good response,” Nkondo told the Weekly Mail yesterday.

From the telephone conversations I have had with the minister, he sounds positive,” Nkondo said.

"I want to bring the matter to the minister. The teachers have put forward all the teachers involved in the strike to review their action."
Teacher strikes to protect her career

Teacher Mathuto Masechaba believes she is getting a raw deal and striking is the only alternative to abandoning the profession, reports THABO LESHILO

Ms Mathuto Masechaba’s realised her childhood ambition to become a teacher to help uplift her community. Now finds herself on strike, and wondering whether to opt out and find another career.

Ms Masechaba, not her real name, is one of the thousands of Soweto and Alexandra teachers on strike.

She viewed the strike as an alternative to abandoning the career she loved for the private sector, or enduring the pain with the hope that things might sort themselves out.

None of the above prospects appealed to her and she decided to “down the chalk” and fight the Department of Education and Training (DET).

“The strike is the only weapon by which the DET can be forced to address our grievances,” she said.

A university graduate, Ms Masechaba said although she enjoyed teaching, she found the working conditions unbearable: “I work 39 periods a week and teach six classes — some with over 50 pupils.

“Also have to supervise extra mural activities, which sometimes involves accompanying school children on tours. “What happens to my role as a mother and wife?” asked the teacher, who also has a young baby.

“The workload is so heavy I get home very tired and unable to do my household chores. It’s even difficult to mark the children’s work properly.”

She said it took her two hours a day to mark her pupil’s essays, exercises and tests at home.

A 28-period teaching week would go a long way in easing their workload, she said, and added that the department should employ more teachers.

She also complained the salary she earned was not commensurate with her qualifications. She holds a degree and has been teaching for three years, but her gross monthly salary was R1 595.

She said teachers working for the DET had been “oppressed for too long by school principals, subject advisers and inspectors”.

“The principals turn a deaf ear to our grievances and we end up doing more paper work than teaching because of the subject advisers and the inspectors,” she said.

She said the subject advisers did not advise them but merely inspected their work.

The former student leader said she joined the strike voluntarily and felt it was long overdue.
Govt to respond to teachers' demands

Tomorrow the Government will respond to the demands of about 6,000 striking teachers.

A spokesman for Minister of Education and Development Aid Dr Stoffel van der Merwe confirmed this yesterday.

The strike continued yesterday despite two weekend meetings between Dr van der Merwe and a teachers' delegation.

President of the National Education Union of SA Mr Curtis Nkondo said teachers would review the strike after Dr van der Merwe's response.
Teachers' strike despite meetings

THE teachers' strike in Alexandra and Soweto continued yesterday despite two meetings at the weekend between the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, and a delegation representing teachers.

Mr Curtis Nkondo, president of the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa), who took part in the talks, said yesterday that "unavoidably", the strike, which started more than three weeks ago, would continue until the Government responded to the teachers' demands.

Describing the weekend talks as "fruitful and frank", Nkondo said Van der Merwe was due to release a comprehensive statement tomorrow whereafter teachers would meet to review the strike.

He said teachers had agreed to stage a "sit-in" at schools with the pupils, although no normal classes would take place.

Pupils

Speaking in Pietersburg on Sunday, ANC deputy chief Mr Nelson Mandela called for pupils to return to classes without delay.

Spokesmen for Soweto schools reported a 70 percent to 100 percent teacher attendance yesterday, but said that pupils generally failed to arrive.

Mr G Nophawe, a striking teacher at Vuwani Secondary High School, said about 70 percent of teachers arrived at school and were holding a meeting, but no pupils reported to school.

He added that pupils should attend school even though there were no classes taking place.

Mr Nkondo said while it appeared there was a contradiction between Mandela's call and the action by teachers, this was not so.

Classes

He said Mandela had not called for the suspension of the strike, but was concerned about maintaining discipline among pupils not attending classes.

"We do not disagree with Mandela. (At the beginning of the year), the back-to-school campaign was arrived at by students, teachers, and everybody.

"Children went back, and as expected, this created mass overcrowding and a shortage of facilities and text books which made effective learning impossible."
Govt pledges on restructuring black schools

CAPE TOWN — In a new bid to end the teachers' strike and continuing school stayaways, Education and Training Minister Stoffel van der Merwe yesterday committed government to negotiating new structures to broaden black community involvement in the running of schools.

He said the time had come for black leaders to go beyond issuing statements calling on children to go back to school and make a concerted effort to achieve this.

Van der Merwe was speaking at a Press conference at which he unveiled government's detailed response to a wide variety of grievances raised by opposition groups in recent meetings on the continuing crisis in black education.

The Minister said his department's 34-page response to the demands had been circulated to all the groups it had met.

These included the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC), the National Education Union of SA (Neusa), the Council for Education and Training and the African Teachers' Association of SA (Atasa).

Van der Merwe said in delivering such a detailed response government had gone out of its way to demonstrate the seriousness with which it viewed the crisis in black education. He hoped black leaders and people involved in black education would be prepared to respond to this demonstration of good faith.

He said some of the demands related to the constitutional system. These were being addressed in the negotiation process.

"The education authorities cannot by themselves take this further."

Other grievances concerned general education policy matters that had to be addressed by the overall education system. However, he gave a commitment that he would follow up these demands with National Education Minister Gene Louw.

The third category of demands related to matters over which his department had direct control. The department had undertaken to address these issues.

Van der Merwe said after consulting a broad spectrum of black leaders, he had decided to subject the existing structure of community involvement in the running of schools to a thorough review.

To Page 2
Pretoria 'chalk-down' spreads

By MONK NKOMO

More than 300 pupils at the Philadelphia Secondary School for the disabled in Soshanguve, boycotted classes yesterday in protest against the school's decision to erect barriers on campus segregating male pupils from female.

Acting principal LR Davel, confirmed the boycott of classes and said every effort was being made to resolve the matter.

Davel said he had met members of the Student Representative Council yesterday morning and they had presented him with a list of their grievances.

Meanwhile, scores of teachers from other schools in Mamelodi boycotted classes yesterday, apparently disillusioned by the Department of Education and Training's response to their grievances.

Few high schools in the Pretoria area were experiencing effective teaching, DET regional director Job Schoeman said yesterday.

The decision to boycott - popularly dubbed 'chalk down' - was taken by teachers at a meeting held in the township last week.

Schoeman also announced yesterday that the Flavius Mareka Secondary School in Atteridgeville had been indefinitely closed due to continuing violence at the school.

Schoeman said teachers had been held hostage inside the staffroom last week and threatened with death by a group of pupils who demanded that their school fees be refunded.

Threats

Pupils also threatened to set alight vehicles belonging to teachers at the Flavius Mareka and Solridge Secondary schools.

Schoeman said he had submitted a reply to grievances expressed by Mamelodi teachers last week - 90 percent of which were related to conditions of service.

However, DET had "no power to unilaterally change conditions of service," he said.

Some of the demands were unreasonable, he added, and included a 500 percent salary increase and a 15-hour working week, instead of 40 hours.

But some of the grievances were genuine, Schoeman said, and these DET would attempt to address.
Johannesburg. — Nelson Mandela has called for a change of tactics in breaking the crisis in black education and has promised to speak to President de Klerk if necessary.

Mr Mandela yesterday addressed more than 150 teachers of the National Education Union of South Africa from Orlando, Soweto, at the Orland West High School.

"Your grievances are valid and longstanding, but perhaps new tactics must be used to persuade the authorities to address your demands," he said.

"If the minister (Dr Stoffel van der Merwe) cannot solve the crisis in black education then I will intervene to facilitate talks with President de Klerk."

Mr Mandela said later: "Our students cannot afford to miss school and I appealed to the teachers not to allow their grievances to aggravate the students' lack of schooling."

In his address he called on the youth to go back to school and prepare for their future role as leaders in the community.

In spite of frustrations with the "delaying tactics" of the DET, some striking teachers said they felt that the Deputy-Minister, Mr Piet Marais, was now prepared to listen to some of their grievances. — Sapa.
I’ll try to help, says Mandela

ANC deputy president, Mr Nelson Mandela, yesterday promised to intervene in the three-week long strike by teachers, should the ongoing talks between the teachers’ delegation and the Minister of Education and Training fail.

Mandela was addressing teachers from the Orlando area, a sub-branch of the National Education Union of South Africa, at Orlando West High School.

He said if the Minister, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, failed to solve the ongoing crisis, he would take it upon himself to approach the State President, Mr FW de Klerk, in an attempt to find a solution to the problem.

Mandela reiterated his call for the youth to go back to school. He paid tribute to black South African youths and said they had been fearless in the struggle. Had it not been for them as well as teachers, he would not have been released.

“I appeal to the youth to return to their classes. You have made your point and if you are to represent the black nation confidently, then you must be well-equipped with education."

“You must behave responsibly as future leaders. If you do not respect your teachers, we as the community cannot respect you as leaders. You must recognise the work done so far. You must discuss your problems respectfully with your teachers.”

He said a strike could not go on indefinitely and if it did, people should think about what would happen eventually.

“Go on strike for more than three days is always a disaster. Of course, there are exceptional cases such as when workers have been dismissed. But in your case, some issues cannot be remedied overnight. There has to be a limit,” he said.
Teachers paid, so it's back to school

BY ANDRE KOOPMAN
BLACK teachers who had been on strike since last Tuesday would return to school today, the chairman of the Democratic Teachers' Union (DETU), Mr Shepherd Mdladlana, said last night.

The teachers had been striking because they had not been paid since January but this had now been rectified, he said.

He said the decision was taken at a packed joint meeting of DETU and the Peninsula African Teachers' Association.

Teachers “at most primary schools and some high schools” decided to “down chalk” last Tuesday when the Department of Education and Training said salary cheques for six schools had been lost in the post.

Two DET officials flew to Cape Town last Wednesday and issued handwritten cheques to teachers who had not been paid.

Mr Mdladlana said black teachers still had grievances, including “the very high pupil-teacher ratio, overcrowding and lack of educational resources and basic items like books and chalkboards”.

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Minister responds to black teachers

Major Govt bid to solve schools crisis

By Peter Fabricius, Political Correspondent
CAPE TOWN — In a major effort to solve the continuing black schools crisis, the Government has offered to review its entire structure for consulting the black community and educators on educational matters.

Minister of Education and Development Aid Dr Stoffel van der Merwe said this yesterday at a press conference when replying to about 90 demands on black education from teachers.

He said his response, which would be conveyed to all education bodies, was an attempt to show the Government's good faith in tackling the crisis.

He was also prepared to consider recognising the National Education Union of SA, which has been behind the teachers' strike, if it submitted an application.

Since Atasa, the federal body of teachers' associations, had largely withdrawn co-operation with the Department of Education and Training, no purposeful efforts had been made by the DET to communicate with teachers' organisations about salaries, conditions of service and working conditions.

As a result, “serious estrangement, mistrust, a lack of knowledge and other negative effects of bad or non-existent communication” had come to a head recently. The only way to end the present stalemate was by proper communication. This was one of the reasons for the strike.

Dr van der Merwe called on the black community, especially teachers, parents and pupils, to help to end the strike.

The pupils should not be "held hostage" while negotiations continued to address problems.

Many of the teachers' demands entailed constitutional changes which would be addressed during constitutional negotiations. Other demands, such as those for more pay, could not be met by his department alone but had to be negotiated with the entire education system because all teachers' salaries were equal.

He would lend his full support to the educators' case for better salaries. He was also prepared to review salaries of teachers with low or no qualifications.

Some of Dr van der Merwe's positive responses to the demands included:

- Responding to the demand that the teacher/pupil ratio be reduced to 1:30, he said this was a top priority. Between 1981 and 1988 the ratio had been brought down from 1:44 to 1:39 in primary schools and 1:33 to 1:32 in secondary schools.

Call to end Tembisa college boycott

The Department of Education and Training has urged students at the Lazarus Ntimapo Technical College in Tembisa to return to class on Monday in a bid to resolve the dispute between the administration and students.

A boycott began a month ago, a week after students submitted demands to the principal.

The DET suspended classes two weeks ago after a deadlock between students and the administration.

Educational Reporter

Mr J H Booyse, the DET's regional chief director of the Highveld region, said that when students returned to class, a meeting of the statutory governing council would be held to address grievances. The DET would meet the students, including the Tembisa Education Coordinating Committee (TECC).

The TECC said grievances included a shortage of lecturers and underqualified teachers.
Teachers stage protest in Kagiso

By Stan Hluphe

About 500 West Rand teachers took to the streets in Kagiso near Krugersdorp yesterday, demanding improved working conditions and higher salaries.

Waving placards, teachers from Kagiso, Mohlakeng and Bekkersdal marched to the Department of Education and Training offices in Krugersdorp.

Placards read "40 years in teaching but earning peanuts", "Viva people's education" and "We may be black but we must eat".

Police took no action.

A delegation handed a petition to a Northern Transvaal assistant director of special services, Mr W A J van der Westhuizen, and Mr N G Ramaseng, a circuit inspector.

Mr van der Westhuizen said he would study the petition and hand it to the regional director, Mr Job Schoeman, who would respond within two weeks.
TEACHERS in Cape Town have abandoned their "chalk down" strike but have warned that, unless their grievances are attended to, industrial action may take place again.

More than 500 teachers decided at a meeting called by the Democratic Teachers' Union (Demu) and the Peninsula African Teachers' Association (Penata) to end the strike sparked off on March 20 by late payment of salaries.

It affected 108 teachers at 11 schools. DET officials flew to Cape Town from Pretoria to sign handwritten cheques for the teachers. Lawyers were instructed to act on behalf of other unpaid teachers.

"While we welcome and support the call of the ANC leadership for a return to classrooms, teachers may not remain there while our grievances are not being met," said a spokesperson for the Teacher Unity Forum.

Teachers are angered by letters sent out to hundreds of temporary teachers from the Department of Education and Culture last week, informing them that their services have been terminated.

Unemployed

While some principals intervened and managed to secure the jobs of teachers who signed three-month contracts with the Department at the beginning of the year, some teachers have found themselves unemployed without notice.

Principals have also slammed the practice of services being terminated — and then teachers having to sign another contract to extend their service.

They called it a "nuisance" and "bureaucratic red tape". One principal, who fought to have a teacher with 13 years' experience re-employed, said temporary teachers could be fired without notice.

Meanwhile, an end is in sight to the three-week teachers' strike in Soweto after ANC deputy president, Mr Nelson Mandela, urged 150 representatives of the strikers to be conciliatory in their demands for improved working conditions.

Mandela promised to intervene in the strike, should the ongoing talks between the teachers' delegation and the Minister of Education and Training, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, fail.
Stoffel offers deal to end school crisis

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE government last night joined the ANC in calling on black teachers and pupils to “go back to school” after announcing a series of steps to alleviate the crisis in black education.

With an estimated 40% boycott action crippling black education in many areas, the government yesterday issued a detailed response to more than 90 demands made by a variety of teacher, student and community groups in recent months.

Unveiling the new deal for black education, the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, said: “We have gone as far as we can to address the issues and have tried within our means to remove all stumbling blocks.”

He said it was now incumbent on the black community to “normalise” the situation in black schools, which has been rocked by “physical violence, naked intimidation, and other illegal actions... to disrupt the process of tuition.

“This reflects very badly on the black community and on the country itself.

“I therefore call upon all concerned to return to school and resume tuition in a civilised way.”

Dr Van der Merwe disclosed a number of concessions that the government was prepared to make in a bid to break the deadlock.

These included:

- A willingness to subject the existing structure of community involvement in black education to “a thorough review”.
- A preparedness to negotiate with black community groups regarding the replacement of controversial school management councils and eventually to introduce “a new structure” if consensus could be reached.
- A willingness to “keep an open mind” on the involvement of parent-teacher-student-associations (PTSA) in decision-making on the management of schools — including the appointment of teachers. However, there was no recognition of SRCs at black schools “at this stage”.
- The payment of salaries to teachers currently on strike but “this will not be able to continue indefinitely”.
- A preparedness to “look at” the salary problems of the lowest-paid black teachers but general salary improvements were “not something that can be done immediately”.
- A commitment to “consider sympathetically” the recognition of new bodies claiming to represent teachers’ interests.
- Grievance procedures for teacher should be improved.
- A new procedure to prevent the late payment of salary cheques.
- Teachers could bring cases of unsatisfactory service by the department in terms of salaries and claims “without fear of victimisation”.
- Negotiations for a code of conduct for teachers are being negotiated on the basis of a draft from the African Teachers’ Association.
- Apart from ongoing discussions with recognised education bodies, “a preparedness to talk with anyone” informally in a bid to resolve the crisis.
- The concession that teacher may become members of political parties but should not use their positions of office to promote such parties at school.

Dr Van der Merwe said the department had made “an honest attempt to improve the situation of black education and teachers” but cautioned that “nothing can be done to suddenly remove all difficulties”.

He said the biggest obstacle to the normalisation of black education was “the willingness of teachers and students to resume the process of tuition”.

“We don’t intend to say that after today all problems have been resolved but we would like to establish a process whereby negotiation and education could continue at the same time.”

Dr Van der Merwe said the government was “very concerned” about the effects of boycotts on black school results.

The department said that schools damaged by vandals and during unrest would be repaired provided the community made some financial contribution.
Mandela 'concerned' over teachers' strike

Johannesburg — ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela has called for a change of tactics to solve the black education crisis, and has promised to speak to President F W de Klerk about the matter if necessary.

Mandela was addressing more than 3,000 striking teachers from the National Education Union of SA (Neusa) at Soweto's Orland West High School on Tuesday.

He expressed concern that their protracted strike had gone on for three weeks. "Your grievances are valid and longstanding, but perhaps new tactics should be used to persuade the authorities to address your demands." (27/3/90)

"If the Minister (Stoffel van der Merwe) cannot solve the crisis in black education when I will intervene to facilitate talks with President de Klerk," he said.

"I am deeply concerned about the teachers' strike, our students cannot afford to miss school and I appealed to the teachers not to allow their grievances to aggravate the students' lack of schooling," Mandela said later at the ANC offices in Johannesburg. — Sapa.
A TEACHERS' protest march in Thabong township near Welkom was confronted by a group of about 100 whites, armed with rifles, handguns, kriekes and other weapons at the entrance of the town.

Police intervened and about 60 whites were later fined R100 each for "making it difficult for police to execute their duties".

The teachers were marching to protest the closure of schools, abruptly announced by Department of Education and Training Assistant Regional Director JAC Steyn. The announcement was made on SABC TV.

Tension has been running high in the township in the wake of the closures, white-on-black violence and the fact that the town is a "no-go area" for blacks after hours.

"During the day there's no problem, but after hours, you better watch out," said one mine worker.

The increasing racial tension in Welkom follows weeks of turmoil and violence in Thabong, turmoil which spread to the neighbouring townships.

But the violence is not confined to the townships. A shaft steward from St Helena Gold Mine was recently killed by a group of whites in one of Welkom's suburbs. The assailants allegedly wore Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging T-shirts and the car they were driving bore the AWB's stickers.

While there was already widespread discontent in black schools in the area, matters were worsened by the detention of 16 activists — 12 from Welkom and four from Onddaalsrus — on March 9. Classes were boycotted in all six high schools in Thabong.

They were detained on the eve of the teachers' march to the DET offices to present a list of grievances to Steyn.

Apart from protesting against the closure of schools, teachers also demanded the immediate resignation of white principals in Thabong and the gradual phasing-out of white teachers in the township schools.

Thabong residents embarked on a week's consumer boycott demanding the release of the 16. According to the National Union of Mineworkers, whites — particularly miners — saw the action as a direct challenge to them.

The boycott was lifted after the 16 were released but this did not end the racial tension prevailing in the area.

Welkom mayor Bill Onddaal said the boycott had been "extremely effective and white shopkeepers lost millions of rand."

Among those detained and subsequently released were Mario Sefo, president of the Thabong Students Congress (Thasco) and Paul Mahlatsi and Thabo Masoleng, Thabong Youth Congress (Thayco) president and vice-president, as well as the general secretary, Edward Talwe.

In recent weeks, violence has hit various Free State townships, resulting in more than seven deaths.

Six victims of violence were buried last weekend in Oden-
I'm willing to listen, says Education Minister
Mandela urges teachers to reconsider strike

AS THE CLASSROOM CRISIS DEPRESSES EDUCATORS GET A LESSON IN URGENT CY

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Govt concern at disruption in black schools

CAPE TOWN — Attendance figures for Wednesday showed that more than 850 black public schools were being disrupted. Education and Development Aid Minister Stoefli van der Merwe said yesterday.

And 30% of the total of 11,646 teachers were taking part in boycott action, he added.

Van der Merwe said of the 1,587 primary schools, 593 were disrupted on Wednesday, while 227 out of 482 secondary schools had been affected.

He said that since March 1, teachers in the Johannesburg region had not reported for duty at 63 secondary and 290 primary schools.

Van der Merwe said he was deeply concerned about the figures and called for a return to schools.

DANIEL FELDMAN reports that DET regional director Peet Struwig said yesterday the additional R6m odd allocated to the DET by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis two weeks ago would be spent on additional textbooks and stationery for DET students "as requested by the Soweto and Alexandra student congresses."

Black development funds would be used to renovate existing school facilities and build new schools.

He said Orlando High in Soweto was currently being rebuilt, and was scheduled to open next term.

He denied there was any problem with teacher: pupil ratios, but admitted there was a pupil: classroom ratio problem because of vandalism.

He also denied claims that retrenchments were taking place.

He promised that negotiations with striking teachers would continue after they returned to work.

WILSON ZWANE reports that National Education Coordinating Committee (NECC) general secretary Ithon Renbarg yesterday said the education crisis could not be resolved overnight.

Addressing a meeting at Wits University at which students endorsed a resolution calling for a single, non-racial education system, Rensburg said teachers and students should return to schools and continue with the struggle there.
Boycott hits 820 schools

A TOTAL of 820 black schools under the control of his department had been disrupted yesterday, while 1,646 teachers or 20 percent of the total number, took part in the boycott on Tuesday, the Minister of Education, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, said in a statement yesterday.

Giving an overview of the schools situation, he said he was deeply concerned about the picture that emerged from these figures, which emphasized the need for a return to normality.

Attendance figures of more than 80 percent were registered by 1,249 schools out of 2,009 yesterday.

Of 1,587 public primary schools, 933 were disrupted, while schooling at 227 of the 482 public secondary schools was disrupted.

Since March 1, teachers in the Johannesburg region had not reported for duty, affecting 63 secondary and 290 primary schools.

Tembisa, Thokoza, Tembisa, Vosloorus, Katlehong and Randfontein had been worst hit by the so-called "chalk down" boycott.

In Mamelodi no education took place at 12 secondary and 36 primary schools.

No education took place at 13 secondary schools at Ilanga in Potchefstroom and two at Jouberton, Klerksdorp.

In Soweto, 16 secondary and 61 primary schools were totally disrupted.

Tembisa, Soweto and Alexandra had between 14 and 18 school days lost because of boycotts. - Sapa.
Black schools strike over

The strike in black schools seems to have ended after prominent education leaders and teachers called on pupils to return to their classrooms tomorrow.

But at the same time teachers demanded that the Government take immediate action to redress the "glaring inequalities" of the education system.

Children and teachers are expected back at schools following an agreement between the National Education Co-ordinating Committee and teacher representatives at a meeting in the Cosatu offices in Johannesburg on Friday.

NECC national chairman Mr Eric Molobi said: "The teachers have agreed to go back to school and we expect children to be at school, too, from tomorrow.

"We hope the situation will be restored to normal and children will get back to the serious business of studying. "We must, however, make it clear that we cannot force the parties concerned to go back. We pray nothing goes wrong, as we've tried our best to normalise the situation."

The Union of Teachers' Associations of SA expressed grave concern at the continuing schooling crisis, noting that very little teaching had taken place in the Free State and Transvaal since the release from prison of Mr Nelson Mandela.

"And we understand that in these areas there has been no teaching at all over the last two weeks."

Said Utasa secretary/treasurer Mr George Strauss: "The seething crisis in black education is the result of the imposition for years of a dehumanising political ideology which has manifested itself through a repressive and unequal education system."

Pressure

"Utasa fully supports the demands for the urgent redressing of the glaring shortcomings in black education as a necessary condition for the process of normalisation. "We demand that the Government immediately take affirmative action and attend to these problems."

At the same time, without relaxing the pressure on the Government, Utasa supported the call by Mr Mandela for the resumption of schooling — particularly through the Back to School campaign.

"Pupils out of classrooms must return to their desks, and teachers must continue teaching," said Mr Strauss."
Former student shot teacher

By CHARLES MOGALE

THE Vaal policeman who shot and killed a teacher during the Vaal unrest this week, was a former student of his.

Relatives of Tebobo "Cutter" Morobe, 31, said they were stunned to discover the policeman had been taught by his victim at Makgethe Primary School in Sebokeng.

Morobe was killed when a policeman opened fire on a group of people allegedly trying to stone his house in Zone 14, Sebokeng, on Tuesday.

The incident happened after the police opened fire on marchers trying to get to Vereeniging.

"The policeman involved was a notorious chap who was once demoted from being a security policeman," Morobe's brother Maurice said.

He said the family had received reports that Tebobo was not part of the crowd that had allegedly tried to stone the policeman's house. "Tebobo went past the house just at the time when the policeman was running home to confront a crowd allegedly trying to attack his house.

"As he turned around a corner, he met the cop, who opened fire, killing him instantly."

Just two weeks before his death, Tebobo had sent a delegation to his sweetheart's home to negotiate lobola.

The two families were due to engage in a second and final round of negotiations for the wedding.
'Teaching skills level higher at black schools'

By MICHAEL MORRIS
Political Correspondent

MORE than a third of teachers at black schools in South Africa do not have matric — but this is a vast improvement on the position only six years ago when more than 70 percent had not reached this basic level of education.

This emerges from the annual report of the Department of Education and Training tabled in parliament.

The reduction, the report says, is the result of a concentrated effort by the department to lift the skills level of its 54,000 teachers through after-hours training programmes.

Last year, 18,500 teachers were still without matric.
The National Education Coordinating Committee has called for black pupils to return to school with immediate effect while grievances were being attended to.

The call was made at a meeting of the NECC in Johannesburg.

The general secretary of the organisation, Irton Rensburg, said teachers who were on strike would decide on their own whether to return to school or not, and regional meetings would be held by members of NEUSA (National Education Union of SA) to decide on their line of action.

Alexandra and Soweto teachers are expected to meet today to decide whether to continue with their work stoppage.
End of school strike in sight as term ends

By Janet Heard, Education Reporter

Black schools close tomorrow for the Easter holidays — but in many areas in the country there has been little schooling at all this term.

In Soweto, Alexandra and the East Rand, teachers may resume duties today after more than a month-long strike against working conditions and overcrowding, but face the daunting task next term of catching up on work not covered.

Teachers held meetings at branch level yesterday, and sources said the strike had been suspended and they would return.

Mr Curtis Nkondo, president of the National Education Union of South Africa, said there was a delay in suspending the strike because the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, had "dragged his feet" and taken three weeks to reply to teachers' demands.

Apart from the strike, registration in February was extended for a few weeks, and most high schools have not functioned normally since opening because of the delay in trying to accommodate the flow of pupils wanting to return to learning.

He said teachers were worried that they would be returning to the same conditions where effective learning was impossible, and stressed that when lessons resumed it did not mean an end to their demands.

Mr Nkondo said that while the Minister had committed himself to addressing the crisis in education, he had not laid out concrete plans for a crisis which needed an "SOS" response.

At the very least, the short-term demands, such as providing classrooms and improving pay and working hours, could be solved without delay.

Powerful pressure

Mr Piet Struwig, the Department of Education and Training (DET) regional director, said 50 of 200 teaching days had been lost this year, and teachers had to take full responsibility for their actions if results at the end of the year were bad.

The Teachers' Association of South Africa (Tasa) has come out in support of demands for the shortcomings in black education to be addressed urgently by the Government.

Tasa president Mr P Naicker said: "Tasa supports the call for the resumption of schooling, particularly through the NECC's (National Education Co-ordinating Committee) back-to-school campaign, but without in the least relaxing the already powerful pressure being brought to bear on the authorities."
Teachers decide to go back

BLACK schools close tomorrow for the Easter holidays - but in many areas around the country very little schooling has taken place during this term.

In Soweto, Alexandra and the East Rand teachers may resume teaching today after a strike lasting more than a month against working conditions and overcrowding at schools.

Teachers held meetings at branch level yesterday and sources said last night the strike had been suspended and they would return to school today.

Mr Curtis Nkondo, the president of the National Education Union of South Africa, said there was a delay in suspending the strike because the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe had "dragged his feet" and taken three weeks to respond to teachers' demands.

Registration

Registration in February was extended for a few weeks and most high schools had not functioned normally since the opening because of the delay, said Nkondo.

He said that even if there was no strike, effective learning would not have taken place.

"There has been a national crisis in education for a long time. Many weeks were spent on registration and teachers found themselves in the predicament of teaching between 70 and 80 pupils a class.

"Teachers used the only weapon at their disposal, as, unlike white teachers, they do not have the vote," he said.

Worried

Teachers were worried they would be returning to the same conditions where effective learning was impossible and he stressed that when lessons resumed, it did not mean an end to their demands.

Nkondo said while the Minister had committed himself to addressing the crisis in education, he had not laid out concrete plans to a crisis which required an "SOS", emergency response.

At the very least, the short-term demands, such as providing classrooms and improving pay and working hours, could be solved without delay.

Regional director of the Department of Education and Training Mr Piet Struwig said 50 out of 200 teaching days had been lost this year and teachers had to take full responsibility for their actions if the results at the end of the year were bad.
Teachers suspend strike

SOWETO and Alexandra teachers yesterday resolved to temporarily suspend their month-long strike. They said, however, they would embark on a defiance campaign against the Department of Education and Training until such time as their demands are met.

By NKOPANE MAKOBASE

This resolution was taken at a meeting organised by the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa), held at Regina Mundi Catholic Church, Soweto.

The teachers agreed to resume lessons when schools reopened on April 18. However, there would be a defiance campaign against most instructions from the DET.

The campaign, it was said, would go on until June, by which time Neusa hoped the DET would have addressed the teacher’s short-term demands.

Decision

The withdrawal of teachers from the DET’s projects conducted at Funda Centre, Broeder- stroom and Soshangwe is also planned:

It was also resolved to do away with cultural activities organised by the DET. However, those organised by the pupils themselves could go on.

A decision was also taken not to close for the June school holidays. Teachers were also to be encouraged to conduct afternoon classes.

Postcards

These two measures, it was felt, would help to make up for the lost time during the first term.

Meanwhile, a delegation of representatives from 20 societies at Wits University yesterday went to the the DET offices in Braamfontein to present 5 000 signed postcards from staff, students and workers on the campus.

The cards demand the disbanning of racial education and implementation of one non-racial education system.
Dark clouds gathering for matriculants

Strikes, stayaways will take toll on education

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

SCHOOLS under the Department of Education and Training closed for the Easter holidays yesterday with little or no effective teaching having taken place in the first term.

As a result, results for black pupils, particularly the Std 10s, will be gloomier this year.

Last year only 19 596 of the 195 960 who wrote their matric examinations qualified for university.

It is obvious that regardless of the amount of effort teachers and pupils put into their work the coming months, the effects of the months-long strike by teachers and class boycotts will still tell when results are announced.

With another set of catastrophic results facing the black community, finger-pointing has already started.

**Damaging**

Just recently, the DET’s Johannesburg chief regional director, Mr Peet Struwig, said the stayaways and strikes will have a damaging impact on matric results.

According to him the “achievement ceiling for the end of the year has irrevocably dropped and more than 60 percent of candidates will fail their final examinations”.

Meanwhile teachers, pupils and parents maintain that although the department sees itself as having a good excuse for grim results this year, it must not forget the many weeks spent on registration.

Even if there had not been any strikes or class stayaways, teachers assert overcrowding, lack of furniture, books and other necessities would still have made normal schooling impossible.

The deepening of the crisis in black schools this year has come as a shock to all involved. The thinking behind the current stayaways and strikes, however justified as they are, cannot be understood.

After all the National Education Co-ordinating Committee launched a “back-to-school” campaign, knowing full well there were problems at schools.

Mr Nelson Mandela later endorsed the back to school campaign, maintaining that black youths needed to equip themselves for the future.

Teachers and pupils deny that their protest actions were in defiance of calls to return to school. They say they are a second phase of the campaign for a decent education for blacks.

**Environment**

They had gone back to school, only to find that the environment was not conducive to effective teaching and learning.

For example posts were frozen; teachers were being transferred or retrenched; the DET and inspectors were harassing them; timetables were congested; and there was general overcrowding in classrooms.

On the other hand pupils blame the short supply of textbooks and stationery; lack of proper libraries or laboratories; overcrowding in black schools while white schools stand empty or under-utilised; damaged schools with no proper furniture; and the refusal by DET to allow them to have democratically elected student representative councils.

Since the beginning of March, there have been protest marches by angry teachers in many parts of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal.

Although during these marches the regional officials have accepted memoranda presented to them, the teachers feel this was merely a gesture to diffuse the explosive situation at the time.

Some teachers believe deep down in their hearts that the authorities do not take them seriously.

One example cited by teachers is that in some instances no sooner had they presented their memorandum than they were also given a memorandum by the DET regional officers without even reading the presented documents.

In these DET memoranda, their actions were being questioned and they were reminded of their professional ethics.

**Responded**

The teachers also said even before the Minister of Education and Training, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, had responded to teachers’ demands last week, two senior officials of the DET had articles in the Sowetan in which they dismissed major grievances by teachers.

One teacher said after reading the two articles, it was clear that the Minister was not going to come up with anything concrete to their demands.

The articles, according to many of his colleagues, were aimed at putting teachers in a bad light in the eyes of the community.

“What the department and the public forget is that many of us are also parents and we cannot just put the future of our own children at risk.”

“We are aware that the strike has dragged on longer than anticipated, but we are not to blame. The DET should have done something to attend to short-term grievances and not just order us to return to classes.”

Many contend that the DET knows grievances in black education quite well. They say it is only using delaying tactics by saying that it is prepared to further consult and renegotiate.

**Marches**

On the other hand, the DET has questioned the wisdom of marches and stayaways.

On marches it says whether one agrees with the principle or not, the entire issue needs to be looked at within context.

The DET argues that when people like bank tellers, policemen and artisans go on strike, the moral implications are less than when nurses, doctors and teachers do so.

“In a school climate, which over the last decade has been characterised by pupil boycotts, indiscipline and violence, organised absence from school by teachers, for whatever reasons, will simply tend to reinforce similar behaviour on the part of pupils.”

On boycotts by the pupils, it says 1990 will take its toll as did the years of the preceding decade. It notes that should the situation prevail, this year will swell the ranks of the uneducated and will place more people on the unemployment list.
Fate of teachers not yet decided

The fate of teachers, who fled from their schools in Tsalibos, near Aledya, after their cottages were razed by angry villagers, who accused them for causing the death of a pupil two weeks ago, has not yet been decided, the affected teachers said yesterday.

The teachers, some of whom stay more than 100 km away, said education authorities in Pietersburg told them they would lose their jobs if they did not return to their school, Masetha Primary, before April 18.

A circuit inspector, who did not want his name to be mentioned, refused to comment when contacted at his office yesterday.

The burning of the cottages followed the arrest of the dead child's grandmother who went to school and threatened to assault teachers claiming that the death of her grandchild was caused by the punishment she received there a week earlier.

Consequent to this, a huge mass meeting was held at the village where it was resolved that the teachers, including the principal, should be "taught a lesson," according to reports from the area.

The following evening all the teachers' cottages were set alight. The teachers were chased by angry villagers who told them not to return to the area.
School strike ends as 6,000 teachers head back to classrooms

Teachers' heads back to classrooms

*Weekly Mail*

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Education level of teachers improves

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — More than one-third of teachers at black schools in South Africa do not have matric, but this is a vast improvement on the position only six years ago when more than 70 percent had not reached this level of education.

This emerges from the annual report of the Department of Education and Training tabled in Parliament.

The reduction, the report says, is the result of a concentrated effort by the department to lift the skills level of its 54 000 teachers through after-hours training programmes.

Last year, 18 500 teachers were still without matric.

By contrast, 20 000 of the 40 000 teachers — 73 percent of the teaching corps — did not have matric in 1983.

Three years before that, the figure was 82 percent.

The annual report says the DET intends intensifying the in-service training programme from this year on.

Low teacher qualifications is only one of the problems the department has to contend with.

The number of pupils at black schools in South Africa and the independent homelands has rocketed from 750 000 in 1960 to 7.4 million last year.

Since 1980, the number of primary school pupils has risen from 1.2 million to 1.5 million. At secondary schools, the number has doubled in the same period from 269 000 to 488 000 pupils. In the past three years alone, secondary school enrolment has increased at a rate of more than 11 percent a year.

But, the report says, the "escalating expansion makes quite disproportionate demands on the limited resources".

Pressure

The building programme has not kept pace with the growing number of pupils and, furthermore, the unpredictable and large-scale movement of black people to the cities has militated against long-term planning.

The department says that because there is such pressure on available resources, it is "hardly surprising" that its efforts are not appreciated.

Progress is, however, being made with reducing the teacher-to-pupil ratio. In has dropped in the past decade from 1:54 to 1:49 in primary schools and from 1:63 to 1:54 in secondary schools.

The report says that reaching the departmental target of 1:49 for primary and 1:35 for secondary schools will depend on how much money the department receives from the Treasury.
With solemnity and anger, colleagues of teacher Tesepho Motsho take him to his last resting place.

His own death

Promotion of

Teacher had a

By STAN MHLONGO

CITY PRESS, Apri 1, 1999

PAGE 25
Teachers set to shift protest to classrooms

DESPITE returning to the classrooms next week, the 6 000 striking teachers would continue to press for reforms from the DET, a National Education Union of SA (Neusa) spokesman said.

DET regional deputy director Jan Vermaak said yesterday the DET had “heard the reports of the teachers returning to schools on April 18, though it had received no official statement yet”.

DET schools are closed until April 18 for the Easter holidays.  

National Education Co-ordinating Committee general-secretary Itron Rensburg said yesterday the teachers’ decision was to suspend the strike and return to the classrooms until the end of term.

In June, they would convene another regional meeting which would review progress made by Education and Development Aid Minister Stoffel van der Merwe. A further decision on the strike would be made after that meeting.

When they resumed teaching, though, teachers would refuse to allow class visits by DET inspectors, would not attend DET refresher courses and would not follow the DET timetable, Rensburg said.

Instead, the teachers resolved at a meeting last week to teach during the June school holidays to recover time lost due to the strike.

Concerning the teachers' back-to-school stipulations, Vermaak said “we do not want to threaten the teachers, but if they don’t want to play the game, we will have no alternative but to enforce the contracts the teachers signed”.

The strike began more than five weeks ago, when Soweto and Alexandra teachers marched on DET offices demanding an end to teacher retrenchments, fewer class periods to teach and a wage increase.
Striking teachers will not be fired

CAPE TOWN — The Government has waived a rule automatically firing about 11,600 black teachers for their “chalk-down” strike.

In a conciliatory gesture designed to restore normality to strife-torn black education, Education and Development Aid Minister Dr Stoffel van der Merwe suspended a clause in the Education and Training Act of 1979 which provides for the dismissal of teachers who are absent without permission for longer than 14 days.

Dr van der Merwe also waived the clause treating unauthorised absence as leave without pay.

He said he deemed it in the public interest that all teachers who took part in the boycott be reinstated on April 17, the day before schools re-open, as if they had been on leave with full pay.

“This is an extraordinary and non-recurrent concession, due to the unique circumstances which are now prevailing,” he said.

Dr van der Merwe welcomed the teachers’ intention to resume duties on April 18 at the start of the second school term for black pupils.
Boycotting teachers reinstated

Political Staff

The 11,600 black teachers who had boycotted classes for more than 14 days and were liable for automatic dismissal have been reinstated, the Minister of Education, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, announced last night.

He added that the time lost during the boycott was to be regarded as paid leave for the teachers. He noted “with pleasure” that teachers intended to resume their duties on April 18, at the beginning of black schools’ second term.

The Education and Training Act made provision for the discharge of all teachers who had been absent without authorisation for more than 14 days on grounds of misconduct and that this be regarded as vacation leave without pay.

However, the Act also gave the minister the discretion to reinstate teachers on conditions determined by him.

Non-recurrent concession

“Because of a number of considerations, I deem it in the public interest that all teachers who took part in the boycott be reinstated in their employment on April 17, 1990, the day before the schools re-open, as if they had been on leave with full pay,” he said.

“This is an extraordinary and non-recurrent concession due to the unique circumstances which are now prevailing, and can therefore not be repeated in future.”

More than 90 demands had been submitted during the teachers’ stay-away, and these had been properly studied and considered.

“I am of the opinion that obstacles which, according to the teachers, stood in their way are now in the process of receiving attention and that education can now resume for the benefit of the pupils.”

It was his firm intention to continue the process of negotiation and give continuous attention to matters which were not immediately addressed.

“I trust that all parties concerned with the education of black pupils, including parents and the community at large, will from now on ensure that children will not be harmed because of the failure of adults to come to an agreement on matters which fall outside the ambit of education,” he said.
Not just yet

As black schools closed for the Easter holidays Alexandra and Soweto teachers resolved to suspend their five-week-old strike.
Striking Vaal teachers resolve to return to class after Easter

By STAN MHLONGO

IT'S chalk-up for Vaal teachers who have been on a three-week strike after handing a memorandum containing their grievances to the Department of Education and Training (DET).

The back-to-school decision was taken after the Vaal Progressive Teachers' Organisation (Vapto), the Vaal Civic Association (VCA), Congress of South African Students (Cosas) and the Vaal UDF area committee held a crucial meeting this week.

In view of the agreement reached, all pupils and teachers should report at their schools on April 18, when schools reopen.

In a statement Vapto general secretary Ronjo Hailela said the back-to-school decision was taken "because of the adverse implications the strike might have on our pupils – not because of the DET."

Hailela said the 33-page answer by DET to the teachers' grievances was nothing but a clear sign of the "DET's arrogance..."

"There is little doubt that the DET has not addressed the issues contained in the memorandum," added Hailela. According to the memorandum, Vapto wants:

■ No class visits by principals or deputies;
■ No individual or panel inspection;
■ No in-service training;
■ No signing of any declaration of dissociation from the Vapto manifesto;
■ No interview of any kind by anybody in authority;
■ No person or teacher should write tests so as to gain promotion; and
■ That the regional DET office and circuit office should be left in isolation.
Inadequate security at schools

by R.A. NICHOLS

Threat in Natal

Chalks-down
JUATA - CRISES ACTION

JUATA successfully resisted the 1990 teachers' strike, the first in the education system, and the first time JUATA had used its power. JUATA has also been successful in lobbying for increased funding for education, and in raising awareness of the issues facing teachers and students.

In order to address the problems of over-crowding, lack of resources, and poor education standards, JUATA has built and staffed its own schools. These schools are widely recognized as some of the best in the country.

JUATA is a strong and influential organization, and its members are proud to be part of its history. JUATA continues to fight for the rights of teachers and students, and to ensure that education in South Africa remains accessible to all.

JUATA also runs a number of community projects, including a food distribution programme, a literacy programme, and a health and wellness programme.

JUATA's success is due to the commitment of its members, and to the support of the wider community. JUATA is proud to be a part of the struggle for a better future for South Africa.
THOUSANDS of teachers and pupils are expected to return to classes tomorrow when schools controlled by the Department of Education and Training reopen for the second term.

The decision on April 4 by 6,000 teachers in the DET's Johannesburg region to conditionally suspend their month-long "chalks down" strike, has come as a relief to parents.

Although they sympathised with the teachers, feeling was that the strike had dragged on too long.

Fears were already being expressed that should the crisis continue much longer, this year's results, especially matric ones, were bound to be the gloomiest.

Aware of these sentiments, the teachers have agreed that schools should not close in June for the winter holidays.

The Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, last week, also welcomed the teachers' intention to resume duties.

In addition, he announced that the Government has, in a conciliatory gesture designed to restore normality to strife-torn black education, waived a rule automatically firing about 11,000 black teachers for their strike action.

He suspended a clause in the Education and Training Act of 1979 which provides for the dismissal of teachers who are absent without permission for longer than 14 days.

He also waived the clause treating unauthorised absence as leave without pay.

He said he deemed it in the public interest that all teachers who took part in the boycott be reinstated today, the day before the schools reopen, as if they had been on leave with full pay.

Pilgrims at Moria City

Thousands of people gathered at Moria City, near Pietersburg, for the annual Easter meeting of members of the Zion Christian Church who came from many parts of South Africa. Some came from Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana to hear their spiritual leader bishop Barnabas Lekganyane pray for peace, quiet and understanding.
TUATA CRISIS ACTION

In accordance with the need to resolve the current education crisis and in order to encourage effective teaching and learning in Black schools, TUATA has intensified its campaign to assist the teacher at the grassroots level. TUATA has planned a series of rallies for teachers throughout the province over the next three months. Rallies have already been held in Soweto, Springs, Kagiso, Carletonville, Letaba North and Potchefstroom. These meetings have provided teachers with a platform to air their grievances, and an opportunity to learn of TUATA's action on their behalf. TUATA has also been actively engaged in various areas of grievance and social responsibility, notably:

- Retrenchment of Teachers
The retrenchment of teachers has been a grievance of teachers in recent strike action in the province. But, TUATA had already tackled the DET on this issue in December 1989, and by January 1990 had been successful in having all 124 retrenched teachers reinstated. As a result of the agitation of TUATA, DET was forced to abandon the policy of retrenching underqualified teachers.

- Reinstitution of Pre-School Classes and Establishment of Early Learning Centres
Besides condemning the closing down of Pre-School classes and successfully demanding their continuation, TUATA has also commenced a project to establish Early Learning Centres in communities where the need is greatest. Centres have already been set up in Diepkloof, Meadowlands, Zondi, Kagiso and Vosloorus. TUATA is also in the process of erecting the Lithweti Early Learning Centre in Kanyamazane, Kangwane.

- Increase of Teachers' Salaries
TUATA has already been instrumental in achieving parity of salaries between male and female teachers from post level two upwards and a better salary package for underqualified teachers. (Refer to Page 9 of the recent DET memorandum, "Reply to the Demands" submitted to the Department by Teachers, 5 February and 23 March 1990). TUATA has nevertheless continued to insist on further increases. Those teachers in Category A1 and below, who earn less than a living wage, are of particular concern.

- Transfer to the Government Service Pension Fund
TUATA has been instrumental in persuading DET to grant teachers another opportunity of transferring from the Temporary Employees' Fund to the Government Service Pension Fund. Since the conditions of such transfer are not satisfactory and beyond the means of most teachers, TUATA will continue to agitate for more lenient terms.

- Revision of Syllabi and Curriculum, and Curriculum Development
TUATA continues to call for a revision of syllabi and curriculum and has herself embarked on the initial phase of a curriculum development project in preparation for the new era. TUATA's first Curriculum Development Conference took place in Potgietersrus in August 1989.

- Student-Teacher Co-operation
TUATA is now promoting "open agenda" meetings with school students in order to address issues of concern and encourage student-teacher co-operation. Districts and branches throughout the province have been instructed to organise such meetings.

- Cessation of Youth Camps
On becoming aware of the extreme opposition to youth camps among students, TUATA was instrumental in the last year in effecting the cancellation of these camps.

- Inter-Organisational Co-operation
TUATA is now involving herself in meetings with other teachers' organisations, such as NEUSA, in order to promote unified action towards the resolution of the education crisis. The Presidents of TUATA and NEUSA met on Monday, 26 March 1990, to discuss the education crisis and "Chalk Down".

- Legal Aid
TUATA continues to provide legal aid to students and teachers who have become victims of the apartheid system or other unfortunate circumstances. Notable cases include two bus accidents: in 1987, involving children from Alexandra High School; and in 1989, involving children from Seolwane High School. TUATA provided legal representation in both cases and gained compensation for the parents of the victims. TUATA has also taken successful legal action on behalf of teachers who have been abducted, subjected to forced transfer, charged with misconduct, and the like.

- Insurance Cover
In keeping with its commitment to promoting the welfare of teachers, TUATA offers membership of the TUATA Old Mutual Group Scheme at low premiums. The package of five different elements including disability, death, parents' cover, family benefits and endowment ensures that members are well covered. In the event of the death of a member from TUATA whose children are the beneficiaries, TUATA continues its support of the family; TUATA acts as trustee, managing and investing the funds until the children attain their majority.

- Charity Donations
TUATA continues to recognise its responsibility to the community over and above its normal role. To reflect this commitment, over the years TUATA has consistently made donations to needy causes. More recently TUATA has contributed to the Flood Disaster Fund in Natal, bus disaster funds in the Western Transvaal, Soweto and Durban, and last year a sum of R5 000 to Operation Hunger.

In order to address the problems of teachers within its ranks even more effectively, particularly in this situation of crisis, TUATA will shortly expand its operations. Qualified full-time staff, based at a now central office, will be appointed to liaise with members throughout the province and co-ordinate the activities of the Association.
Black teachers vow to defy DET

BLACK pupils and teachers are expected to flock to school today for the start of the second term.

But although they will return to classrooms, teachers will defy the Department of Education and Training (DET) by refusing to teach non-examination subjects or DET-organised extra-mural activities. They will teach only 32 hours a week and will refuse inspection by DET officials.

In Soweto and Alexandra lessons will resume for more than 200 000 pupils whose teachers have decided to suspend for a term the “chalk-downings” which halted classes for a month before the Easter break.

Soweto Education Co-ordinating Committee spokesman Dave Maepa said yesterday the lost time would be made up by classes during the June holidays.

Teachers would then assess the Department of Education and Training’s response to their short-term demands and decide whether to continue teaching, he said.

The teachers demanded a reduction by June of teaching periods from 48 to 32 hours a week, the opening of more teaching posts and employment of more teachers, the reinstatement of retrenched teachers, supply of books and stationery for all children and a salary adjustment.

Maepa said a 42-page response from Education and Development Aid Minister Stoffel van der Merwe was being investigated. Van der Merwe had accepted the legitimacy of the demands but had not undertaken any specific timetable to address them.

Van der Merwe’s agreement to recognise the National Education Union of SA (Neusa) only in a consultative capacity was disappointing. The teachers’ organisation was the force behind last term’s strike.

Maepa said teachers had decided to return “in the interests of the children”.

Sapa reports from Cape Town that House of Assembly Education and Culture Minister Piet Claise said yesterday in the light of the two models the government was considering for the opening of some schools to all races, it would be more sensitive about the closing of any school or retrenchment of teachers.

He said the closing of a school was, under any circumstances, a traumatic step.

Such a decision — and retrenchment of teachers — was taken only after careful consideration and wide consultation.

Ken Andrew (DP Gardens) said it would be an “act of irresponsible folly to discard competent teachers” when the education system was crying out for their desperately needed talents.

He asked whether the NP was going to encourage open schools or continue to put obstacles in their way.

“In many respects, the government’s attitude to open schools will reflect its approach to a new SA,” he said.

DP MPs would encourage schools in their constituencies to open their doors to children of all races.

Andrew Gerber (CP Brits) said the CP would not be blackmailed by feelings of guilt about empty desks.

The responsibility for this rested squarely on government’s shoulders, as they were impoverishing whites so much that households could not afford four or five children any more.

Roger Burrows (DP Pinetown) said empty school desks were a reality and if the CP wanted “pearly white” schools, it would have to pay for it.
Bomb deaths: teachers guilty

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

DELMAS — Two teachers were convicted yesterday on 70 charges, including three of murder and 14 of attempted murder, relating to a car-bomb explosion in Witbank in October 1988.

In the Supreme Court sitting in Delmas, Mr Justice M C de Klerk and two assessors found that Joseph Vilakazi (29) and Ramoepe Moba (26) had participated in a conspiracy resulting in the explosion outside a Witbank office block housing Security Police and CID personnel.

Mr Justice de Klerk said Vilakazi and Moba had been involved in the collection of Russian-made weapons which they knew could lead to explosions.

The judge said they had the foresight to see that the result could kill or injure people.

During the trial the accused denied they were members of the ANC.

The court was told that the leader of the cell, Samuel Mnyake (also known as Thbang), died in a shoot-out with police.

Evidence in mitigation of sentence will be heard today.
GST on medicines not to be scrapped

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE government was not considering scrapping sales tax on prescribed medicines, the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend du Plessis, said yesterday.

An estimated R120-R135 million was collected in GST last year for the sale of prescribed medicines through pharmacies.

Representations had been made on many occasions for prescribed medicines to be exempted from GST and careful consideration had been given to the matter.

"It is, however, essential, particularly in the case of an indirect tax such as sales tax, for the base to be as wide as possible," he said in reply to questions tabled in the House of Assembly by Mr Mike Ellis (DP, Durban North).

"If an exemption was granted in respect of prescribed medicines, it would not only open the door for exemptions of other equally meritorious cases, but would mean that the loss of tax would have to be recovered by an increase in the rate of tax."

The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa estimated that the sales of prescribed medicines for last year amounted to R1 040 million — giving a tax of R120-R135 million.
Teachers and pupils flock back

By NKOPANE MAKOBAKE

THOUSANDS of black teachers and pupils throughout the country flocked to classes yesterday when schools reopened for the second term.

A spokesman for the Department of Education and Training in Pretoria, Mr Henkie de Wet, said early reports indicated that most of the 11,000 teachers who were on strike had reported for duty.

The other 46,000 who did not go on strike had also reported for duty as normally.

STRUWIG

He said although they had not yet received full reports, indications were that there were only a few schools with poor attendances.

Mr Peet Struwig, the DET’s chief director for the Johannesburg region, said reports from Soweto and Alexandra were that all had gone well yesterday, especially at primary schools.

A roundup of schools in Soweto by Sowetan yesterday revealed that at least 90 percent of pupils had reported for school in the morning.

However, there was no teaching at some secondary and high schools.

Schools in Soweto, Alexandra Township, the East Rand and the Vaal Triangle were disrupted when teachers went on a four-week “chalk down” strike, demanding that the DET attend to their grievances.
Teachers and students return to DET schools

MOST teachers and about 80% of the pupils returned to Department of Education and Training (DET) schools as the second term started yesterday. A DET spokesman in Pretoria said more than 11,000 teachers involved in boycotts or stayaways last term resumed duties yesterday.

He said the DET was encouraged by the almost normal attendance reported at most schools. There are about 8,000 DET schools in SA.

DET Johannesburg regional public relations manager Solomon Moshoka said more than 80% of the pupils and teachers at 64 high schools and 217 primary schools in Soweto and Alexandra were back in class yesterday.

Neither spokesman could comment on the DET's response to defiance actions planned by teachers to get the DET to meet their demands.

Organised under the National Education Union of SA, teachers in the Johannesburg region would refuse to teach non-academic subjects or to allow inspectors into classrooms.

Under the proposed action, the teachers would work 32 hours a week instead of 48 hours a week.

Their demands to the DET include a salary increase, a reduced number of working hours, and the reinstatement of retrenched teachers.
THE month-long strike by 6,000 teachers in Soweto and Alexandra last term cost taxpayers R12m in salaries.

The 6,000 teachers from the Johannesburg region — and more than 5,000 others who participated in intermittent boycotts around the country last term — had been paid as if they were on leave, DET Johannesburg regional deputy director Peter Mundell said yesterday.

Mundell said teaching staff salaries in this region totalled R400,000 a day. The DET had paid out R12m as if teachers had been on vacation for 30 days — the duration of the “chalk-down” strike. Teachers are entitled to 12 days’ paid leave a year, besides school holidays.

Government could not afford to spend masses of money with no return, he said. By the end of April there had been no meaningful education in DET schools.

Organised under the National Education Union of SA (Neusa), Soweto and Alexandra teachers have undertaken to make up for time lost during the strike by teaching through the June holidays.

Education and Training Minister Stoffel van der Merwe said his decision not to penalise any of the boycotting teachers would not be repeated.

Soweto and Alexandra teachers have threatened to resume their strike in July if the DET fails to meet their demands, which include fewer teaching periods, employment of extra teachers, reinstatement of retrenched teachers and a salary adjustment.

Neusa president Curtis Nkondo and DET Johannesburg regional director Peet Struwig met last week to review the effects of the strike.

Neusa confirmed the 10 conditions of the temporary return to teaching. These included teaching from 8am to 2pm only, working 32 periods instead of 48 a week, the disbanding of satellite schools, refusing circuit inspectors and subject advisors access to classrooms and refusing to teach non-academic subjects or extra-mural activities.

In a statement yesterday Struwig said he had pointed out implications of these actions to Nkondo and asked him to avoid total disorder by withdrawing the conditions.

Nkondo undertook to report to his executive committee by today.
Pupils and teachers flock back to school

By SELLO SERIGE and DESMOND BLOW

MOST pupils and teachers throughout the country went back to school this week, although there were poor attendances at a few schools in most regions.

The worst affected region was the Free State, where 26 of the 29 schools boycotted for the first term remained vacant this week.

Eighty percent of children in the Soweto and Alexandra regions reported for school, but at 10 secondary schools only 60 percent of pupils attended, which DET Johannesburg regional director Peet Struwig claimed was “not bad”.

The month-long DET teachers’ strike is over, although most of their 90 grievances have not been redressed.

However, talks with Minister of Education and Training Stoffel van der Merwe to find solutions will continue.

Teachers are anxious to teach pupils, many of whom have already missed the whole of the first term.

In an attempt to make up for time lost during the strike, teachers have decided to keep classes open during the coming winter holidays.

For his part, Van der Merwe has overlooked the stayaway of teacher up to April 17 without taking any disciplinary steps and will regard the boycott as leave with full pay.

However, he has warned that if any further stayaways by teacher take place the tough provisions regarding dismissals and suspensions will come into effect.

Among teachers’ grievances were overcrowding, overwork and low salaries, especially for lower grade teachers.

All teachers were given a 12 percent increase in salaries earlier this year, and received a further 1 percent at the beginning of this month, when across-the-board increases of 10 percent were given to all public servants.

This means teachers have received increases totalling 52 percent in the past 18 months, but Van der Merwe told C...
At Morrison Isaacson High student leader "Toivo" Longane made his comeback in style ... dressed in ANC regalia.

Press in an interview recently that this was not enough for lower-grade teachers, whose salaries were so low that a 32 percent increase meant very little.

The lowest grades apply to women teachers. The Minister announced this week the upgrading of women teachers' salaries at the lowest level by two notches. They will now be one notch below those of men teachers, instead of three.

In the next lowest level, women teachers will be upgraded one notch to bring them within two notches of their male counterparts.

National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) president Curtis Nkondo said although the two notches teachers had returned to work they would continue to fight for a living wage.

The "no holiday" decision by teachers, organised under Neusa, has been welcomed by several organisations and the community.

Nkondo told City Press the teachers' decision to deprive themselves of winter holidays was an "admirable decision".

He said this showed teachers were highly responsible because the moratorium was not imposed on them.

Struwig said he welcomed the "no-holiday" decision to cover periods lost as the result of the strike.
READ takes a new road to learning

More than 100 delegates from 76 teachers' training colleges in South Africa gathered in Johannesburg yesterday for the start of the READ annual three-day workshop on ways to improve teaching skills.

This year READ (Read, Educate and Develop), a privately-funded organisation established to improve the quality of education in the country, is presenting four separate programmes titled: study skills; making the most of your library corner; using a book in language teaching; and using books to teach general science.

According to READ secretary Mrs Stella Leonard, the programmes are the most cost-effective way of improving language competence and entrenching skills of independent study in children.

She said there had been a tremendous response from teachers attending the conference to improve their skills.

One of READ's primary objectives is to help people to read, write and speak with greater competency and confidence.

Tomorrow, Sanlam will present a package of books worth R15 000 to the colleges represented at the conference.
League merges with Neusa

THE Johannesburg branch of the Progressive Teachers' League has dissolved and joined forces with the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa).

A spokesman told Sowetan that Neusa was highly active in the Johannesburg area up until its banning during the state of emergency. It recently relaunched its Johannesburg branch at Wits University, she said.

"We have undertaken to embark on a programme to draw in teachers from every school in the area. We are going to work with other teacher organisations committed to change and also tackle the problem of racially exclusive schools. We have re-committed ourselves to work towards open, non-racial and democratic state schooling," she said.

Anyone interested in receiving more information can contact Neusa, PO Box 322, Judith Paarl, 2045.
The school's stem is the key to change in education. Teachers hold the power to innovate and implement new teaching methods.
Natal war leads to schools crisis

By CARMEL RICKARD

THE violence in Natal has caused an education crisis as hundreds of thousands of pupils sit at home because teachers are too afraid to teach.

Teachers in several circuits are refusing to continue because they must "constantly look over their shoulders while writing on the blackboard to make sure no one is firing through the window."

KwaZulu's Education and Culture minister Oscar Dlomo said yesterday three of his department's 25 circuits were severely hit, with virtually no schools operating.

KwaMashu, Edendale and Mpumalanga, were affected by violence and intimidation which "go hand in hand", Dlomo said.

Mpumalanga was "divided into Inkatha and UDF spheres of influence. The schools in the UDF area are not accessible to children from homes in areas perceived to be Inkatha-supporting and vice versa."

Teachers from the Mpumalanga circuit said this week that more than 100,000 pupils from this circuit alone were sitting at home.

They said the latest problems began at Mpumalanga's Chief Luayi High School on April 5 when armed men attacked the school.

Two pupils were killed and 15 injured. Three teachers were admitted to hospital.
Payless teachers refuse to go to work

By HANS-PETER BAKKER
Staff Reporter

TWENTY-NINE teachers at Beaufort West Primary School have refused to work for the second day because they have not been paid.

The principal and chairman of the Beaufort West Teachers' Union, Mr Thembeka Hanabe, said no teachers arrived at the school yesterday.

All 998 pupils had stayed away. Some arrived in the morning but left when they saw the teachers had stayed away.

Mr Bill Staude, regional chief director of the Department of Education and Training, said the salary cheques had been posted from the Cape Town East office of the DET on April 22 but had not arrived in Beaufort West.

He apologised for the delay. The DET would investigate "to ensure that it doesn't happen again".

Mr Hanabe said he had visited all the post offices in Beaufort West in search of the cheques.
Teachers

The Deputy Minister of Education, Mr Piet Marais, has called for further negotiations with black teachers in the Transvaal about their grievances. (BAS)

The teachers submitted demands about a month ago relating to the improvement of black education in general and their own working conditions.

Sapa, 4/5/1970
Thousands of KwaZulu pupils remain idle while striking teachers demand security

By SBU MNGADI

THE KwaZulu Department of Education and Culture is heading for a showdown with its teachers in several circuits in the province.

About 180,000 pupils in the Mpumalanga and Uvundula circuits are sitting idle at home because their teachers are on strike over security problems which they say are hampering effective learning.

The striking teachers want the KwaZulu government to restrain Inkatha “warlords” from invading schools. They resolved to stay away from work until their and the pupils’ safety was guaranteed by an agreement between the KwaZulu authorities and the warring parties – Inkatha, the UDF, Cosatu and the ANC.

If and when needed, the teachers’ demands may force Inkatha, the UDF, Cosatu and the ANC back into the peace talks they had endorsed in July last year.

Teachers and principals from some of the estimated 120 schools in the Mpumalanga Circuit this week told journalists the attack by armed men on Chief Luthyi High School on April 5 was a turning point.

The implored fire on pupils and teachers. Two pupils were killed and 15 injured, while three teachers were admitted to hospital. Angry teachers refused to go back until security was stepped up.

On April 17, about 1,000 teachers from the Mpumalanga Circuit, which includes outlying villages, squatter settlements and a township, also resolved on a stayaway from school until security was provided.

“We felt schools could no longer function because there were no safe places,” a teacher said.

“We are concerned about the safety of our pupils. We can no longer teach. We write on the board while looking over our shoulders,” a teacher said this week.

Teachers also complained they could no longer give pupils homework because when pupils left school in the afternoons they were expected to go on guard duty to protect their communities from attack.

They were also at risk when they waited at bus stops. Students had to hide then run to catch the bus when it appeared. Teachers said they wanted security throughout the area to be improved because it was the only way that effective education could get under way again.

Across the region at Edendale, 1,000 teachers entered their fifth stayaway week.

Holding aloft placards reading: “KwaZulu Education Minister Oscar Dhlomo Come Here,” and “We Demand Security for Teachers War-torn Areas,” the teachers marched to the local circuit office.

A memorandum, reaffirming previous conditions set by teachers before they could return to school, was submitted.
TEACHERS at Mohlakaneng High School in Soshinge, Pietersburg, have resolved not to conduct lessons until pupils stop ideological fights that have led to the temporary closure of the school.

Addressing a meeting of parents at the school, the principal, Mr Lance Mthanjani, said pupils had stoned cars belonging to teachers, causing damage.

By MATHATA TSEDU

calculated at about R2 000

Mthanjani told parents that pupils were divided along ideological lines, with some supporting the Black Consciousness Movement while others supported the African National Congress.

He said a battle for supremacy was raging in the schoolyard, making it impossible for the education process to go on. Window panes on all outer walls were smashed and teachers were no longer free and secure while on the school premises, he said.

"We are not policemen and we therefore do not come to school armed. We cannot continue to work when the children come here to wage their political battles and then turn on us as teachers to vent their frustrations.

Interfere

"Calling them back with parents in order to find documents will not assist because each one of them finds a similar declaration at the beginning of the year.

"We need to bring it home to the children that their political organisations should not interfere with schooling," Mthanjani said.

The meeting resolved that the costs for the damaged cars and the school building should be borne by parents.

The school committee, the principal, staff, the various students' groupings are to meet with representative of the Soshinge Civic Association and the Soshinge Education Watchdog Committee on tomorrow evening to try and resolve the matter, Mthanjani told Sowetan after the meeting.

Other parents had suggested that the Students Representative Council should be abolished while others suggested that soldiers be called in to guard the school to stop further unrest.

Parents complained that due to the persistent boycotts, Standard 10 pupils at the school had not been registered for the end of the year examinations.

It was revealed that there had only been four weeks of uninterrupted schooling since the beginning of the year.

Demand

Meanwhile, students at the University of the North went back to classes on Thursday, making that the sixth day of lessons since the beginning of the year. The students were boycotting lectures to demand the provision of accommodation for more than 400 first-year colleagues. The demand later changed when students and a lecturer were detained by security police.

The detainees have all been released.
Matches

Some of the school teachers, who attended courses on improving their skills and methods of teaching maths, the pro-

Trust

May the friendship bridge

the channel between

the minds of the teach-

ers and the students.

The channel must be

open and clear.

The teachers must be

impatient, work hard,

and be persistent to

achieve this bridge.

The teachers must be

patient, understanding,

and accepting of the

students.

The students must be

responsible and willing
to learn.

The bridge must be

built on mutual respect,

understanding, and

trust.

The bridge must be

strong and unbreakable.

The bridge must be

built on a solid

foundation of

communication.

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13 teachers suspended after rumpus at principals’ talks

THE Department of Education and Training has suspended 13 Brits teachers for allegedly disrupting a principals’ meeting earlier this month.

The chief director for the Northern Transvaal region of the DET, Job Schoeman, said the suspended teachers were also facing charges of misconduct for disrupting his meeting with principals in the Brits area on May 11.

Schoeman said the group of teachers “barged in and disrupted the meeting claiming it was illegal and not in keeping with decisions taken by the so-called teachers unions”. He said such unprofessional behaviour could neither be tolerated nor condoned. It had therefore been decided to suspend these teachers from their teaching duties without remuneration as from today and to charge them with misconduct as defined in Section 22 of the Education and Training Act.

The suspended teachers are from the Oukasie and Lethlabile townships near Brits and were members of the local teachers union.

Schoeman said as a result of the actions of the teachers unions which had severed ties with DET, schools had been disrupted from the beginning of the year and inspectors as well as other officials had been threatened not to visit the schools or “try to exercise any form of control over academic and professional standards”. 
Nursery teachers go on strike

Nursery school teachers have gone on strike at eight creches in Meadowlands and Kagiso in support of demands for a pay increase.

The pre-school teachers - all members of the South African Black Workers' Union - are demanding a minimum pay of R500 a month, a provident fund and maternity leave.

At Kagiso about 20 pre-school teachers with 600 other council workers started their strike last week, demanding a R900-a-month minimum salary. They also demand the recognition of their union, the National Union of Public Service Workers.

Kagiso parents will meet at a local creche tomorrow to discuss the strike by council workers.
AND POPULATION EXPLOSION

THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

TUESDAY, 22 MAY 1966

...
Teachers to act on bungled pay, poor conditions

BY BRONWYN DAVIDS

A NEWLY qualified teacher, who is a single parent with a four-year-old child, had to survive on R398 a month for three months as a result of a pay bungle by education authorities.

The teacher, who declined to be named for fear of victimisation, is also afraid that she may not have a job at the end of the month, although she was told by the principal of her school that she would have a job for a year.

By arrangement between principals, she has been registered at another school.

The teacher has managed to make ends meet by paying half the rent and being fed by supportive family members. She barely manages to pay her four-year-old son’s nursery school fees every month and there is no money for clothes and other necessities.

In April, she was not paid but later received about R1 000. She has still not received any back pay, she said yesterday.

The problem of teachers not being paid or living in fear of losing their jobs was raised at a meeting organised by the National Teacher Unity Forum at the City Hall at the weekend.

A memorandum which is to be discussed with the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, on May 28.

Among the teachers’ demands are a minimum salary level based on a minimum living wage, the suspension of inspection and bureaucratic controls and the recognition of a Teacher’s Bill of Rights which includes security of tenure.

They also called for a single, non-racial, non-sexist education system which addressed the education crisis which was crippling pupil learning.

Last night Mr Franklin Sonn, president of the Cape Teachers’ Professional Association (CTPA), said: “We have a most unacceptable situation in schools. We were assured by the department that all the teachers’ salaries had been paid and that they were checking up for any salary backlogs.”
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 8 May 1990

Question 370

The Minister of Justice

The Minister of Law and Order

The Minister of Education

VITALIANS AND PRESS

The Minister of Planning and Prog.

The Minister of Finance

The Minister of Natural Resources

The Minister of Health

The Minister of Education

The Minister of Justice

The Minister of Law and Order

The Minister of Education

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Brits teachers resolve to continue with strike

By Mceke Kotta
Pretoria Bureau

About 300 striking teachers in Brits, yesterday resolved to continue with the strike until their suspended colleagues were unconditionally re-instated.

The strike started on Tuesday after the suspension of 13 teachers by the Department of Education and Training (DET) for allegedly having disrupted a principals’ meeting at Reolkoppes about 20 km from Brits.

All the striking teachers are members of the Brits Teachers Union (Britu).

The chairman of the union and one of the suspended teachers, Tshidi Matlala, said yesterday’s meeting resolved to continue the strike until the 13 were reinstated with full pay.

Mr Matlala said their motto was “an injury to one is an injury to all”. By suspending the 13, they felt the department was suspending them all.

He said the reason for disrupting the May 11 1990 meeting which was addressed by the chief director for the Northern Transvaal region of DET, Jop Schoeman, was that the principals were violating the defiance campaign’s 14 points as set by the union, one of which is to isolate the DET.

Solidarity

Teachers from the neighbouring farm schools have pledged solidarity with the striking teachers. The following demands were yesterday:

○ The unconditional reinstatement of the teachers on full pay;
○ DET officials should stop violating the 14 points as outlined by Britu in conjunction with the Pretoria Teachers Union;
○ Mr Schoeman should stop intimidating and victimising union members;
○ The department should supply more teachers instead of suspending and dismissing them.

The suspension — without pay — of the 13 teachers was announced by Mr Schoeman on Monday.

Eleven of the teachers were from Khutsiseng High School, one from Itumeleng Primary School and the other from Bothlobele High School.
Parents back 'chalks-down'

Staff Reporters
Parents of pupils affected by last week's teachers' 'chalks-down' yesterday, at a mass meeting in Ennerdale, endorsed the action taken by teachers.

Teachers called the meeting to explain the reasons for their actions, including the strike and the march last Friday by about 1,000 teachers on the Johannesburg office of the Department of Education and Culture (House of Representatives).

"Some parents felt that teachers didn't have the interests of pupils at heart when they marched and engaged in a chalks-down," an Ennerdale Civic Association spokesman said last night.

"They were fully briefed at the meeting and now understand why teachers took these actions," the spokesman said, adding that parents had pledged their full support to any future actions taken by teachers.

Suspended
The areas affected by the four-day strike action, which started last Tuesday, included Eldorado Park, Ennerdale, Riverlea, Bosmont, Coronationville and Randfontein.

The strike was suspended last Friday pending the response on May 29 of the education authorities to a list of short-term grievances.

The short-term demands include:
- Reinstatement of all teachers who were allegedly unfairly suspended in 1981
- That all outstanding salaries be paid immediately
- That salaries be paid on time
- That there be full parity between male and female teachers.

Boksburg election posters vandalised

By Anna Louw, East Rand Bureau

Posters of four candidates contesting a municipal by-election in Boksburg have been spray-painted with signs of the anti-Christ (666) and the Ku Klux Klan (KKK).

In another incident, the walls of the home of the National Party Member of Parliament for Boksburg, Sakkie Blanche, had the words "Mandela", "AWB" spray-painted on them.

Posters of the four candidates in the municipal by-election in Ward Two which includes Sunward Park were damaged on Wednesday.

The candidates are: Andrew Wheeler (Independent), Hansie Rabie (CP), Ronnie Wiggell (NP) and Colin Aret (DP).

The by-election takes place on Wednesday.

According to Mr Blanche he received a call yesterday morning from Johan Brandt, a National Party campaigner, who told him his wall had been spray-painted.

Mr Blanche said when he had driven past his home at 10.30 am on Wednesday there was nothing on the walls.

The incidents have been reported to the police.

Santa revue may be screened on TV
10,000 teachers will march for unitary education system

ABOUT 10,000 teachers are expected to participate in a march in parliament on Monday to demand a "unitary education system" for all South African children.

The march will coincide with a meeting between a delegation from the National Teachers' Unity Forum and Minister of National Education, Mr Steve Loevenstein, in Cape Town. The Unity Forum, which is co-ordinated by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, represents over 120,000 teachers from 11 recognised organisations, including the Electronic Teachers' Union, Western Cape Teachers' Union, National Education Crisis Committee and Cape Teachers' Professional Association.

CTPA president Franki Somyes yesterday told the Weekly Mail that the delegation will present a memorandum to Loevenstein demanding that education departments, the equal distribution of resources and an improvement in the general state of education.

He said the delegation would be accompanied by CTA's4, with an aim to discuss the form and content of a post-apartheid education system education and the future status of teachers in South Africa.

"Teachers are dissatisfied with the present situation and the lack of progress in addressing these educational issues," said Somyes.

A representative of the forum sold a press conference in Cape Town this week that the basic demand for a single education system was not met, but teachers were eager to take action.

It was decided that the forum would continue with its protest activities and that a letter would be sent to the minister requesting an urgent meeting.

A University of the Western Cape Education Policy Unit report showed that 92 per cent of teachers in the Muizenberg district claimed that the government was not providing enough teaching books last year. Figures provided by the DPD show that 81 per cent of students did not have books for all classes.

The Lewoba government could not be reached at the time of going to press.

Residents of Lethlabale near Beisa say they will call an interministerial meeting of the Department of Education and Training if there is no call to the demands that 15 teachers should be unconditionally reinstated.

This is contained in a memorandum, issued by the newly elected Parents Teachers Students Association of South Africa (PTSA), together with the British Teachers Union (BTA). They will deliver the memorandum to the office of the regional chief director of the Tamil, Mr Job Schoeman, in Transvaal on Monday.

Teachers interviewed this week told the Weekly Mail that they would carry out a mass protest on May 11 protractor in the area with a letter to the President of the chapter of the BTA that the principals' commission should be reinstated.

"We face the problem of the beginning of the month of March, and the teachers and the students are being kept in the dark," said a teacher.

"We understand that the teachers and students are being kept in the dark," said a teacher.
About 3,000 people attended the launch of the Boishabelo Progressive Teachers' Union near Thaba 'Nchu at the weekend.

In his keynote address at the launch, Sowetan Assistant Editor, Mr Sam Mabe, commended Boishabelo teachers for forming "a vehicle of freedom through which teachers will reassert themselves and reclaim their dignity as human beings as professionals as workers and as community leaders."

"This is a vehicle through which you will strive to bring unity between teachers and pupils, between the schools and the community and ultimately to unite South Africans into one nation," Mabe said.
Republic Day defiance

MEMBERS of the Botshabelo Progressive Teachers Union (Botpu) have resolved to defy Republic Day on Thursday by going to school and treating the day as a normal school day.

A spokesman for Botpu said his organization had also resolved to defy the Department of Education and Training's closing date for the June holidays as one sought to undermine the significance of June 16.

"The DET's closing date is June 15, but we will close the schools the following week on June 21," said the spokesman.

"We cannot recognise Republic Day as it is of no significance to us," he said.

"Many other workers in Botshabelo industries will also be on duty," he said.

Meanwhile, about 800 teachers in Mamelodi, near Pretoria, are expected to endorse a similar resolution calling for the defiance of Republic Day and DET closing dates.- Sapa.
Teachers in demo for single system

... Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Minister of National Education, Gene Louw, has been criticised for his refusal to meet a National Teacher Unity Forum delegation because of a protest march coinciding with the previously arranged appointment.

About 5,000 teachers, student teachers and a small number of pupils gathered outside the City Hall yesterday afternoon at the end of a re-routed march through the streets of Cape Town.

The protesters carried a huge banner reading "Forward to a Single Teachers' Organisation" and placards with slogans such as "Job Security" and "Equal Pay for Equal Work".

The Forum is demanding a single, non-racial, non-sexist system of education in a unified South Africa, and spokesman Fannie Naicker said Mr Louw had agreed to meet the delegation "unconditionally".

"Now he finds it necessary to go back on his words ... (His refusal) is seen as high-handed and irresponsible in these critical times."

The delegation had demanded a rescheduled meeting for June 5, and Mr Louw had indicated that he could meet them then or a day earlier.
By MONK NKOMO

THE Department of Education and Training has threatened to close down trouble-torn schools and warned it would not consider salary increases for teachers unless they performed their duties well.

Mr Job Schoeman, the DET’s Northern Transvaal regional director, said in a circular to principals last week that many schools had been disrupted because of political interference since the beginning of the year.

Meeting

He instructed principals to hold meetings with parents and pupils and inform them about the situation. They should report back to circuit inspectors within five days after such a meeting.

The disruptions resulted in some principals and teachers being chased away from their schools, said Schoeman.

Teachers and pupils were encouraged to defy authority and some teachers refused to teach certain subjects or perform certain duties.

Schoeman said certain organisations had attempted to take over the control of schools by usurping the authority of the staff.

Teachers, parents and pupils were subjected to subte and open intimidation.

"Teachers' unions had severed all ties with the department and had openly threatened inspectors and other officials not to attempt to visit schools or try to exercise any form of control," said Schoeman.

He warned that where people in authority were prevented from exercising proper control, the department would suspend all services to such a school.

Failure to exercise control over internal examinations could lead to the rejecting of promotion schedules at the end of the year.

"Year marks submitted for Standard 10 students have to be moderated. Where such moderation cannot take place, year marks will not be acceptable to the department and the Joint Matriculation Board.

"The legitimacy and validity of end-of-year examinations, particularly the Standard 10 examination, can only be guaranteed if proper control is exercised at every school," Schoeman said.

He also warned that the appointment of teachers on probation would not be confirmed
I was impressed by the level of (voluntary) cooperation between teachers, principals, pupils and the community as a whole. It was clear that teachers are still the bones in the classroom. They are also in fact, in the forefront of resistance in the area.

They played a prominent role in the fight against the incorporation of Botshabelo into QwaQwa.

I spoke to officials of the Botshabelo Students Congress who were saying they had resolved to defy the schools’ closing date of June 15 because they don’t want June 16 to fall within the winter holidays.

They said they would reach finality on their own closing date after consultation with Bopfu.

It emerged that Bopfu had in fact taken a similar resolution earlier.

It was pleasing to note that there were schools where mutual respect between teachers and pupils still existed.

Unity

I told the teachers to regard their union as a vehicle for national empowerment through which they should reassess themselves and reclaim their dignity as human beings, as professionals, as workers and as community leaders.

They would have to strive for unity between teachers and pupils, schools and the community and ultimately to unite South Africans into one nation.

I reminded them of a famous proverb which says: “Ideals are like stars. We never reach them, but we chart our course by them.” Like the wise men from the east who followed a particular star that led them to their destiny in Bethlehem where Jesus Christ was born, I challenged them to formulate a set of objectives they want to achieve.

I said many people have taken long journeys without assessing the distance they were going to cover, how long it would take them to reach their destiny, the route they would use and the speed at which to move.

Such travellers often don’t reach their destiny or it often takes them long to get there. That we are still not free today is not because we lack the capacity to defeat our enemy. It is because our aims and objectives of being in the struggle are not very well-defined.

If they are, it is the
A boost for unity

By REHANA ROSSOUW

Militant mood as teachers march

Tens of thousands of teachers took to the streets in Cape Town on Monday as the militant mood of the crowd at the march in Cape Town on Monday was militant and angry.

By their recent protest actions against wages and conditions, the teachers had come to the centre of the city to express their dissatisfaction.

They vowed to continue their protests, saying that their demonstration was not over.

The teachers' demands included an increase in their salaries to R2500 per month, the abolition of the National Education Act (NEA), and the immediate implementation of their demands.

The teachers' mood was reflected in the crowd as they marched through the city,chanting slogans and holding banners.

The teachers' message was clear: they were fed up with the government's failure to address their concerns.

The government's response was muted, with officials saying that they were committed to working with the teachers to find a solution.

However, the teachers' determination was unyielding, and they vowed to continue their protests until their demands were met.

On the day of the march, police estimated that at least 20,000 teachers took to the streets, some of them blocking roads and causing traffic delays.

The teachers' action was part of a wider national campaign that has been gaining momentum in recent weeks.

The teachers' movement has been led by the National Union of Teachers (NUT), which has been at the forefront of the struggle for better wages and conditions.

The government's response has been mixed, with some officials expressing sympathy for the teachers' concerns, while others have been more dismissive.

The situation remains tense, with both sides determined to hold firm on their positions.

The teachers' march was a powerful demonstration of their determination to fight for a better deal.

They are fighting for their rights, and they are not going to back down until they get what they want.
At last .... a teacher's

EDUCATION FILE

BY MCKENZIE

March 1990
Union calls on teachers to ignore Republic Day

Education Reporter

The National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) in the southern Transvaal has urged teachers to ignore Republic Day as a public holiday tomorrow and instead conduct lessons and revision for the mid-year exams.

Union secretary Joe Mogane said in a statement it would be up to individual teachers in Neusa’s 13 branches to decide whether to heed the call to hold lessons tomorrow.

The statement also said Neusa had written to the regional directors of the Department of Education and Training calling on the department to stop harassing Neusa members.

Since the start of the second term, Neusa members have conducted a campaign against DET regulations and prevented inspectors from carrying out their normal functions.

Their defiance was an attempt to get the DET to address teachers’ demands. These included alleviating overcrowding and high pupil-teacher ratios; the shortage of facilities and resources; and the recognition of student representative councils and parent-teacher-student associations.

DET Northern Transvaal regional director Job Schoeman said teachers’ unions had “severed all ties with the DET and threatened inspectors”.
Move to have 13 teachers reinstated

By MONK NKOMO

RESIDENTS of Lehlabe and Oukasie in Brits, have submitted a petition to the Department of Education and Training demanding the unconditional reinstatement of 13 local teachers who were suspended without pay last Tuesday.

A delegation of 31 people submitted the petition to DET’s Northern Transvaal assistant Regional Director, Mr Christo Steyn in Pretoria on Monday.

The 13 were suspended following allegations that they disrupted a meeting of principals on May 11. The DET also announced that these teachers would be charged for misconduct in terms of Section 22 of the Education and Training Act.

The petition called on the DET to immediately reinstate the 13 teachers and for DET officials to stop intimidating teachers in the area.

Other demands included:
* The creation of five teaching posts at the Bohlabelo High School in Oukasie;
* The immediate appointment of Mr M E Makuya and Mrs B K Moirane as principals at the Bohlabelo High and Odi primary schools respectively;
* Permanent school buildings for Bohlabelo and Odi schools;
* The creation of six teaching posts and the Odi Primary School;
* Recognition of the Brita Teachers Union as the sole representative of all teachers in that area, and;
* Establishment of a deputy principal at the Bohlabelo High School.

A spokesman for the DET confirmed receipt of the petition and said the matter was receiving attention.

Teachers and pupils at all schools in the Brits area are boycotting classes in protest against the suspension of the 13 teachers.
Reef teachers plan to strike

Education Reporter

Coloured teachers on the Reef yesterday decided to embark on an indefinite "chalks down" strike from tomorrow.

About 1 000 teachers took the decision at a meeting in Eldorado Park after the Department of Education and Culture (House of Representatives) failed to respond to their demands, Mike Davy, the co-ordinator of the Action Committee of Teachers, said last night.

After suspending a week-long strike a few weeks ago, teachers gave the department until Tuesday this week to respond to their demands, which included the timely payment of salaries, parity between male and female teachers and a living wage.

Mr Davy said the strike would continue until the department addressed the demands.
Teachers shun holiday

Mamelodi teachers will ignore the public holiday today, Republic Day, and continue with their normal activities, a Mamelodi Teachers' Union spokesman said yesterday.

Spokesman for the union, Lucky Mathebula said about 1 200 teachers and principals would treat today as a normal working day.

"We have nothing to celebrate or observe; it is not our Republic Day," he said, adding that the action was an act of defiance.

Principals were also expected to report for work.

A mass meeting of teachers will be held in the Mamelodi YMCA at 2:30 pm today to discuss continuing lessons through the winter holidays.

This was in view of the school days lost during a strike by teachers in March this year, he added.

Corrie Rademeyer, a spokesman for the Department of Education in Pretoria, said the teachers' plan to continue classes on Republic Day depended on the respective school principals.

He refused to comment further — Sapa.
TEACHERS - AFRICAN

1990

JUNE - DEC.
'Chalk down' strike — and more — if 13 aren’t reinstated

PRETORIA teachers and the community of Brits have threatened mass action next week in solidarity with 13 suspended teachers if the Department of Education and Training does not heed a call to reinstate them by Monday next week.

At a series of meetings between the teachers unions around Pretoria and the communities of Lethlabile and Oukasie in Brits near Pretoria this week, it was resolved to embark on mass action. Northern Transvaal regional director Job Schoeman refused to meet a community delegation this week.

Last week, teachers received letters informing them that they were suspended without pay “pending a departmental charge of misconduct”.

The suspension sparked off a “chalks down” strike — now in its second week — leaving all schools in the areas deserted.

This week, teachers unions affiliated to the Pretoria Teachers Union (Pretu) decided to send a delegation of teachers, students and parents to the DET to challenge the suspensions.

Teachers from Atteridgeville, Mamelodi, and Moutse in KwaNdebele will this weekend consult their communities about the mass action next week.

In a similar meeting, the communities of Lethlabile and Oukasie resolved to march to the DET offices in Pretoria, if the suspended teachers are not back at work by Tuesday next week.

BY YUSI GUNENE

The Congress of South African Trade Union’s local also pledged their solidarity with the striking teachers and threatened a work-stoppages if the suspended teachers were not reinstated.

As the teachers strike continues in Brits, students have expressed doubts about returning to class and have already made approaches to principals in a bid to demand their examination fees.

“We have realised that since the beginning of the year, no proper schooling has taken place and that the end of the year results will produce nothing but a high rate of failure,” and angry student told a Lethlabile mass meeting this week. “We agree that both the students’ and teachers’ grievances that led to the school disruptions were and are still genuine, and we cannot but blame the crisis entirely on the DET.”

Another teacher also expressed similar feelings: “An injury to one is an injury to all. Almost 70 percent of the teachers suspended are content-subject teachers in matric classes and without them the future of our children is at stake.”

Lawyers for the suspended teachers were this week battling to get an undertaking from Schoeman to reinstate the teachers.

A representative for the DET office told the Weekly Mail that Schoeman was not available for comment."
Wits proposes pre-school training centres for blacks

GOVERNMENT could spend some of the extra R800m budgeted for black education backlogs on establishing Early Childhood Educare (ECE) centres, the Wits Education Policy Unit (EPU) suggests in a briefing paper prepared for the National Education Coordinating Committee (NECC).

One of SA's largest education problems is that a quarter of black children who start grade one do not make it to the second grade.

Church halls, homes or unused buildings could be used as the base for modest pre-school ECE centres which could be established in every neighbourhood for a few thousand rand each year.

This is just one suggestion made by the EPU for the NECC, who have been asked by the Department of Education and Training (DET) to suggest how best to spend the non-recurrent sum of R800m. Proposals will be discussed with student and teacher organisations before final recommendations are made to DET.

The EPU says the R800m should not be spent on teacher salaries or teacher upgrading. As a recurrent budget item, teachers' salaries are not amenable to a one-off injection of funds and salary increases should be fought for on the ground by teachers, not the NECC, the briefing says.

Teacher upgrading needs to be closely linked to changes in the curriculum, says the EPU.

The EPU concludes that schooling needs and allocation of the R800m must be determined with the participation of communities at local level.

Parent-teacher-student associations (PTSA's) need to be established as an urgent priority in the next six months.

The briefing says merely spending some of the R800m on textbooks will not solve problems of corruption and inefficiency which are rife in the DET system. PTSAs would hold departments accountable for their actions, it says.

Regional PTSAs will help define where new schools are most needed.
DET to act

THE Department of Education and Training is determined to go ahead with disciplinary action against 13 Brits teachers despite the threat of a widespread boycott should it proceed with its action.

DET spokesman Mr Job Schoeman said the threatened boycott would bring even more culprits on the firing line.
The Minister: My question arises on the motion for the adoption of a report, and relates to the quantity and quality of the copies of the Committee's report which have been supplied to Members. The members of the Committee, who have carried out a considerable amount of inquiry, have been supplied with a reasonable number of copies. Can Members of Parliament have copies of the report?

The Minister of Education and Culture: The report has been issued to Members, and the copies have been issued on the instruction of the Speaker of the House.

The Minister: I see. Can I have copies of the report?

The Minister of Education and Culture: The copies are being distributed as they are available, and the supply will continue.

The Minister: I am grateful for that assurance.
Teachers want classes during holidays

By Janet Heard
Education Reporter

Most teachers at secondary schools in Soweto, Alexandra and Pretoria are willing to teach during the holidays, beginning on June 15, to help pupils catch up on syllabuses after two terms of disruption.

Details on how classes will be held are being finalised by teacher organisations.

There has been little education in many schools — mid-year exams have not been written and the DET and teachers are deadlocked in attempts to ensure effective learning.

A high school headmaster has expressed concern that pupils might not heed the call to come to classes during the holidays.

Northern Transvaal regional director Job Schoeman said yesterday "any efforts to make up lost time must be welcomed".

"Schools that wish to remain open during the holidays for this purpose may do so. However, arbitrary decisions on the opening and closing dates for schools cannot be tolerated."

He warned teachers that if they did not report for duty when the third quarter opened on July 10 they would be "deemed to be on unpaid leave".

Defiance by teachers of DET regulations, including refusing inspectors from visiting schools, continues in the Transvaal. Joe Mogane of Neusa's Transvaal branch said working conditions of teachers had not yet been addressed.
Forty-two members of the SA Black Municipal and Allied Workers Union, who went on strike at Soweto creches early last month, were fired on Monday, a Sowmawu spokesman said yesterday.

The nursery school teachers took part in a strike at seven creches in Meadowlands, demanding a minimum pay of R500 a month, a provident fund and maternity leave.

Sowmawu official Mr Philip Dlamini said his union would challenge the dismissal of its members by the Organisation of Creches (OC), which runs the day-care centres.

Mr JM Nyama, secretary of the OC, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

In a letter to Sowmawu, Nyama said the teachers had recently been increased by 10 percent and that "any increased financial pressure" would lead to the closure of the creches.
The National Education Union of South Africa claims that its members are being harassed by officials of the Department of Education and Training.

Mr Joe Mogane, Neusa’s correspondence secretary for the Southern Transvaal, said yesterday that they have written letters to four DET regional directors telling them about provocative actions by officials in black schools.

The four DET regions involved are Johannesburg, Orange-Vaal, Northern Transvaal and the Highveld.

And yesterday, chief directors of the Northern Transvaal and Orange-Vaal regions, Mr Job Schoeman and Mr FH Vorster respectively, denied the allegations.

Schoeman said although he had not received any letter from Neusa, to his knowledge there was no harassment in his region.

Letter

Vorster confirmed having received the letter and said no harassment was happening in his area.

He questioned Neusa’s authority to write such letters to the department.

Mr JH Booyzen, chief director for the Highveld region, and Mr Peet Struwig for Johannesburg could not be reached for comment.

Mogane alleged that officials were arrogant and used remarks such as: “Go to your Neusa for a housing subsidy,” when teachers belonging to the union went to DET offices for assistance.

He also said they viewed as serious the persistent harassment of so-called temporary teachers and teachers on probation who had been told to avail themselves for inspection.

In a letter to Struwig, Neusa says his highhandedness and arrogance when dealing with its members undermined the back-to-school decision.
7 000 teachers, pupils march

RIOT and security police kept a low profile during a protest march by pupils and teachers on the East Rand yesterday.

More than 7 000 took part in the protest against the Department of Education and Training (DET) for dragging its feet in meeting their demands.

The march started from the Natalspruit hospital in Katlehong and was permitted to go ahead on a specific route.

Armed police in vehicles led the march in Vereeniging Road, Alrode, and more police in trucks followed.

Several streets were closed to traffic.

Marchers held flags of the ANC and Cosas aloft while hundreds of teachers wore National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) T-shirts.

At the end of Vereeniging Street, a nine-member delegation handed over a petition to the DET's Highveld assistant director Mr J Theron.

The petition contained 23 grievances which included overcrowding at schools and a lack of facilities.
Looking at black teacher’s dilemma

THE BLACK TEACHER’S DILEMMA by Mandla Patrick Mncwabe (Published by Skotaville, Price: R18.95 excl GST) Reviewed by Nkopane Makobane

The author, a lecturer in the Department of Philosophy of Education at the University of Zululand, has done a commendable work in producing this book just when the black teachers have stood their ground and challenged the education authorities about their dissatisfaction.

The book can be very resourceful to anyone who would like to know and understand the complexity of teaching and being a black teacher in South Africa.

It gives guidelines to black teachers on how to try out new ways of organizing aspects of their teaching and using new ways.

It is also designed to assist black teachers and prospective ones to describe and analyze their teaching and teaching of others.

Furthermore, it is aimed at teachers to take action to improve their teaching on the basis of self-evaluation.

In my opinion, there is no better way to summarize the book than in the words of the author. He writes:

"My book is a synthesis of ideas, transformed into an integrated set of conceptual tools that black teachers and prospective teachers can use to guide their teaching activities and identify and resolve, many of their teaching problems, that is, to help them answer critical questions about their own teaching."
Headmasters in talks with DET

SOWETO principals are expected to present a list of demands about poor conditions in schools to the regional director of the Department of Education and Training (DET) today.

Principals who spoke to Sowetan yesterday said the call to present a list of demands came from the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) at a meeting held on Monday.

"We are in the most difficult position imaginable. We have been given a very short time to get our act together and we are not even sure at this stage how we are going to present the demands to the DET," a Soweto high school principal said.

"The community expects a positive response to come out of our demands within a very short space of time."

The principals are increasingly finding themselves caught between heeding demands from the community and at the same time keeping in line with strict DET regulations or face disciplinary action.

Principals said that they had handed in all the requisitions for equipment months ago and the community was now blaming them for the DET's failure to send equipment to the schools.
DET in move to reinstate 13 teachers

THE Department of Education and Training will recommend that 13 suspended teachers in Brits be reinstated if teachers and residents stopped their defiance campaign.

The DET also wants teachers to persuade pupils in the area to return to school today.

Officials of the DET, including regional chief director Mr Job Schoeman, met a delegation of 17 residents from Oukasie and Lethlabile in Pretoria on Wednesday to discuss the fate of the teachers.

They were suspended without pay on May 29 for allegedly disrupting a meeting of principals on May 11.

In a statement yesterday, the DET said both parties had agreed that the delegation would intervene with their communities and teachers to suspend the campaign and get teachers and pupils back to school from today.

It said the parties had also agreed that the DET should set up a special task force of inspectors, who will visit the affected schools today and on Monday to see if normal schooling was taking place.

"On receipt of a positive report, the regional chief director will immediately recommend that the suspension of the 13 teachers be suspended," the statement said.

The delegation is to meet DET officials again next Wednesday.

Meanwhile, scores of pupils at Flavius Mareka Secondary School in Atteridgeville boycotted classes yesterday in protest against the arrests of three pupils who allegedly assaulted a female teacher on May 28.
Soweto students ban principals

CHAOS broke out in Soweto schools this week when the Congress of South African Students gave principals their marching orders.

Shocked school heads were told to stay at home until the Department of Education and Training had met all student demands.

The move took the ANC and the South African Youth Congress by surprise.

Cosas spokesman Norman Qbhi said, "We suspended all principals for two weeks to put pressure on the DET to supply schools with the required textbooks and replace damaged desks in classrooms."

"If our demands are not met, alternative action will be taken against the DET. As far as we are concerned, principals cannot return to schools until the DET has met its obligations," he said.

However, Soweto Youth Congress president Rapu Molekane said, "Immediately after we heard about the suspension of principals, we consulted Cosas and they told us that their members were not responsible for the call."

"We feel that those principals who have been suspended should return immediately and those who have called for their suspension should discuss the matter with other structures in the struggle."

ANC spokesman Ahmed Kathrada said: "We know nothing about the suspension of principals and the call for them to resign."

Sunday Times Reporters

"We will be investigating the whole schools issue soon."

Mr. Molekane added: "The issue of school books is a thorny one and we urge the DET to speed up its efforts in supplying them.""}

DET regional director Poet Struwig said: "When we met with the Soweto Student Congress and the Alexandra Student Congress, I told them that the delivery of textbooks would take about three months to a year."

He said the education programme in Soweto's secondary schools had come to a "tragic standstill."

Sunday Times Blamed

A high school principal, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "Some youths — accompanied by an adult — claiming to be members of Cosas, attended a principals' meeting at the Fons Luminis High School in Dieploof Extension on Monday.

"They accused us of cooperating with the DET and demanded that we resign. They blamed the non-delivery of school books and non-replacement of damaged desks by the DET on us."

"They gave us two days to order the books and desks from the department and told us to stay at home until further notice."
Teachers' 'no salary' claims are rejected

Education Reporter

The problems in education at coloured schools, which has resulted in a "chucks down" strike by Transvaal teachers, were being addressed by the Department of Education and Culture of the House of Representatives, a spokesman said at the weekend.

The Ministers' Council said in a statement that there were problems which required careful consideration at national level. It said claims by the Action Committee of Teachers, including that some teachers had not been paid for up to 10 months, were "blatantly untrue".

The department recognised that salaries for April were delayed because of administrative problems, but said this was sorted out the next month.

"Every teacher owes it to every pupil in his charge to ensure that school time is beneficially and effectively used as necessary preparation for responsible participation in a post-apartheid South Africa.

"The policy of the department with regard to education has already been fully stated.

"Our objective is one education system in which equal opportunities and the same education standards for all the inhabitants of South African shall be provided."

Teachers downed chalk for the second time in a month nearly two weeks ago.

Other demands include one single education department, the provision of equipment to schools, and a living wage.
Trainee teachers in boycott over lecturer

Education Reporter

More than 1000 pupils at the Transvaal College of Education in Soshanguve, calling for the withdrawal of a lecturer, have embarked on a class boycott.

The students' representative council said in a statement that the boycott began on Wednesday.

Other demands included that lecturers who had been transferred to new subjects and departments this year be allowed to return to their original subjects.

Grievances

The statement said a memorandum of complaints had been submitted to the rector, who said students had to return to classes before their grievances would be addressed.

The administration had threatened to close the college if pupils failed to return to class, the statement said.

A meeting between the governing council and the SRC is scheduled to take place today.
ABOUT 7 000 pupils and their teachers in Oukasie and Letlhabile in Brits returned to classes yesterday after a three-week stayaway.

The stayaway was sparked by the suspension of 13 local teachers by the Department of Education and Training.

A spokesman for the Brits Teachers Union said although they had gone back to school, teachers were angry as inspectors last week tried to force them to complete forms wherein they admitted being guilty of misconduct.

"We held an urgent meeting on Friday where we resolved not to complete the form as this was not part of the agreement reached between the DET and a delegation of 17 community leaders last Wednesday.

"We are also going to raise this issue at a meeting with DET officials", a spokesman for the union said.

**Not normal**

He added that although teachers and pupils had called off the strike, things were not normal at the Raisong High School where 11 of the teachers were suspended and matriculants have only two teachers at present.

The 13 teachers were suspended without pay on May 22 this year, for allegedly disrupting a meeting of principals in the area on May 11.

About 7 000 pupils and 200 teachers then staged "a defiance campaign" in protest against the DET's decision.

Local residents also called on the authorities to reinstate the 13 unconditionally.

A spokesman for the DET yesterday said although he had not yet received the report on the situation in the area, he presumed that everything was back to normal.

He also confirmed that senior DET officials were going to meet with a delegation from Brits in Pretoria at 10am tomorrow.
Move to bar principals attacked

THE Azanian Students' Movement yesterday criticised attempts by student and pupil groups to forcibly suspend principals in Soweto from their schools.

The Congress of South African Students said last week it would implement the suspension of principals in protest against the education crisis.

"The idea of suspending school principals and going further to threaten them shows the political immaturity which the organisers and perpetrators of such action have," Azasm said in a statement.

"We find it very absurd that after Azasm and other leaders have backed our call for students to return to school, principals are now being pushed out of schools.

"The lack of proper, honest and democratic debate among student organisations will also not solve this particular crisis. At the same time, other organisations have been hell bent on creating a crisis."

Azasm said this had stemmed from "that disastrous slogan of 'Liberation now, Education later'.

"Azasm will hold a meeting soon with the principals in Soweto and other areas, and any attempt to obstruct the meeting or any other initiative of Azasm, will be dealt with ruthlessly."
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<th>Strike is suspended</th>
<th>Teachers dismissed</th>
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<td>COLOURED teachers in Johannesburg yesterday voted to suspend their strike action from next term. House of Representatives-run schools close tomorrow and the next term begins on July 10. The decision was announced at a report-back meeting in Eldorado Park, Johannesburg last night. The chalk-down action, which started five weeks ago, came to an end after a delegation of teachers met executive director of education Mr AW Miller. - Sapa.</td>
<td>AT LEAST 140 teachers at Oukasie and Lethlabile near Brits were dismissed by the Department of Education and Training yesterday. The DET said if the teachers wished to be reinstated they should reapply for before tomorrow. The regional chief director of DET in the northern Transvaal, Mr Job Schoeman, said the decision to dismiss the teachers was taken after they were absent from schools for 14 days. He said they will also forfeit all benefits. - Sapa.</td>
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Teachers decide to end strike after talks with Govt officials

Striking teachers yesterday voted to suspend their strike action from next term, which begins on July 10.

This development came about after a five-hour meeting in Johannesburg yesterday between teachers, who have been on strike for almost two weeks, and officials from the Department of Education and Culture (House of Representatives).

Teachers and officials discussed the list of teachers' short-term demands sent to the department on May 18.

The discussions have apparently paved the way for future negotiations between the department and the Action Committee of Teachers (ACT) and the Progressive Teachers' Union (PTU).

Chief Director of Education Awie Muller and Director of Colleges Cyril Beukes flew to Johannesburg from Cape Town yesterday after about 60 teachers had staged a sit-in in the House of Representatives building in Bree Street, Johannesburg on Tuesday.

A joint statement read out after the meeting said the department would consider not withholding the salary cheques of teachers who participated in the strike, but might take action against teachers who took part in the sit-in.

The statement added that the department had agreed to reassess the role of the Inspectorate after much discussion about the demand that the system of evaluating teachers be scrapped or re-evaluated.

Education Reporter and Sapa.
Pupils tell principals: Agree or quit

THE Soweto branch of Cosas has told principals to stay out of "our schools" until the Department of Education and Training has met student demands.

Most principals say they will stay away until the dispute placing them between the DET and the Congress of South African Students has been resolved.

Cosas met principals in Soweto on Monday and accused them of not making any effort to force the DET to address the education crisis. The students claimed DET regional director Piet Struwig last month told the Soweto delegation the department was prepared to supply textbooks if principals ordered them. The allegation, which Struwig denied yesterday, sparked the student/principal confrontation.

Principals also denied charges that they had not ordered books.

Yesterday about 50 principals presented Struwig with a list of complaints which included a shortage of textbooks, stationery and furniture. The petition also called for improved educational facilities and equipment. Struwig said there was a "collapse of authority on an unprecedented scale" in Soweto high schools. He would convene a meeting of principals, students and the National Education Union of South Africa by Wednesday.

© See PAGE 5
In the East Rand, about 15,000 learners from schools located in Bekkersdal, Themba, Steenberg, and the surrounding areas started a strike yesterday. This action was a response to the Department of Education's decision to close 12 schools and remove 96 teachers due to poor performance, leaving the learners without proper education. The strike, which began on Monday, has caused disruptions in education for many learners.

Teachers and parents are demanding that the strike be called off and that all schools be opened. The Department of Education, however, has indicated that it cannot negotiate with the learners and that it will proceed with its plans to close the schools.

In Pretoria, the National Union of Teachers (NAPTU) is planning to hold a protest to demand better conditions for teachers and better funding for schools.

The strike in the East Rand has caused widespread disruption, with learners unable to attend classes and parents concerned about their children's education.

The Department of Education has stated that it is committed to providing quality education and that it will not be swayed by the strike.
Focus on the Education Crisis

Teachers meet to pray —

And an accord is reached

Teachers' aides may be September 11, 2001. They prayed for the nation and the world, especially the teachers, students, and community members affected by the tragedy.

The establishment of commissions, The concept of the Education Commission was also discussed. It would help in effective planning and implementation of educational policies and strategies. A meeting with a cabinet minister

Dr. Davis desde West Virginia. A meeting with the education minister, Dr. Davis, was also scheduled.

The education minister, Dr. Davis, was scheduled to meet with the cabinet minister to discuss the implementation of the Education Commission. The focus was on effective planning and implementation of educational policies and strategies.

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The Congress of South Africa has decided to implement a new educational policy to improve the quality of education in the country. Teachers are now expected to provide a more engaging and interactive learning experience. The new policy also aims to address the issue of dropouts and improve student completion rates. Teachers are required to undergo additional training to enhance their teaching skills.

Problems:

- There is a problem with the supply of educational materials, which affects the delivery of lessons.
- Teachers lack adequate training to effectively implement the new educational policy.
- There is a lack of support from the government to provide necessary resources for teachers.

Despite these challenges, the government is committed to improving the quality of education in the country. They are working closely with teachers and educational institutions to ensure a smooth transition to the new policy.
Pupils support call

such a teacher’s absence as leave without pay," Louw said.

“‘No provision has been made to grant leave with pay to teachers employed at a public or State-aided school if they are absent from duty without proper authorisation. In terms of the law unauthorised absence is deemed vacation leave without pay and disciplinary measures must be taken against such teachers.’"

Meanwhile, in Soweto pupils and teachers flocked to schools while in Pretoria a few pupils, especially at high schools, reported for classes on the first day of the defiance campaign.

However, as early as 11am children were already loitering in the streets while others basked in the sun and stood on balconies at schools in Diepkloof and Orlando.

Some schools were deserted early in the morning while others observed the normal 2pm closing time.

Most pupils interviewed outside the schools said although teachers had given lessons early in the morning no tuition was given later in the day.

A pupil from Madibane High School in Diepkloof said teachers told them to go home at 11.30am.

Fifteen pupils were arrested in Diepkloof after a petrol bomb was thrown at a house in Zone 4, damaging it extensively.
A group of teachers in Soshanguve yesterday said the call to ignore the school calendar and continue with lessons during the holidays was a futile exercise because no education was taking place after all.

"Only a few teachers and pupils report for classes and there is nothing going on."

"Students loiter in the yards and some of us teachers only report because of fear of victimisation by certain elements within the teaching fraternity," a spokesman for the group said.

Meanwhile, pamphlets calling on teachers and pupils to report for classes were distributed in Atteridgeville yesterday morning.

**Pamphlets**

The pamphlets, titled "Soweto-Artridgeville Teachers Union", urged teachers and pupils to report to school until July 6.

They also say schools will reopen on July 31 and not on July 10 as announced by the Department of Education and Training.

The DET has warned that any teacher who absents himself for more than 14 days from July 10 will be regarded as having been discharged from his duty.

It also warned that teachers who did not return for duty on July 10 would be deemed to be on unpaid leave.

Few pupils trickled to schools in Atteridgeville yesterday morning amid reports that most teachers had not reported for duty.
More attempts to make DET act on crisis

Marches, sit-ins, delegations to the state president — teachers, pupils and parents are using every method at their disposal to get the authorities to do something about the worsening education crisis. PHIL MOLEFE

FRUSTRATION levels in black and coloured schools continued to rise this week as parents and teachers threw their weight behind students’ demands in an attempt to “force” the authorities to urgently address the deepening education crisis.

Yesterday, more than 5000 parents, teachers and students from various coloured townships around the Reef marched through the streets of Johannes- burg to present a memorandum to the chief regional director of education in the House of Representatives, Johnny Francis.

About the same time, a delegation of 10 parents and teachers met a representative of the state president in Pretoria in a bid to solve the four-week-long “chalks down” strike by coloured teachers.

This followed a one-day sit-in by a group of coloured teachers at the education offices on Tuesday demanding a “positive” response from the House of Representatives Minister of Education, Reverend Alan Hendriks.

Eight Soweto parents began a sit-in at the Department of Education and Training offices in Johannesburg on Monday.

The parents, who formed part of a delegation of the Soweto Education Crisis Committee which met DET regional director Peet Struwig, said yesterday they would stay until the DET set a date in writing — to supply students with textbooks.

More than 60 coloured schools in the Transvaal did not write the June examinations, as no teaching took place following the teachers’ strike — the result of unpaid salaries, victimisation and the freezing of teaching posts.

Schools in Eldorado Park, Western Area, Kliptown and as far afield as Potchefstroom ground to a halt as teachers refused to offer any lessons until Hendriks meets their demands.

A memorandum sent to Hendriks said teachers had to resort to this action because “hundreds of teachers have not received salaries for as long as six months”.

In May, teachers at several primary and high schools decided to go on a “chalks down” strike until their demands are met.

Lunch time traffic was brought to a standstill as throngs marched for about two kilometres, toy-toying and shouting slogans denouncing apartheid, the tri-cameral parliament and education authorities.

The marchers also carried placards which read: “If you can read this — thank a teacher”, “A fish rots from the head — Hendriks must go” and “One person, One vote, One country, One education system”.

Police kept a low profile as traffic officers battled to control the marchers and impatient motorists.

In Braamfontein, a representative of the SECC, David Mapea, said the four-day-old sit-in by Soweto parents will continue until the DET supplied schools with textbooks.

The director-general of the DET, Dr Bernard Louw, said the department works on the assumption that textbooks have a lifespan of four years and new books were supplied for the projected number of new entrants.

Mms Mapea, executive member of Action Committee of Teachers (Act) yesterday rejected Louw’s statement and said it was only intended to divert focus away from their demand — the supply of books.

The parents were yesterday visited by the leader of the internal wing of the African National Congress, Walter Sisulu. Sisulu said the ANC was planning to get involved not only in the shortage of textbooks and the resulting sit-in but in the growing black education crisis.

Meanwhile, Soweto principals have not reported for work this week after they were allegedly ordered to leave their schools by the Congress of South African Students last week until they forced the DET to provide textbooks.

When The Weekly Mail visited the schools on Tuesday, students expressed frustration and anger at Cosas’ “suspension” of the principals.

The Azanian Student Movement’s publicity secretary, Sipho Maseko, said Cosas had acted undemocratically.
Black teachers at wits' end

Their militancy creates a rift in white peers' ranks

While the debate about the future of education gains momentum, black teachers have taken to the streets to protest against working conditions. They have repeatedly called for a single education system, believing it to be a prerequisite to broader negotiations about the country's future. Now their action has had a ripple effect on the organized white teaching profession. JANET HEARD reports.

Recent actions

Recent action has included:
- Black teachers in Soweto and Alexandra, who fall under the Department of Education and Training (DET), embarked on a "chalkdown" which dragged on for a month during the first term.
- The strike, organised by the National Education Union of SA spread to the East Rand and other parts of the Transvaal. When teachers returned to the classroom they embarked on a ongoing defiance of DET regulations, which included preventing inspectors from visiting schools and removing teachers.
- Transvaal coloured teachers, who fall under the Department of Education and Culture (House of Representatives), downed chalk almost three weeks ago and pupils did not write the mid-year exams.
- The Director of Education in the own affairs department, Awinie Muller, met the Action Committee of Teachers (ACT) and the Progressive Teachers Union (PTU). Despite recommendation by the ACT executive to suspend the strike, teachers voted to continue until July 10.
- The established Transvaal Association of Teachers did not support the strike and was asked not to attend the meeting between Mr Muller and the ACT/PTU.
- Indian teachers held two meetings with the Department of Education and Culture (House of Delegates) about their grievances. A march was held in Durban and another in Lenasia on the West Rand (which was led by principals). The department has been given until July 9 to respond to their demands.
- The first teachers to be dismissed for embarking on a chalkdown were 144 teachers in the British towns of Lethlabile and Okasi. The DET said they could re-apply for their posts within a limited period.
- In a bid to avoid a breakdown in the education system and amid threats of a national strike, Mr Louw met a delegation from the Cosatu-aligned nonracial umbrella body, the National Teacher Unity Forum (NTUF).
- The meeting, described as "constructive and historic" by both parties, resulted in a decision by the TFC, which has 93,000 members, to suspend co-operation with Mr Louw and appeal to President de Klerk to intervene in the dispute.
- TFC chairman Professor Henkie Maree accused Mr Louw of ignoring standard negotiation procedures, and of discussing matters outside the sphere of his jurisdiction.
- He said the NTUF was an unrecognized body whose aim was to not co-operate with Government.
- The TFC's action revealed differences between the eight TFC affiliates and warnings of a possible split within the TFC.
- Two affiliates, the Natal Teachers' Society (NTS) and the Transvaal Teachers' Association (TTA), publicly dissociated themselves from the statement saying it did not represent the views of all TFC members. They supported any attempts by the Government to resolve the crisis in education.
- The NTS, which enjoys observer status on the NTUF, and the TTA both plan to attend the next regional meetings of the NTUF.
- Other more conservative affiliates such as the Transvaal Education in Onderwatersberg backed the TFC's action.
- The NTUF, which was formed in 1988 at a conference of teachers in Harare, claims the support of 130,000 teachers of all races. One of its long-term goals is to establish a single teachers' union.
- At the meeting with Mr Louw, discussions centred on demands which have been echoed in disputes teachers have had with their respective Ministers in each own affairs department.
- Mr Louw agreed there should be a basic living wage for teachers and high priority be given to seeking parity in salaries between male and female teachers. He agreed to urgently address the problem of temporary appointments in view of the country's critical shortage of qualified educationists.
- NTUF spokesman Poobie Naicker said this week that it was unfortunate that, "in this day and age, the TFC reacted negatively to the meeting, but it is a positive sign that a growing number of white teachers dissociated themselves from the TFC's action".
- He dismissed the suggestion that the NTUF was a threat to establish and their organizations. "On the contrary, we will play an important supportive role to maintain the present standards of education, and make improvements."
- Explaining the outburst of teacher dissent, he said their grievances were rooted in the Government's education policy which was based on apartheid.
- Black teachers were overworked, underpaid and often not paid timely. They had to cope with large classes and inadequate facilities, he said.

Low morale

Mr Naicker said the bureaucratic and "inefficient" control of the education departments had contributed to lowering the morale of teachers.
- Inspectors expected teachers to maintain a high standard of teaching without considering the conditions under which they taught.
- "It is in this light that teachers have come out very forcefully to express their anger, frustration, and disappointment and have now taken to the street in protest marches to demand a change to the present order.
- There is a unified call from teacher organisations for a single ministry of education with a single education department and provision of equal opportunities for all South Africans. We believe this is a prerequisite to any meaningful negotiations for a new constitutional dispensation for SA," Mr Naicker said.
Brits teacher strike ends, but storm clouds gather

By VUSI GUNENE

THE Department of Education and Training has lifted the suspension of 13 Brits teachers this week, ending a month-long class boycott by teachers and students in Oukasie and Lethlabile townships.

Although the announcement was hailed as a victory, the Brits Teachers’ Union was unhappy about conditions attached to the agreement between DET Northern Transvaal regional director Job Schoeman and a teachers’ management council delegation.

Schoeman has, as a condition, demanded that the 13 teachers, plus teachers who boycotted classes in solidarity with their suspended colleagues, write letters of apology to the DET.

But teachers say this “only serves to intimidate us and force us to accept that our actions are illegal”.

“If we write such letters, the DET may use them at a later stage to dismiss some of us and thus create a wedge among the teachers. We are not prepared to be further intimidated by the DET.”

The management council, battling for popularity with the Brits Teachers’ Union, met with Schoeman on its own initiative and announced the decision to union members.

The Pretoria Teachers’ Union, an affiliated body of teachers’ unions in Pretoria, and the United Democratic Front’s Pretoria branch, had also threatened rent and consumer boycotts in the Northern Transvaal region if the DET did not accede to the Brits teachers’ demands.

Two weeks ago, a parents-teacher-student delegation met Schoeman in a bid to demand the unconditional reinstatement of the suspended teachers, but Schoeman refused to accede to their demands.

The delegation said: “We are surprised that it has taken the DET-controlled management council to convince Schoeman to accede to our demands, after he refused to give hearings to a democratically elected parents-teacher-student delegation, which had similar demands.

“This can only confirm that the DET does not recognise the right of teachers to belong to their own unions, but instead recognises self-created channels, which the community has dubbed ‘puppet structures’,” said Brits spokesperson Tony Mojabi.

All teachers in the two townships, including the suspended teachers, have returned to classes this week, but heading a call for a campaign by all Pretoria teachers to continue with classes until July 6 only.

Although the DET has threatened to take drastic steps against any teacher who does not report for duties when schools officially re-open on July 10, schools in Pretoria have reported 100% attendance since the beginning of the “defiance” campaign.
Soweto principals, Cosas unify in bid to solve crisis

By PHIL MOLEFE
SOWETO principals, who were "suspended" from schools two weeks ago, resume their duties today following a landmark meeting with the Congress of South African Students on Wednesday.

Yesterday, the Soweto Principals Ad Hoc Committee held a joint press conference with Cosas which marked the closing of a chasm that existed between principals and students in Soweto.

"It's encouraging that we now have principals on our side," said Cosas publicity secretary Michael Dube.

The principals were ordered to stay out of schools until the Department of Education and Training solves the problem of the shortage of textbooks and stationery. Cosas denied yesterday that principals were forced out of schools and said they had "requested" principals to act in pressurising the DET to supply schools with books and report back in two weeks.

A representative of the Principal's Ad Hoc Committee, Patrick Mabena, said principals unanimously agreed to report to their schools with immediate effect.

He said principals decided to work closely with all organisations keen to solve the education crisis and added they "endured the defiance campaign that was adopted by teachers, students and the community against the DET".

"As part of the defiance campaign, principals will not follow instructions if we believe that they are unjust and unfair," said Mabena.

DET schools in Soweto and other parts of the country have not closed for the June holidays to defy the DET calendar.

According to the DET schools should have closed on June 15 and would reopen on July 10 but students and teachers have decided to continue with classes until July 14 to resume on August 1.

A major confrontation between teachers and the DET looms as a result.

The DET has already warned teachers in letters that they would not be paid for the time they are absent after their school is due to reopen.

Meanwhile, the National Education Co-ordinating Committee and the African National Congress will meet next Thursday to combine initiatives in an attempt to solve the deepening education crisis in black schools.

NECC general secretary Ilon Reinsburg told a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday that his organisation has thoroughly briefed the ANC on the extent of the crisis.

He said until now interventions with DET officials have failed and pointed out that over the last six months the education system in South Africa has virtually collapsed.

"Unless learning and teaching is immediately intensified the entire school year will be lost," said Reinsburg.

He accused the DET of "gross mismanagement and gross inefficiency".

"We make a last call to the government to close down the department of education and training," he said.

The NECC met the Minister of Education and Training, Stoffel van der Merwe, in January to request him to make available the additional resources as a result of the back to school campaign.

"The minister gave us an undertaking as early as January that he will do everything in his power to get additional funds," said Reinsburg.

He said that since January and following subsequent meetings held with education officials the question of the shortage of textbooks, stationery and other facilities had not been met.

He said Johannesburg regional director Peet Struwig told them in a meeting last Monday that it would take up to six months before textbooks were supplied.
STUDENTS at 11 teacher training colleges in Lebowa have resolved not to pay the second semester boarding fees because, they claim, the Lebowa government has failed to deal with their grievances.

A statement issued by the chairman of the College SRC Co-ordinating Committee, Mr Kibu

Kekana, called on parents to support the students by not giving them fees for the second semester.

Kekana said his organisation, which represents Mkopane, Mamokgalake Chuene, Kwena Moito, Setholwane, Modjadji, Naphuno, Boehm, Thabamopo, Sekgose, Mapulangeng and CN Phatudi colleges, had submitted a list of demands to the Lebowa ministry of education in March.

The minister responded to the demands which included SRC involvement in the admission of new students, accommodation, food and providing facilities for the SRC.

The ministry's response was unacceptable to the students, Kekana said.

A meeting called for between the CSCC and the minister on July 11 to discuss the impasse had been aborted because the minister had involved other parties, Kekana added.

The colleges are to reopen on July 17 but members of the CSCC will meet on July 14 to discuss further steps against the department, Kekana said.

None of the senior officials of the department could be reached for comment at the weekend.
Regional Service Center (RSC) could provide the momentum for a more effective local and national understanding.


department of education

becoming blinded

Segregated role of RSCs

Urban Foundation

Receives R100 000

610.12/6/19 (225)
Mixed reaction to Cosas call to teachers

The Congress of South African Students' call to teachers and pupils to continue with classes seems to be running into problems, a random check of Soweto schools revealed yesterday.

Teachers and pupils confirmed that the campaign was not a success.

Pupils said there was no point sitting in classrooms which were cold and had no windows when the teachers were not teaching them.

At Orlando West High School, there was only one class in session, a Standard 10 English class watching a video of Romeo and Juliet.

The president of the school's SRC, Paul Nhlapo, said there was maximum attendance by pupils but teachers were not showing the same commitment.

"We are behind with our syllabus because of our sympathy with the 'chalk down' by teachers and in return we expected teachers to be supportive but some of them have been indifferent."

At Daliwonga High School in Dube, the principal Mr Mike Mkhize said there had been meaningful learning taking place at the school earlier.

There was going to be a meeting at the school of the executive members of Cosas, Neusa, and the principal's ad-hoc committee to touch on a few things, he said.

At Tshedimo Higher Primary School in Mofolo, there has been a keen attendance of classes by both teachers and pupils.

However, yesterday pupils were sent home.

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Class call flops

From Page 2

"Somehow" to accommodate those pupils early because three classrooms were burn, were gutted by fire causes. An angry teacher at Ibby vandals.

School equipment. Diamini said he was there to protect his. "I should be on holiday but I am being punished. I fear that teachers said they would never come to school have to find space I will be victimized."
Teachers' union faces defections

THE "coloured" education crisis in the Witwatersrand area deepened yesterday as the Transvaal Association of Teachers postponed its annual conference and faced up to defections to a rival educationist body.

The association is formally recognised by the Department of Education and Culture in the House of Representatives, but was caught on the wrong foot when the authorities were forced to deal with the rival Progressive Teachers Union during the "chalks-down" protest by Transvaal teachers.

A letter sent out last week Monday - the day TAT's conference was scheduled to begin - said the gathering had been postponed due to threats received by executive members.

"The Executive Committee decided that it could not countenance a position where lives and property were at risk and decided to postpone the conference," said the letter which was received by hundreds of teachers after the scheduled close of the conference.

Within days, however, a group of teachers signed a petition asking that the organisation convene an emergency meeting on Saturday, June 30.

Commented TAT general secretary, Mr D Masepe: "The whole process began when our executive as well as some ordinary members received threatening phone calls that the conference, which was to take place at the TAT centre in Coronationville, would be disrupted."

However, PTU official, Mr Ronnie Swartz, rejected the postponement as invalid. - Sapa
By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

SINCE the Soweto uprising of 1976, not one year has passed without any form of disruption of schooling in the townships.

This year the black education crisis has reached frightening heights and it seems neither the education authorities, nor community leaders are able to resolve or contain it.

The year started on a high note when thousands of pupils all over the country heeded calls by the National Education Co-ordination Committee and other community and political leaders to return to classes.

But what the DET seems to have ignored, according to the NECC, is warnings made as early as December last year that the increased state of affairs in black education, black pupils had also contributed to a large extent in letting the nation down.

Studies
He said there was little commitment on the part of pupils to their studies. They went to school without books. They walked in and out of their classrooms when they should be learning.

They ignored requests to do their homework. Long after school has started, pupils are seen loitering in the streets. The reason why they went to school, got there late and left whenever they pleased.

Another parent said parents could not be totally exonerated from blame. She said they have not been thoroughly involved in the education of their children.

They had, as usual, only shown interest when the matrix results were discussed at the beginning of the year.

As the year progressed, they distanced themselves from what went on a day-to-day basis and assumed that all was well at school.

The community has neglected its responsibility to ensure that the "burning issues" are not

Witwatersrand-Vereeniging area demanded a refund of fees they had paid at their schools. Their argument was that principals had very little or nothing to show how the funds were used.

Where principals obliged and handed back the money, the pupils' anger was abated.

Then came the big one, the demand for supply of textbooks and stationery which resulted in a sit-in by eight Soweto parents at the DET's Johannesburg offices.

Protest
The protest action ended on its eighth day last week, still with no positive answers coming from the department. Although, said a parent who did not wish to be named, said although the department was largely to blame for number of pupils returning to school was going to lead to an increase in the demand for stationary and other equipment required in schools.

Although in recent weeks, the focus of the education crisis has been centered around the Johannesburg region, many townships throughout the country have been, in one way or the other, affected as well.

Factors
Factors that have hampered the smooth-running of schools this year are more or less the same as in the past years. In many schools, disruptions were caused by the DET's refusal to re-admit pupils who had failed the previous year.

In some instances, pupils were detained and there were class boycotts staged in support of demands for their release. Other boycotts were in protest against "racist" attitudes of some white principals and "unqualified" teaching staff.

Teachers have also been at the receiving end of pupil anger and criticism. But for the first time this year, teachers waving the banner of the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) organised protest marches and later staged "chalk-down" strikes.

They also had their own gripe against the authorities. They demanded among other things, the revision of their salaries, reduction in the number of teaching periods, stoppage of teacher transfers and teacher harassment.

Salaries
Although their strike was eventually called off, very little, if any change had taken place in the schools. Little or no effect of those of white, coloured and Indian pupils who have been attending school despite their own grievances about their education.
It has now been established that there are effective strategies that are self-destructive. What is also disappointing is that even when the Soweto Education Coordinating Committee (SECC) organised a march to the DET offices in the city, only about 100 parents took part. One would have expected to see thousands of parents," she said.

The crunch will come at the end of the year when pupils will be expected to write exams. As it has happened in past years, their results are going to be bad compared to effective teaching and learning that takes place in most schools, particularly secondary schools.

In recent weeks, pupils from many schools around the Pretoria-Thru through the strike was viewed by some people as courageous, others felt it should have taken place much earlier.

Mr Peet Struwig, the Johannesburg chief regional director, believes that the actions of some teacher organisations were partly responsible for bringing education to a standstill.

He said the organisations had made schools inaccessible to the DET and principals and that teachers had become mere "spectators".

"There was a complete breakdown in authority, the prospect of near irreversible academic degradation and real prospect of anarchy and total disorder," he
Bid to have Struwig ousted

The Soweto Education Co-ordinating Committee (SECC) is to petition for the resignation of Department of Education and Training (DEST) regional director Peet Struwig.

SECC spokesman Dave Maepa said yesterday the SECC would co-ordinate a call by Soweto teachers, parents and pupils for Struwig's resignation at the start of the third term next week.

Maepa said Struwig was seen not to have the interests of black children at heart. His response to the recent sit-in by parents over textbook shortages was "nothing but a time-buying tactic".

Struwig was unavailable for comment but has apparently undertaken to ensure the first delivery of textbooks at the end of the month.

Most Soweto high school pupils have continued attending classes during the midyear holiday to make up for time lost during a teachers' strike earlier this year. Maepa said classes were continuing at about 50 of the 74 high schools in the area, although at many primary school there were no classes.

The Soweto teachers would reassess the suspension of their strike on July 15.

Teachers at coloured schools in the Transvaal would also decide whether to resume teaching next term, Progressive Teachers Union Action Committee president Ronnie Swartz said yesterday.

At the end of the last term, striking teachers at coloured schools put off their decision until they had received a response to a parents' letter to President F W de Klerk. The teachers would also assess the outcome of tomorrow's meeting with the House of Representatives Education and Culture Department.

Issues to be raised included the possible victimisation of teachers who took part in a sit-in last term; salary parity for men and women teachers; the appointment for more than three months of temporary teachers and the suspension of inspections.
'Don’t delay education process'

Although black community organisations and leaders had repeatedly said they were committed to calls for students to go back to school, the Government also had the duty to address grievances that made conducive schooling impossible.

By Nkopane Makobane

South Africa’s first R30-million independent, non-racial teachers’ training college is under construction.

This was said by Mr Popo Molefe, the general secretary of the United Democratic Front, at the weekend. He was speaking at a function at a farm outside Mamelodi where the Government had provided land for the school.

The college, which is to open its doors in January 1991, will have a capacity of 1,000 teachers at its five colleges in the Transvaal and Natal.

The new college, which is to open its doors in January 1991, will match international standards. Its graduates will be qualified to teach at any school in South Africa.

About 200 matriculants and 400 teaching students will be trained in primary, secondary and tertiary education annually.

"Though we want our children to remain at school, we are also aware they have problems which need to be addressed. The reality is that there are a lot of wrongs in black education. We must understand these problems and demand that the Government addresses them.

"Schools are overcrowded and pupils have no books. What are they going to right if they have no books? It is clear that the results are going to be gloomier than last year," he said.

Molefe said the Mass Democratic Movement and the ANC rejected the slogan "Liberation now, education later". He said the process of education should not be delayed until freedom has been achieved.

"Our education must be one for liberation. It should teach us the liberation of the mind. We become qualitatively better when educated. The new South Africa can only be achieved by educating the whole community," he said.

Molefe lambasted Bantu Education for its objective to oppress the black man. He said ventures such as Promat must emerge in greater numbers and be supported by all, especially business people. Promat was making a contribution in the current transformation process, he said.
Don't stay away or stop kids

THE Department of Education and Training has threatened to take strong action against teachers who stay away from work or prevent pupils and other teachers from attending school.

The threat was made yesterday by Mr Job Schoeman, chief director of the DET in the Northern Transvaal.

He said there were clear indications that "certain groups" intended disrupting the school programme starting today when DET schools reopen.

"Very little effective education took place during the first half of the year. In some schools less than 20 percent of the available time was used for teaching."

Defiance

"Pupils and even teachers unceremoniously chased away principals from their schools."

"The so-called teachers unions introduced a defiance campaign which has rendered many schools non-functional and led to a drastic drop in standards and discipline."

Schoeman said he had received reports of teachers being allegedly harassed and intimidated while pupils were being mobilised to prevent teachers from returning to school today.

He appealed to parents to accompany their children to school and assist in restoring order and discipline.
By Stan Hlophe

A group of about 2,000 teachers and pupils staged a protest march in Tembisa township near Kempton Park yesterday.

The march, organised by the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) and Congress of SA Students (Cosas), proceeded from Jan Lubbe Stadium to a filling station in Mthambeka Section.

The marchers handed a memorandum listing their grievances and demands to an assistant director of education in the Kempton Park area, Martin van Vuuren.

There were no incidents. Police watched the proceedings.

Mr van Vuuren promised to give the memorandum to the regional director, JH Booyens, whom he said was on leave. He added that the organisers should expect a reply as soon as Mr Booyens returned from leave.

Neusa regional chairman Thulas Nxesi, in his address at the stadium, described the march as historic because parents, teachers and pupils had taken part.

ANC spokesman Greg Malebu urged pupils to return to school despite the poor conditions under which they were forced to learn.

"You should acquire skills to prepare yourself for the liberation which is just around the corner," Mr Malebu said.

The marchers' grievances include:

- The suspension of school inspections pending an effective resolution of SA's education crisis
- Rescinding of a regional Department of Education and Training decision not to render any services to schools
- An immediate end to alleged harassment of students by the police and SA Defence Force
- Forced compulsory retirement of elderly teachers
- Provision of adequate facilities and more schools, and repairing of damaged schools
- Recognition of Neusa, Cosas and the parents-teachers-students association
- The immediate payment of outstanding salaries of teachers
- A single, non-racial, non-sexist education for all South Africans
Teachers to get 3 25 jobs back

By ALINAH DUBE

THE Department of Education and Training is to reinstate 111 teachers who were dismissed from schools in the Brits area for being absent from work without permission.

According to Mr Job Schoeman, regional chief director of the DET in the northern Transvaal, the reinstatement means that the affected teachers will not forfeit any accumulated benefits such as leave and pension.

He said the period they were absent from work will however be regarded as unpaid leave.

"The Minister of Education and Training and of Development Aid Dr Staffel van der Merwe has acceded to requests from the regional office and the management councils of the schools concerned for the full reinstatement of the teachers.

"These teachers were absent from duty without the permission of the director-general for more than 14 days.

"They were therefore deemed to have discharged on account of misconduct.

"Sixteen teachers chose not to apply for reinstatement and their services were therefore terminated with effect from May 22 this year."
THREE teachers at Thabong in Welkom have staged a sit-in at the offices of the Department of Education and Training.

They are protesting against the impending return of four white school principals in the township.

A spokesman for the Thabong Teachers Crisis Committee said yesterday the three teachers started the sit-in on Monday and slept at the DET offices at the Metropolitan Centre in Welkom.

He said the teachers were also protesting against the decision by about 75 white teachers who have vowed to return to classes in Thabong but only if the four white principals were also allowed to take up their posts.

Unrest

The DET's assistant director in Welkom, Mr Johan Steyn, yesterday confirmed the sit-in and said the authorities were discussing the issue at the highest level.

The 75 white teachers, who were withdrawn from schools in March this year because of unrest in the township, have criticised a decision by the Thabong community to exclude white principals and only allow teachers to return to schools.

A spokesman for the TTCC said the four white principals, "some of whom were unqualified for these posts, were asked to resign in March because of their unprofessional behaviour".

He added that the 75 white teachers should not set conditions for their return to classes.

"They either return or resign," the TTCC spokesman said.

Despite the shortage of teachers in the area, schooling in the township was normal, he said.

Principals

Steyn said the four principals did not contravene any regulation that warranted their resignations or discharge.

"We are presently discussing the matter and we hope that reason will prevail and the matter will be amicably resolved," Steyn said.
Pretoria teachers go back

Teachers in Pretoria and surrounding areas returned to work yesterday after a week-long stayaway following a warning from the Department of Education and Training that they faced dismissal.

The local United Democratic Front office confirmed today that teachers at Mamelodi, Atteridgeville, Sunhangwe, Brits and Moutse schools suspended their protest action in a "tactical retreat" following DET Northern Transvaal chief director Job Schoeman's warning that they would be fired if they did not resume classes by next Monday, and that July absences would be treated as leave without pay.

The protest action began when teachers refused to take classes during the DET-stipulated school terms. The present term began on July 10, but schools were effectively closed.

To protest over the lack of consultation on the school calendar, among other grievances, teachers instead intended to report for work on July 31, the first day of the DET's official school holidays.

"Teachers who fail to report at schools and perform their normal duties from Monday July 23 will have been absent for duty without permission for more than 14 days," said Mr Schoeman.

"Teachers' salary cheques for July will have to be adjusted. The inevitable effect of this is that salary cheques cannot be distributed before July 31."
Sit-in over as white teachers return

By MONDLI MAKHANYA

THE decision by about 100 white teachers to return to their posts in Thabong on Monday heralds a breakthrough in the schools crisis.

The teachers were withdrawn from the Welkom township by Department of Education and Training Regional Director Jan Steyn in March, after students and teachers called for white principals to leave the township.

As a result of the decision by the white teachers, black teachers yesterday ended their sit-in at the DET's regional offices in Welkom.

It was agreed at a meeting yesterday between the joint working committee of Thabong teachers, inspectors, parents and the DET, that the white teachers would return to schools on condition that "suitable" principals were appointed and their safety guaranteed.

The parties also agreed that the posts vacated by the five white principals who resigned yesterday would be formally advertised, as would those of the white teachers who had refused to return.

Black teachers hailed the agreement as a victory. A teacher who took part in the sit-in said: "We came out victorious, and on Monday it will be back to normal schooling."

"We, as black teachers, have pledged that we will give those white teachers who are returning our full and undivided support."
Teachers' forum plans protest day

THE National Teachers' Unity Forum (NTUF) is planning a national day of action on July 24 to protest at the "victimisation and harassment" and the blacklisting of teachers by education officials.

Cosatu education secretary Mr Enrico Fourie said the NTUF — which represents about 200 000 teachers — adopted the decision "in solidarity" with teachers who are being harassed or victimised at schools around the country.

He said problems to receive attention included:
- Transvaal teachers have been on strike because of "adverse" service conditions;
- Soweto teachers had been threatened with dismissal on July 24 if they participate in the protest;
- Western Cape teachers have had their salaries docked because of their support for the national stayaway on September 6 last year;
- Teachers have been "arbitrarily and indiscriminately" transferred.

Western Cape teachers have to appear in court on July 25 for participating in a demonstration recently, on the day of an NTUF delegation to Education Minister Mr Gene Louw; and
- Some Natal teachers are unable to attend schools for fear of attacks.

Mr Fourie said that on July 24 teachers would be called on to attend their respective schools.

He added that on the day of action, legal pickets would be held in the city and at educational institutions.
Absenteeism

July would be disastrous for schools and parents, with dozens of absences reported across the nation. The DET has been criticized for its lack of action on the issue. Teachers have been forced to work overtime and parents are concerned about their children's education.

BY MONK MKOMO
DET removes four white principals

FOUR white principals in Thabong, Welkom, who have been at the centre of a dispute between the local community and the Department of Education and Training, have been removed from the Free State township's schools pending an investigation into grievances against them.

The principals were received complaints about removed after the DET them from a joint working

BY NKOPANE MAKOBANE
committee representing local community leaders, parents and school inspectors.
The DET was told the Thabong community wanted them removed.
The JWC consists of the Thabong Education Co-ordinating Committee, management council members and school inspectors.
In a statement, the JWC said it had concluded that the community welcomed the return of 75 white teachers to local schools but wanted the principals removed.
The white teachers were removed from the township by the department because of unrest.
Last week the teachers criticised a decision by the Thabong community to exclude white principals and only allow them to return to schools.
They vowed to return to classes only if the four white principals were allowed to return to their posts.
Mr JAC Steyn, DET's assistant director in Welkom, confirmed that the principals had been removed.
He said the JWC met on Thursday to nominate candidates who would be appointed acting principals until the posts became officially vacant.
Once that was done, he would ratify the nominees. This depended on whether these people accepted the appointments.
He said he was assured by white teachers that they did not object to serving under a competent black principal.
They had also agreed that the posts were open to all - white or black.
"Now that normality has been restored, we sincerely hope that pupils will return to classes and teachers will formally assume their duties," Steyn said.
Cop quits in
disgust over
police action

By DANIEL SIMON

A POLICEMAN resigned from the force with “imme-
diate effect” last week after witnessing large-scale
police brutality against protesters taking part in a
peaceful protest march in Graaff-Reinet.

This is the second time a policeman has publicly
stated the police since former lieutenant Mr Greg-
ory Rockman’s public condemnation of riot police
action at Mitchells Plain last year.

Mr Edward Myners, a police constable until last
Tuesday, told the Foundation for Peace and Justice
(FFJ) that the incidents occurred last Monday dur-
ing a Progressive Teachers of Graaff-Reinet march
against “police brutality” in the black residential
area of Umsizakhe.

During an interview with FFJ, several teachers
backed Mr Myners’s claims, alleging further that
some policemen encouraged dog handlers to re-
lease dogs on protesters so that they could “eat the
hotnobs and kaffirs in the name of the AWB”.

They were part of a group of 28 teachers and
principals who were arrested for protesting and
later released on R200 bail.

Mr Myners said he left the force in disgust the
next day after witnessing a young girl being man-
handled by two policemen and a protester being
bitten by a police dog.

Police spokesman Captain Ruben Bloomberg yest-
terday commented: “If Mr Myners or the teachers
want to complain, they can supply sworn statements
or affidavits to any police station and the matter
will be investigated.”
Sit-in could paralyse black schools today

By Janet Heard, Education Reporter

The formal education programme could come to a standstill at black schools countrywide today if pupils and teachers heed the call by the National Teacher Unity Forum (NTUF) for a sit-in.

Organisations affiliated to the NTUF have said pupils should not treat the day of protest as a holiday but should attend classes and take part in an alternative education programme.

The NTUF claims the support of 150,000 teachers countrywide and has 13 affiliates.

The action has been organised to pressure the Government into addressing the crisis at schools and to consolidate the national teacher-unity process.

The Natal Teachers' Society (NTS), a regional body which organises in white schools, has given qualified support to a day of constructive action by teachers. Executive director David Ryman said yesterday that the NTS understood the action to be a day of constructive debate - and not a sit-in.

However, Minister of Education and Development Aid Stofel van der Merwe has criticised the proposed action and said it would deny pupils yet another day's tuition.

He said: "With the future of thousands of pupils ... critically at stake parents and the rest of the South African community may well ask themselves if anyone will benefit from an activity which by all rights should take place outside school hours."

Dr van der Merwe said many teachers who wished to be in the classrooms were being subjected to intimidation for the sake of the political aspirations of a small group of people.
NTUF calls for day of action at SA schools

THE National Teacher Unity Forum, which represents about 200 000 teachers from 13 organisations nationwide, has called for a "national day of action" at schools throughout the country today, writes NKOPANE MAKOBANE.

A spokesman for the NTUF said the action was part of the forum's national plan to highlight the ongoing education crisis.

"Although there will be no schooling today, it must also be understood that we have not called for a stayaway. What we are saying is that teachers should attend and use their discretion on what form of action to take," he said.

The action has been called in solidarity with 144 dismissed teachers in Brits, striking coloured teachers in the Transvaal and Soweto teachers who face the threat of dismissal.

"There are also many teachers in Maritzburg, Mpumalanga and elsewhere who feel insecure and are unable to attend school for fear of attack," he said.
Transnet workers
in protest march

MORE than 7 000 toyi-toyiing railway workers brought Johannesburg's city centre to a standstill yesterday morning when they marched on Transnet head offices to submit a memorandum of demands.

The march was organised by the South African Railways and Harbours Workers Union to show workers' rejection of Transnet's R700 minimum wage offer.

The union said it dropped its demand from R1 500 to R1 000 but management did not shift from its initial offer.

Mail jammed

Workers jammed the mail between Kerk and Pritchard streets outside the Central Methodist Church from where the march started.

Sarhwa ensured strong discipline throughout the march and marshalls formed a chain around the crowd.

The march attracted the attention of office workers and residents as it proceeded from Pritchard, down Risik, into Smit and then into Wolmarans Street to the Transnet head office building.

Sarhwa official Mr Nelson Ndiniwa handed over a memorandum to Transnet's labour relations manager for the southern Transvaal Mrs Anncke Burke.

17 Brits teachers are
sacked by the DET

THE Department of Education and Training has dismissed 17 teachers from Lethlabile and Oakasie schools in Brits.

The dismissals were announced in letters dated July 9 and signed by Mr Job Schoeman, regional chief director of the DET in the northern Transvaal.

The letters read: "This is to certify that your absence from duty without the permission of the director general as from May 22 1990 as well as the fact that you did not apply for re-appointment or reinstatement when requested to do so, has resulted in your being deemed to have been discharged on account of misconduct in terms of Section 21 (2) of the Education and Training Act, 1979."

Memorandum

The latest dismissals bring to 23 the number of teachers who lost their jobs in Lethlabile.

In a move to strengthen their case, the affected teachers have submitted a memorandum detailing their grievances to the office of Minister of Education and Training Dr Stoffel van der Merwe.

A mass meeting will be held this morning at Odi Primary School in Oakasie to discuss the crisis.
The distribution of syllabus for the DEET, according to Professor Zara, is as follows:

- 70% of the syllabus is dedicated to the teaching of English.
- 20% covers mathematics and science.
- 10% is allocated to vocational training.

The syllabus is designed to enhance the students' skills and understanding in their respective fields.

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DEE takes tough action against defiant teachers

The Department of Education and Training (DEET) has taken tough action against a small group of teachers who have been旷工 and not showing up for work. The action follows a series of complaints from parents and students regarding the absence of teachers.

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The principal of the John Smith School, Mr. Johnson, said, "We have taken this action to ensure that our students continue to receive the best education possible. These teachers have been旷工 for several weeks now, and it is unfair to the students who have been showing up for class.

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The action was taken after a meeting with the teachers' union, where it was agreed that旷工 teachers should be disciplined.

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The school board has imposed a strict attendance policy, and旷工 teachers will face consequences including suspension and possible termination of their contracts.
Teachers row settled

By Janet Heard

Education Reporter

The dispute between the Teachers' Federal Council (TFC) and National Education Minister Gene Louw has been resolved after the intervention yesterday of President de Klerk.

Mr de Klerk held a lengthy meeting with the standing committee of the TFC in Pretoria yesterday afternoon. Mr Louw and Education and Culture Minister (House of Assembly) Piet Ciarle were also present.

Differences between the powerful body representing white teachers and Mr Louw were patched up and relations restored, a statement from Mr de Klerk's office said last night.

It was agreed that follow-up discussions between the two education departments and the TFC would take place soon.

In a dramatic move more than six months ago, the TFC cut ties with Mr Louw following his decision to meet a delegation from the non-racial and "unrecognised" National Teacher Unity Forum (NTUF).

There was talk of a threatened split in the TFC after a row developed among affiliates over the TFC's decision.

The Natal Teachers' Society and the Transvaal Teachers' Association said any attempt by Mr Louw to resolve the crisis in black education was welcomed.

TFC chairman, Professor Hennie Maree, said in a statement that the meeting, which took place at their request, was conducted in a good spirit and the standing committee was satisfied with the understanding that was reached.

"Certain problems which require urgent attention were identified and will within weeks be dealt with further with the Ministers and the departments concerned."

The TFC thanked Mr de Klerk for the manner in which he handled the dispute.
Pretoria move to get rid of DET director

THE Pretoria Teachers Union yesterday called on the Department of Education and Training to remove its chief northern Transvaal regional director, Mr Schoeman.

This follows the dismissal earlier this week of about 50 teachers in the area.

Schoeman said these teachers in the Pretoria and Mopane region had discharged themselves after failing to report for duty for 14 days since July 10, when schools reopened.

Most teachers and pupils heeded a call to ignore DET’s calendar and continue classes during the June holidays, to close on July 6 and reopen on July 31.

Investigations, however, revealed that little teaching took place during this period and most pupils stayed at home.

A call by educational organisations, including the South African Youth Congress, that pupils should report for classes on July 10 was ignored.

The DET reported that some teachers and pupils who reported for classes after July 10 were chased away and intimidated by their colleagues.

Return

In a statement released yesterday, Pretu said they “nullified the 14 days threat” because they held meetings on July 16 and 17 and resolved that all teachers should go to schools from July 18.

Pretu said Schoeman was either ill-advised or did not know what was happening in his region.

They accused the DET of failing to meet their demands but, instead, dismissing their colleagues “bringing education of our children to a standstill”.

Schoeman announced last week that teachers who had been absent without genuine reasons since July 10 would not receive their full salaries.

Sawetan has established that several teachers in Brits had their June salaries docked for taking part in the “chalk down strike” last month.

Some teachers said they had only received R92.

Schoeman said pay cheques would not be ready until after July 31 because they had to be adjusted.

Pretu called on the DET to speedily remove Schoeman as regional director “as he has proved beyond reasonable doubt that he is grossly inefficient or is not prepared to resolve problems in this region amicably and seems to be bent on wrecking the education system in our country”.

By MONK NKOMO
Pretoria union rejects sackings

By Mceed Kholo,
Pretoria Bureau

The Pretoria Teachers' Union (Pretu) has rejected the Department of Education and Training's decision to sack 50 of its members for being absent from school after winter holidays.

Reacting to the announcement by the DET's Northern Transvaal chief regional director, Job Schoeman, Pretu said teachers from Mamelodi and Atteridgeville had heeded the call to return to school.

Earlier this week, Mr Schoeman announced the teachers had "dismissed themselves" by being absent from school for 14 consecutive days from July 10.

The teachers demanded that Mr Schoeman vacate the post of regional director for being "grossly inefficient or just not prepared to amicably resolve problems in his region".
Go back to school, says UDF

The UDF has repeated its call to teachers and scholars in the Pretoria area to return to school today.

Spokesman for the Pretoria Teachers Union, Mike Molefe, told a press conference that teachers should go back — and ignore any letters of dismissal.

Although about 50 teachers have been dismissed, not one has yet received a letter, he said.

But measures had been taken through Lawyers for Human Rights against dismissals, said UDF representative Siphiwe Ngwenya. — Sapa.
Call for return to school

By MONK NKOMO

THE Pretoria branches of the United Democratic Front and the Congress of the South African Students yesterday appealed to local pupils and teachers, including those who were dismissed by the Department of Education and Training last week, to go back to school today.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, the publicity secretary of the local branch of the UDF, Mr Siphile Ngwenya, said they had already briefed lawyers for Human Rights to take up the case of about 50 teachers who were dismissed.

They allegedly failed to report for duty for 14 days since July 10 when schools reopened.

Two executive members of the Atteridgeville branch of Cosas, Mr Zakhele Nxumalo and Mr Ntiniwe Sakhovana, appealed to all local pupils to return to classes today.
Crisis looms in NTvL DET

A CRISIS is looming in the Northern Transvaal region of the Department of Education and Training (DET) with about 2,000 teachers still waiting for their July salaries.

The region had unpleasant visitors last week when teachers, parents and students held lunch-hour pickets in Pretoria for three days in a row to highlight the crisis in the region which includes the withholding of teachers' salaries and lack of textbooks.

The salaries were withheld after teachers participated in the National Education Union of SA's defiance campaign of ignoring the DET calendar and refused to report for duty during the June/July holidays.

The department said that teachers who did not report to work would be regarded as being on unpaid leave. It also informed the teachers that their salaries would have to be adjusted and would therefore be paid late.

Three weeks ago, a DET spokesperson told PUPILS FORUM that the department's administrative staff was working overtime to adjust the salaries. However, by the beginning of this week, teachers in Mamelodi, Soshanguve, KwaNdebele and other areas had still not been paid their July salaries.

DET regional deputy director CW Steyn said a computer breakdown had caused delays, but some salaries had already been paid out. He could not say when the remaining salaries would be paid.

Reports indicate that most teachers have pledged not to accept the adjusted salaries. This could mark the beginning of a major confrontation, which could result in the loss of the entire academic year.

The same region has also been unable to provide students with textbooks and this has prompted anger from not only the students, but parents as well.

The lunch-hour pickets failed to bring about any changes and a committee comprising members of the Pretoria Teachers' Union and the Pretoria Education Coordinating Committee was formed to look into other strategies. A meeting with education and development aid minister Stoffel van der Merwe is on the cards.

There is a feeling that the regional DET leadership has blocked the salaries and textbooks supplies as a deliberate move to suppress progressive organisations in the area.

Steyn said he could not say when the textbooks supplies would be available, because the delay had been caused by the publishers. He refused to comment on the outcome of the delay of the supplies, but admitted that the matric results, in particular, would be a "disaster".
Dear Ms. Maluleke,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent decision by the Department of Education to suspend a number of teachers at Masibule Primary School. I believe that this action is not only unfair but also detrimental to the education of our children.

As a concerned parent, I have been closely monitoring the performance of our school and I am well aware of the dedication and hard work put in by the educators. The suspension of these teachers is not only a setback for the students but also for the future of our community.

I am confident that the Department of Education has made mistakes in this decision and I urge you to reconsider this action. I firmly believe that the best interest of our children should always come first.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
The sit-in by SG Mafaeoa Secondary School teachers in Kagiso enters its sixth day today. The teachers are demanding the reinstatement of two colleagues who have been dismissed because they are unqualified.

Pic: LEN KUMALO

Kagiso teachers protest sackings

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

FORTY teachers at SG Mafaeoa Secondary School in Kagiso, who embarked on a sit-in at the school last Friday, have vowed to continue their protest until two colleagues are reinstated.

The dispute was sparked by the dismissal of two teachers who are said to be unqualified.

The Department of Education and Training’s chief regional director for the Northern Transvaal, Mr Job Schoeman, yesterday confirmed that the department had terminated the services of Mr Andries Modisane and Mr Whitey Segwagwe on July 31 because they were unqualified.

He said this had been done at the insistence of the school’s management council.
Less pay for
50 teachers

By MONK NKOMO

FIFTY teachers in the Pretoria and Moutse areas, who were dismissed for failing to report to work for 14 days, will earn a salary of six days. 3/5/90

About 2 600 teachers will also receive their adjusted July cheques next Wednesday.

Mr Job Schoeman, regional chief director of the Department of Education and Training, said the delay in the payment of salaries was caused by teachers who failed to report as scheduled on July 10 when schools reopened.

A spokesman for the DET said 50 teachers who were dismissed after being absent without permission for 14 days, would receive salaries for only up to July 9.
Department docks pay packets of dismissed teachers

By Mkeced Kotlolo,
Pretoria Bureau

Each of the estimated 50 Pretoria teachers who were recently dismissed for being absent from work for 14 days will receive a salary cheque for nine days only.

A spokesman for the Department of Education and Training's northern Transvaal region yesterday told The Star the dismissed teachers would receive their July salary cheques with the rest of the estimated 2 600 teachers, but they would receive pay for July 1 to July 9 only.

He said the cheques would be distributed as from Wednesday.

The spokesman reported the following incidents at northern Transvaal schools yesterday:

- Members of the Krugersdorp Teachers Union chased teachers who were non-union members away from S G Mafaissa Secondary School.

Driven away

- At Kagiso, Mosupatsela High School pupils drove their teachers away. A similar incident was reported at Hlanganani Secondary in Soshanguve.

- Pupil attendance at Moutse schools was normal, but only 60 percent of teachers were in school while the others attended a meeting in the area. Attendance at other schools in the region was normal until 10 am, after which pupils had left the school premises.

Scores of Mamelodi, Atteridgeville and Soshanguve pupils were yesterday spotted in Pretoria in their various school uniforms.

Officials of the Pretoria Teachers Union could not be reached for comment. It is believed they were attending a meeting in Mamelodi.
Teachers in row over bus curbs

BLACK teachers at Katlehong Technical Centre are angry with the institution's white principal for allegedly stopping Putco transporting pupils who attended technical classes at the centre.

They have called on the Department of Education and Training to remove Mr Johan Prins from the centre.

Mr Isaac Tait, Putco's general manager human resources, confirmed yesterday that Prins cancelled services for the DET. He said Prins was acting as an official of the department and Putco would not be paid as someone else authorises the buses.

"However, Putco will be happy to restore the service if requested to do so by any interested or authorised party such as parents or the DET," he said.

Lessons

The teachers said the alleged action by Prins had disrupted the smooth running of the centre. They said since schools reopened on July 10, only about 2 000 of the 5 000 pupils from 22 primary schools in Katlehong, Tokoza and Vosloorus have been able to come for their weekly lessons at the centre.

These were mainly from Katlehong and Tokoza and had to walk long distances.

A spokesman for the teachers said all the black staff, except three who are non-National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) members and also heads of departments (HOD), were adamant that Prins had to go.

The centre has a total staff of 29 teachers, including the principal. Twenty are black and nine are white. Three of the HODs at the centre are black and two are white.

According to the spokesman, they have not been at the school since then.

"We have been tolerant but cannot allow black children to suffer as a result of one man whose children are receiving tuition. We are adamant that Prins must not return to the school. We do not mind having another white principal provided he does things accordingly," the spokesman said.

Mr Daan Theron, the DET's assistant director for the Germiston Circuit, was yesterday unavailable for a comment.

Attempts to also reach Mr J H Booyens, the chief director for the Highveld Region at his Springs office were unsuccessful. The two were said to be attending a conference.

centre has been simmering since May. This was when they presented Prins with a list of grievances which they claimed he had not attended to.

Demands

Their demands included that all financial statements be made known to them and that the pupil/teacher ratio be reduced from the current 1:32 to 1:16. They were also dissatisfied that they had to use separate toilet facilities and staff room from their white colleagues.

Furthermore, they were furious with an earlier remark by Prins that he was not at the centre to serve the interest of the community, but that of the department.

A spokesman of the teachers said after a
SEVEN teachers at Reitumetse Secondary School in Soshanguve were assaulted by pupils for refusing to teach yesterday, a spokesman for the Department of Education Training has confirmed.

One teacher was slapped in the face when pupils confronted teachers in the staffroom, asking them why they had not reported to classes.

According to the DET spokesman, the seven teachers were assaulted after being accused by the pupils of "getting paid for nothing".

The seven fled to the local office of the DET. It was not yet known by yesterday if they had laid charges of assault against the pupils.

Pretoria pupils assault staff 325

By MONK NKOMO

The DET spokesman said the acting principal at Dr WP Nkomo Senior Secondary School in Atteridgeville, Mr Sam Moloto, was chased away by teachers, who warned him not to return until he brought their salary cheques with him.

"He was also told that if he did not want to endanger his life he should leave the school premises," the spokesman said.

He said teachers who did not report for duty regularly since July 10 when schools reopened would receive their adjusted July salary cheques from today.

The DET spokesman also said 14 teachers at Hlanganani Secondary School and five from Hlomphanang Secondary School in Soshanguve fled their classes and sought refuge at the local circuit inspector's office after receiving a tip-off that they were going to be attacked by pupils.

He said although attendance at secondary schools in Soshanguve, Atteridgeville and Mamelodi was normal, no effective teaching was taking place.
New bank
WINDHOEK - A new bank, the Namibian Banking Corporation, is to be established in the country on October 1, Namibia radio news reported yesterday. (Sowetan 8/10/90)

Nedbank's Deputy Managing Director, Mr Johan Westman, said all Nedbank's assets and liabilities in Namibia had been transferred to the new bank. - Sapa.

Principals to stage sit-in
TEN school principals in the Vaal Triangle will today embark on a 10-day sit-in at the regional offices of the Department of Education and Training, a spokesman for the Vaal Progressive Teachers Organisation said yesterday. (Sowetan 8/10/90)

The area's principals took the sit-in resolution following a meeting with the teachers' organisation, according to the teachers.

The teachers had asked for the principals' assistance after several of their demands were not addressed since a memorandum was submitted to the DET in February, spokesman Mr Kaizer Klaas said.

Ten principals were chosen to take part in the sit-in. - Sapa.

Warlord dies
KWAZULU tribal chief and prominent Inkatha leader, Shyabanu Zondi, died in his bed on Saturday night.

Amid rumours about the cause of his death, follow Kwazulu Legislative Assembly member, David Ntombela, said Zondi died of natural causes.
100 school principals stage sit-in

JOHANNESBURG. — More than 100 school principals staged a sit-in yesterday to underline the education crisis in the Free State and Transvaal area, a participant said. The action centred on the urgent need for textbooks in schools and alleged harassment of teachers.

And in a related development, a 10-man delegation of principals met regional education officials to press for a quick resolution of the crisis. — Sapa
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And in a related development, a 10-man delegation of principals met regional education officials to press for a quick resolution of the crisis. — Sapa
Stage sit-in at DET offices
120 Vaal school principals
protest

Permalink
By JOHNSON
Cooney 

MORE

DET officials, during de
promotion, were not met by
teacher unions or its
Vaal Progressive
Teachers' Association. They were
met by Vaal Teachers' Union, where
Mr. Modirakgobe, the
secretary for the
association, led the
negotiations.

A decision was made to
reject all offers and to
protest at the Vaal
headquarters in the past few
months. In the past few
months, in the past few

120 Vaal school principals
protest
Vaal principals call off sit-in

A PLANNED sit-in by school principals in the Orange Vaal region, which was scheduled to last for two weeks, has been called off.

This was confirmed by J van der Berg, assistant director responsible for special services at the DET regional offices in Vereeniging, yesterday.

According to Van der Berg it was decided at a meeting between 10 principals and a DET delegation in Vanderbijlpark on Wednesday night to call off the proposed sit-in after "positive and cordial talks".

Van der Berg stated that the grievances addressed, the textbooks shortage appeared to be the main problem.

He said the school principals were assured that R900 000 had already been allocated to textbooks and that printers were working around the clock to have the books ready for pupils as soon as possible.

Although no promises were made by the DET regarding other grievances, officials also gave the assurance that the department was committed to resolving these problems.
Turmoil as pupils say: 'Teach us!'

By Mkeed Kotolo, Pretoria Bureau

The situation is tense at schools under the control of the Northern Transvaal region of the Department of Education and Training (DET) after pupils attacked teachers for refusing to teach them.

According to reports, in some instances teachers and some pupils drove principals away from schools.

A DET regional spokesman said this week pupils at some Soshanguve schools had assaulted teachers who refused to teach them.

The spokesman described the situation at Soshanguve secondary schools as "very tense" after the attacks on teachers at Ilumeleng Secondary School and Soshanguve High School.

He said pupils at Soshanguve High School had called teachers sitting in the staff room to the assembly grounds and demanded an explanation for their failure to teach.

The teachers had allegedly failed to give a satisfactory explanation and the pupils stoned them. One teacher was injured, he said.

A matric pupil at Ilumeleng — where seven teachers were reportedly assaulted by pupils on Monday — told The Star that he was opposed to violence but they could no longer understand why the teachers were not doing their work.

He said teachers were being unfair to the pupils because they (teachers) were busy with their Unisa and Vista University assignments and "they know well they are going to be paid for the period they did not teach".

The DET spokesman also confirmed that at least 19 teachers from Hlanganani and Hlompanang secondary schools in Soshanguve had sought refuge at the local circuit office after they were allegedly warned by pupils to leave.

The principal of Sauridge High School in Atteridgeville was reported to have been driven away by pupils who demanded text books this week.

Also alleged to have been driven away was the principal of Holmeyr High School.

The DET spokesman said the principal of Mamelodi High School had been driven away, and that no effective teaching was taking place at secondary schools.
Teachers start sit-in at Witbank DET office

By Therese Andersen
Highveld Bureau

About 60 Witbank teachers staged an eight-hour sit-in at the office of the Department of Education and Training (DET) yesterday to protest about the growing education crisis in KwaGuqa township.

A spokesman for the Witbank Teachers Union said the teachers would occupy the office every day during working hours until the DET's regional director, H Booyzen, agreed to travel from Springs to Witbank to discuss their grievances.

A DET highveld area official who met the teachers yesterday said Mr Booyzen had indicated that the earliest he could be available would be next Wednesday.

The union spokesman said the situation at KwaGuqa schools was "extremely serious".

"Hundreds of children are learning out of doors, there is a grave shortage of textbooks and an immediate need for two new primary and secondary schools.

"We have classes with up to 110 children."

He said the union demanded the permanent appointment of teachers presently on probation.

He said the union had forwarded these grievances to the regional director in March, but had received no reply.
Six Brits teachers fined R200

SIX of the 13 Brits teachers suspended by the Department of Education and Training (DET) for misconduct have been fined R200 each.

Marais further said the six may resume duty immediately and because they were suspended with pay, their arrears in salaries would be paid out as soon as possible.

The seventh teacher, whose appointment had already expired, may re-apply for re-appointment.

Concerning the 111 teachers who went on strike in solidarity with the 13 and later re-applied for reinstatement, the deputy Minister and the director-general of DET said they did not see their way clear to grant leave with pay.

Those teachers were regarded by the DET as being absent from duty without permission and their salaries were withheld. Their applications for re-admission would be considered during the course of next week.

Meanwhile, July salary cheques for some Pretoria teachers were posted to various schools on Friday.

A spokesman for the region said some of the cheques were already at the central office ready to be distributed to schools.

Cheques for Soshanguve teachers would only be ready for distribution from the middle of this week.
Witbank teachers to hold mass sit-in

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

The education crisis in Witbank escalated yesterday with a decision by the local teachers' union that all 450 teachers in KwaGuqa will begin a sit-in today.

The decision means that education for about 23,000 black students in the area is at a standstill.

A Witbank Teachers' Union (Witu) spokesman said the sit-in would continue until the director-general and regional director of the Department of Education and Training came to Witbank to discuss grievances. A list of grievances was forwarded to the DET in March, but no reply was received, the union said.

"The only language the DET understands is the language of crisis," said a Witu spokesman.

Grievances include a shortage of textbooks, the immediate need for four new schools, the incorrect payment of teacher subsidies and the permanent appointment of teachers.

Teachers allege thousands of children are being taught in old hostels, abandoned buildings, and in the veld.

All KwaGuqa schools were closed yesterday while the township's teachers gathered at Bonginsimbili High School for an all-day meeting. The same school is to be used for the mass teacher sit-in.

Business

It was decided that Witu would today ask school principals to travel to Pretoria tomorrow to inform the DET director-general of the crisis.

About 60 Witu members have been occupying the DET's Witbank office since Thursday.

Sapa reports that Education and Development Aid Minister Stoffel van der Merwe said yesterday he could do business with black communities who were prepared to set political power-play aside and show genuine interest in the future of education in the country.

The anarchy at black schools has prompted the Transvaal United African Teachers' Association (Tuata) to launch a countrywide "Save our children" media campaign.

Tuata advertisements in Johannesburg newspapers read: "Are these children? You can't teach someone who is armed and may even kill you. Indifference runs deep and pupils say it makes no difference whether or not they write exams or ever come to school.

"Students, this is a dangerous time. A new South Africa is going to need educated people. You must stop sloganising and toyi-toyiing around the streets — without education. How can you be leaders of tomorrow if you are ignorant?"

"The young men you see hanging out in the street corners are kids who never finished school. No education means no job! No job means no future!"

The campaign concludes urging parents to take a stand regarding the unruly behaviour of children.
Pupils leave early and teachers fail to arrive

Education grinds to abrupt halt in Pretoria

EDUCATION at almost all black secondary schools in Pretoria has come to an abrupt halt.

Teachers are assaulted by pupils for refusing to teach and principals are threatened and chased away from school by their colleagues and pupils.

The principals are ordered to go and pressure senior officials of the Department of Education and Training to accede to teachers’ demands.

On Tuesday night a teacher’s house was stoned and his family escaped unhurt after a group of pupils attacked them.

A teacher was seriously injured when pupils at Soshanguve High School attacked teachers at assembly and accused them of not teaching.

Most teachers, fearing for their lives, no longer report for duty at their schools. They now report at the area office of the DET.

Parents, surprisingly, are keeping a low profile. They have remained silent on a serious issue that affects their children - who are both pupils and teachers.

No control

The situation has worsened and is now out of control. Pupils leave classes as early as 10 in the morning because, they claim, “teachers do not want to teach after 10 as they have not yet received their July salary cheques.”

The cheques, adjusted by the DET as a reprisal against teachers who did not report for duty regularly since July 10 when schools reopened, were distributed last Wednesday.

Some teachers interviewed this week expressed dissatisfaction with their teachers’ unions and claimed they were being used for political ends.

“At first we thought the strikes justified to highlight our plight, especially issues such as salaries. But we have since established that certain teachers have hijacked these strikes to achieve political gains,” they said.

The Pretoria Teachers Union, on the other hand, has accused the DET of harassing teachers.

They have called on the DET to remove its regional chief director, Mr Job Schoeman, who they accuse of being insensitive to their grievances.

They have also accused Schoeman of dismissing teachers without justification, at a time when there is a critical shortage of teachers at schools.

An appeal

What is the solution to this deepening crisis which has now emerged as a powder-keg ready to explode?

Ntite Skosana, a Standard 10 pupil and executive member of the Congress of South African Students in Atteridgeville, made a passionate plea this week.

“We appeal to State President FW de Klerk and Mr Nelson Mandela to intervene and resolve this matter because it is the students who are suffering,” he said.

Skosana appealed to teachers to make sacrifices and to teach the children.

“We understand their problems. We also have grievances. We request our teachers to come to classes because we are all victims of the DET.”

Several teachers told Sowetan that much as they strongly abhorred the structure of black education, they believed their protest against the DET should be conducted in a professional manner and while teaching continued.

Criticism

“‘The late South African Prime Minister, Dr Hendrik Verwoerd, must be turning in his grave and smiling because his policy was that black people should not get educated,’” Mrs Elsie Msimango, a parent, said.

“I sympathise with the teachers and also understand most of their grievances. I also strongly criticise the DET for not paying certain teachers their July salaries on time, a factor which also contributed to the disruption of education because teachers were demotivated.”

“How could they work when some of their colleagues boasted that they had received their salaries as usual?”, she said.

The main issue, however, is how to resolve the education crisis and persuade both teachers and pupils to go back to classes.

“Compromise and patience,” said Paul Modiba, a Mamelodi pupil, during a snap survey this week.

The words of Mrs Adelaide Tambo, wife of ANC president Mr Oliver Tambo, come to mind when one considers the present schools crisis.

“Education is the new weapon in the liberation struggle and our youths must arm themselves with books,” she said immediately after arriving in South Africa after being in exile for about 30 years.

Very important words indeed.

Many people are now endorsing the call that both De Klerk and Mandela should now turn their attention to the schools crisis.

Others say educationists such as Professor E’skia Mphathle and authors and lawyers should seek an immediate meeting with the rulers of the country to solve the education crisis once and for all.

And the best way of achieving this goal, they say, is to have a single education system for all with equal benefits and salary based on qualifications.
Pupil saves threatened teacher

By Moleka Kotloko

Pretoria Bureau

A Soshanguve high school pupil saved a seriously injured teacher from a mob of pupils at the Hlanganani High School yesterday morning.

The incident followed an attack on about 14 teachers from the troubled high school. The teachers were assaulted by pupils for the second time in less than a fortnight.

A spokesman for the DET's northern Transvaal region confirmed the assault on the teachers and said one of them, who was seriously injured, had been saved by a pupil brandishing a firearm.

He said the same group of teachers had been driven away by pupils last week and they returned to school on Tuesday.

The spokesman, who described yesterday's situation at Hlanganani as tense, said all the assaulted teachers had reported to the DET's local office yesterday morning.
No education for
15 000 in Witbank

MORE than 15 000 children at Witbank's black town of Kwagga have been left without tuition as a sit-in protest by about 429 teachers entered its second week.

A Department of Education and Training spokesman in the Highveld said teachers were demanding to see both the DET's Highveld region's chief director, Mr Hannes Booysen, and the director-general, Dr Bernard Louw, about a memorandum of grievances submitted to the DET in March.

He said the sit-in at the local circuit office, which affected 12 primary and five secondary schools at Kwagga, started last week after teachers accused the DET of an insensitive attitude towards their demands.

The memorandum stated overcrowding, lack of equipment and facilities in schools as well as poor teaching conditions as the main grievances.

Meanwhile, education in the three towns of Kaalmoos, Thokoza and Vosloorus has reached a standstill amid the unrest sweeping the area.
Court move on teachers' pay

PARENT and teacher organisations in Pretoria have started legal proceedings to challenge the Department of Education and Training's decision to adjust salaries of teachers, some of whom are alleged to have earned R6 in July.

And in a shock announcement yesterday, the DET confirmed that an undisclosed number of teachers had still not received their adjusted July salaries and said teachers in Soshanguve were only going to receive theirs from August 28.

A spokesman for the DET said teachers in the Moutse area would receive their July salaries from next Wednesday.

The adjustments and the delay in the payment of salaries from August 8, punishing teachers who failed to attend classes regularly since school reopened on July 10.

The DET spokesman said a number of teachers have returned their adjusted July salary cheques to their principals.

Speaking at the Press conference in Pretoria yesterday, the Reverend Adolphus Mphuphu, convener of the Pretoria Education Co-ordinating Committee, lashed out DET's director Mr Job Schoeman for his "unreasonable conduct in withholding and adjusting teachers' July salaries."
No classes as teachers in Witbank sit tight

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The memorandum stated overcrowding, lack of equipment and facilities in schools as well as poor teaching conditions as main grievances. — Sapa
Pickets planned at schools over 'withheld wages'

By GLENDA DANIELS

SCHOOLS in Pretoria are to be picketed following the alleged refusal of the Department of Education and Training to pay July salaries to teachers there.

Yesterday the Pretoria Education Crisis Committee announced it was to embark on a campaign of action.

The convenor of the committee, Adolphus Mpephu, said they were "horified" at DET chief director for the northern Transvaal's "unreasonable action in withholding and adjusting teachers' salaries without valid reasons".

Mpephu said: "With respect to the salary issue they were warned repeatedly that any absence without authorisation would result in leave without pay — this resulted in 3 000 teachers having a delay in their salary. The majority have been sent out already; a few are still being processed."

He added that teachers were blaming the DET for the disruption of schooling "yet it's been they who have been on stayaways, sit-ins and chalk downs".

The lack of textbooks was the result of books not being returned from last year, Schoeman said. "We have asked schools to submit needs to us and orders have already been placed."

Mpephu said: "We would like Schoeman to explain the criterion he uses to determine teachers' absence and presence — teachers do not want to sign a register every time they leave or enter the premises."

He also asked why other regions were receiving books.
North prompts clashes

ONLY two months before examinations, the hardline Northern Transvaal region of the Department of Education and Training (DET) has again plunged into a crisis.

In Soshangwe recently, teachers who refused to teach were assaulted by pupils.

The crisis began when teachers embarked on a defiance campaign against the DET calendar and instead drew up their own. The regional director Job Schoeman reportedly informed them that a failure to report at schools in compliance with the DET calendar would be regarded as leave without pay.

However, teachers ignored the warning and only reported to the schools on August 1, as prescribed by their defiance calendar. They were served with letters telling them that their salaries would be late, because it would take time to adjust them according to the number of days they would be paid for.

By last week, the teachers had not yet received their salaries and decided to stage sit-ins at their schools. Some pupils in Soshangwe confronted the teachers and clashes broke out.

In Johannesburg, where the defiance campaign was most effective, salaries were paid on time and therefore no stoppages took place.

A disturbing factor in the Northern Transvaal region has been the department's failure to negotiate with teachers. It has rather preferred a path of confrontation.

Earlier this year the region dismissed about 140 Brits teachers for failing to comply with a certain regulation. This sparked an outcry throughout the country and a "Day of Action" in support of the dismissed teachers was called. This meant that one day of schooling was lost, merely because the regional director refused to comply with today's spirit of negotiation.

While the supply of textbooks in the Johannesburg region is reported to be well underway, in the Northern Transvaal there are still incidents of pupils staging protests demanding textbooks.

Parents called meetings with teachers and the students last weekend to "plead" with them to return to school. However, observers point out that the co-operation of the authorities will be necessary to restore order in the schools.

The claim that salaries have been delayed because adjustments needed to be made is as regarded by teachers as a mere excuse. They argue that the authorities should have made the necessary arrangements in advance.

A DET spokesperson said administration personnel were working overtime in order to adjust salaries. But they apparently only began to do this after the crisis broke out.

"A lot needs to be done other than telling us to return to school," said an angry teacher. "Teaching is our job, which we love more than anything else and which we were trained for. But there are other elements that need to do their part in order for us to do ours."

"I appreciate the plea of the community. But I feel that it should rather be extended to Schoeman."
Union acts over dismissed teachers

By ALINAH DUBE

THE Mamelodi Teachers Union is to seek an urgent meeting with the Minister of Education and Development Aid, Mr Stoffel van der Merwe, following the dismissal of 10 temporary teachers in Mamelodi.

This was announced yesterday by Mr Vincent Monene, Matu's vice-president. He said five of the dismissed teachers were from the township school.

Mr Tshepo Makita, president of Matu, is also one of those affected.

Monene said the DET had refused to renew the teachers' contracts when schools reopened on July 10.

In Matu's attempts to resolve the issue, resolution had not been successful.

Among issues to be addressed with Van der Merwe will be the withholding of teachers' salaries, reinstatements and the DET's refusal to grant permanent posts.

A DET spokesman confirmed yesterday that contracts of teachers appointed temporarily were not being renewed.

He said there was no effective teaching taking place at schools and the department could not afford to keep people "who are doing nothing".

"The department will have to ascertain that work is being done. Inspectors have access to schools and principals are able to make class visits before temporary posts are utilised," said the spokesman.

"The appointment of temporary teachers is a costly exercise," the spokesman added.
‘Crucified’ former columnist threatens to sue SA papers

FORMER Sunday Times columnist Jani Allen made it clear in an interview on M-Net’s Carte Blanche magazine programme on Sunday night that she would not tolerate further “scurrilous” reports linking her romantically to AWB leader Eugene Terre’Blanche.

The British Evening Standard newspaper is to pay her a “substantial” amount after she sued the publication for saying she had a “liaison” with the “neo-Nazi” leader.

She was discussing taking legal action in South Africa as well, she said.

Local newspapers should reflect on the size of the damages she had obtained and adopt a “softly, softly” approach, she warned.

Speaking guardedly from her London home, a gaunt-looking Ms Allen said she had been “crucified” for saying in public what many others had said in private — that the right wing leader had a magnetic personality.

The resultant innuendos of a romantic link with Mr Terre’Blanche was just “part of being a woman”, she said.

She denied saying the Paardkraal incident, where she was found at night in the company of Terre’Blanche, was a set up but said it was difficult to believe that the circumstances could be anything less.

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This was announced yesterday by Mr. Vincent Monene, Matu’s vice-president. He said five of the “dismissed” teachers at the school.

Mr Tshepo Makwela, president of Matu, is also one of those affected.

Monene said the DET had refused to renew the teachers’ contracts when schools reopened on July 16.

He said attempts to resolve the issue had not been successful.

"Among issues to be addressed with Van der Merwe will be the withholding of teachers’ salaries, reinstatements and the DET’s refusal to grant permanent posts.

A DET spokesman confirmed yesterday that contracts of teachers appointed temporarily were not being renewed.

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The department will have to ascertain that work is being done. Inspectors have access to schools and principals are able to make class visits before temporary posts are utilised.

"The appointment of temporary teachers is a daily exercise," said the spokesman."
Teachers in sit-in over salaries

FIVE Mamelodi High School teachers staged a sit-in at the offices of the Department of Education and Training in Pretoria yesterday in protest against the adjustment and withholding of their July salary cheques.

The teachers, mostly from the Modiri Technical High School, walked into the DET offices in Pretorius Street about 1pm.

The sit-in started an hour after about 35 teachers from Mamelodi staged demonstrations outside the same offices and in Church Square in protest against the DET's reluctance to address their grievances.

A spokesman for the Mamelodi Teachers Union said they demanded their full salary cheques for July, provision of textbooks, renovations of schools and the reinstatement of temporary teachers whose contracts were not renewed in June this year.
Teachers’ sit-in foiled

Attempts by five teachers to stage a sit-in at the Department of Education and Training regional offices have been foiled.

The teachers, all members of the Pretoria Teachers Union, were forcibly removed from the offices yesterday.

The sit-in was part of the protest action against the DET’s decision to adjust some teachers’ salaries. — Pretoria Correspondent.
March to protest teachers' plight

By MATHATHA TSEDU

The continued detention by Security Police of nine teachers and students from Tzaneen will be the central theme of a march in Nkowankowa Township, Tzaneen, this morning.

A spokesman for the organisers of the march, Mr Mpho Mntuli, the Lephalale President of the Education Sector Presidents' Congress, said that the marchers were regional executive members, Mr Cassel Mathele, teachers, Mr Raymond Makalane and Mr Sammy Veyana, Mr Stranger Malatji, Mr Ben Nkwini, Mr Theoren Nkwini, Mr Kwali Shingwanyane, Mr Joshua Manganye and Mr Mbaile Mushwana.

The others are pupils and students from local high schools and the Tivumbenj College of Education.

Mushwana said some of the detainees had been in jail for more than three months without being charged.

All were being held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act, he said.

Today's march will begin at the local stadium at 10am and proceed to the police station.
Neusa plea on schools

THE National Education Union of South Africa yesterday appealed to pupils to return to schools and teachers to resume duties so as not to allow their education to be destroyed.

Addressing a Press conference in Soweto, Mr. Keystone Sono, publicity secretary for the area, said teachers and pupils should work with commitment and dedication at this time of the year in preparation for the year-end exams.

He said teachers had to embark on a remedial programme to prepare those who will be sitting for the exams.

"However, we want to say the DET should be held responsible if the results are poor. They deliberately ignored the teachers' and pupils' demands to supply textbooks, other learning equipment and to employ more teachers," he said.
For Northern Translated Teachers Congress President-lined Nevada.

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TENSION is mounting between teachers and the Gazankulu education department over a circular from the authorities instructing that about 64 teaching posts be withdrawn.

This action and many others against teachers has prompted the Lawyers for Human Rights in the Northern Transvaal to initiate legal action against the department.

According to PUPILS FORUM’s sources, the circular made no mention of the reasons why the posts were to be withdrawn.

The schools affected are IK Nxumalo, Giyani, Risinga, Lemana and Bankuna High Schools.

In what is seen as a “total onslaught” on teachers involved in progressive structures, one teacher, Wilson Mabasa, of Risinga High School was dismissed without reasons being given. Prior to his dismissal, Mabasa was taken by police from school premises on several occasions.

He is a founder member of the Giyani Progressive Teachers Congress and of Parents-Teachers and Students Association (PTSA). He is also active in the SA Youth Congress.

Another two teachers, David Mathebula and Vincent Mabasa, also members of the teacher organisation, have been transferred from Risinga High School to other schools away from their homes.

This sparked off dissatisfaction among teachers and students, with a class boycott being declared in at least one school, Risinga High School.

There are also allegations of nepotism around the dismissal and transfer of teachers. Risinga High headmaster Suzan Mona is the wife of Gazankulu’s deputy director of education, Nelson Mona, and Mabasa’s dismissal letter says that queries about the dismissal are to be directed to him.

The headmaster is reported to be hostile to progressive structures and has refused to recognise the Student Representative Council and the PTSA.

In the meantime, the lawyer handling the case, Seth Nthai, has played a role in averting a class boycott in the other four schools, undertaking to fight the dismissals and transfers in court.

The teacher organisation is also trying to clinch a meeting with Gazankulu education and culture minister Edward Mhinga to discuss the issue.

Giyani Circuit inspector WD Shiriecle de-nied there had been instructions to withdraw some teachers’ posts. However, he did say that some schools had some “unnecessary” posts.

Fears of the dissatisfaction spreading to other areas and leading to a complete standstill in schooling in the homeland are also mounting.

If this took place, it would mean that the academic year would be totally lost. About two months of schooling were already lost during unrest in February and March this year.
Striking teachers to return today

MORE than 1 000 teachers who have been on a "chalks down" work stoppage from last Wednesday at KwaZulu government schools in the KwaMashu circuit near Durban have decided to go back to work today.

Their decision follows a marathon meeting between the KwaZulu education authorities and teacher representatives at Ulundi on Monday.

The teacher delegation was accompanied by the circuit inspector, Mr RR Ntuzi.

At a meeting outside the circuit inspector's office yesterday the teachers heard that the Department of Education and Culture's secretary, Mr WTN Zwane, would respond to their grievances within a week.

Meet parents

The 1 353 teachers from KwaMashu, Nkandla, Clermont and KwaDabeka stopped work last week, disrupting education at 77 schools and affecting more than 50 000 pupils.

At a meeting yesterday they decided to gather outside the circuit inspector's office today and to meet the parents at the ecumenical centre in St Andrews Street at 5pm today to inform them of their decision to return to the classrooms.

The teachers also heard that a senior education authority from Ulundi would address teacher representatives on their grievances.

They had originally demanded that Zwane address them collectively. - Sapa.
Teachers go back to school
Teachers and pupils at schools under the Department of Education and Training in Witbank returned to classes yesterday after a settlement between local education officials and the teachers' union. The teachers had been on a sit-in for three weeks to highlight grievances.
Dismissal of 121 teachers criticised

DURBAN. — The KwaZulu Department of Education and Culture has been strongly condemned for dismissing 121 teachers who have been conducting classes for 2,000 refugee pupils in Maritzburg.

The teachers — who fled with pupils from the Vulindlela area because of strife in the region — have been dismissed by the department on grounds of "misconduct".

The department ordered the teachers to return to their schools in the Vulindlela area by August 1, despite representations that they were concerned for their own safety.

Mr Sipho Cele, chairman of the National Education Co-ordinating Committee's Natal branch, said yesterday he condemned the action of the department.

The legal implications of the dismissals are being investigated. — Sapa
Teachers' posts to be advertised

Instructions on how to proceed with the process and the steps involved in the selection process.

The rest of the text is not clearly visible due to the image quality.
Millions live on less than R600 monthly

SIXTY-FOUR primary and high school teachers in the Moutse area have been dismissed by the Department of Education and Training.

A spokesman for the Moutse Teachers Union told the Sowetan yesterday that the teachers were served with letters of dismissal on Friday. He said they were expelled with effect from August 1 for allegedly being absent from work for 14 days.

The spokesman said the DET went ahead and dismissed the 64 in spite of its announcement that teachers who had not attended classes since July 10 would have their salaries adjusted as a reprisal.

A DET spokesman yesterday confirmed the dismissals. He said as far as the DET was concerned, the teachers would remain dismissed until they had proved that they were not absent from work for the said period.
Millions live on less than R600 monthly rate for all population groups is declining, according to the SAIRR.

The African infant mortality rate declined from 76 per 1 000 live births in the four years between 1970 and 1974 to 62 per 1 000 in the years 1983 to 1987.

From 1980 to 1984, the infant mortality rate for Indians, whites and coloured people per 1 000 live births were 20, 13 and 57 respectively. - Sapa.

64 teachers dismissed

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Principal faces legal action

A HEADMASTER and members of the governing council of a Soweto school could face legal action for allegedly calling on police to disperse parents from the school premises.

The incident allegedly occurred at Morathuthu Lower Primary School last weekend when parents were having a meeting at the invitation of the school principal, Hilda Grootboom.

According to Parents-Teachers’ Association (PTA) spokesperson Abbey Lekoaletsoe, the principal called a parents meeting, but invited only a selected few. This, according to Lekoaletsoe, was aimed at excluding those parents regarded by the principal and the governing council as problematic. Some parents were labelled “problematic” after the PTA’s inaugural meeting in July, which ordered the disbanding of the governing council.

The agenda proposed by the principal at the Sunday meeting was opposed by the parents, who demanded that she release the school’s financial report. According to Lekoaletsoe, Grootboom had agreed to do this at the July meeting.

Parents also demanded that the principal explain when she would refund the school fees, R15 per pupil, purportedly collected for the school’s reparation fund.

Lekoaletsoe said that, after paying the school fee, they had learnt that the Department of Education and Training would repair the school at its own cost. They therefore demanded that the money be refunded.

He said the principal had initially agreed to refund the money and release the financial statement.

According to Lekoaletsoe, although the principal refused to recognise the PTA, she was still accountable to the parents, who attended the weekend meeting in their personal capacities and not as PTA members.

When parents refused to proceed with the meeting until the reparation fee had been refunded and the financial statements were produced, the headmaster and the governing council walked out, allegedly to summon the police.

However, according to Lekoaletsoe, the police failed to trace the classroom where the meeting was being held and no clash took place.

The parents then took a resolution to call a parents meeting for this Sunday to discuss the idea of initiating legal action against the principal and the governing council as well as the intervention of auditors to check the school’s financial records.

Grootboom denied calling in the police and said the people who were attending the meeting were not parents but members of the civic association. She also denied calling the meeting and referred all inquiries to the chairperson of the school governing council, who could not be traced at the time of going to press.
Police arrest Ikageng pupils over sit-in demo

POLICE arrested 40 pupils attempting to hold a sit-in at the Department of Education regional offices in Potchefstroom yesterday morning to back educational demands, says a pupil leader.

Ikageng Education Co-ordinating Committee spokesman Mr Dudu Modise said police asked the pupils to leave about an hour after they entered the building and arrested them when they refused.

The sit-in was arranged to back demands for study aids to supplement examination preparation.

This was promised by Education and Development Minister Dr Stoffel van der Merwe but they had not arrived.

A further demand was for the advertisement of

43 teaching posts at two high schools in Ikageng after pupils chased away 43 white teachers in February following allegations of racism and theft.

Pupils also complained at the failure of teachers to take part in a march with their black colleagues.

No effective teaching had taken place since February, Modisc said.

A police liaison officer for the Western Transvaal was expected to comment on the alleged arrests.

Sapa
Principals stage sit-in

ABOUT 60 headmasters yesterday staged a sit-in at the offices of the Department of Education and Training in Moutse.

The principals, who were blamed for having supplied the department with wrong information about attendances of certain teachers, were chosen by residents on Monday to take the matter up with the authorities.

Mr Job Schoom, chief regional director for the DET in the Northern Transvaal, yesterday confirmed that the principals had gathered in the department's offices at Moutse.

Teachers complained that the principals were responsible for wrong details which were given to the inspector's office regarding their work.

They said most of them were present at work on the days they had been marked absent.
Department of Public Works and Land Affairs for approval.

Neusa demanded that the principals be given the task of processing teachers’ housing loans applications.

"We find these demands to be strange. Teachers know quite well that applying for a housing subsidy is a personal matter.

"We would not mind helping a teacher who really experiences housing problems. Neusa also knows clearly that appointments of teachers is something beyond principals."

"Principals cannot change rules and Neusa should take up the matter with the DET," the spokesman said.

The principals reject the call by Neusa to disband the local principals' council.

The principal’s spokesman said: "We have stated before that the council is an independent body and shall stay that way.

"It is there in the interests of the child, not of teachers who want to advance their self-interests."

A DET official, Mr. Corrie Rademeyer, yesterday came out in support of the principals, saying the group had managerial tasks to perform and could not be expected to act as 'messengers for teachers'.

He said housing loans were personal matters and did not concern principals.

On the principals’ councils, Rademeyer said although these councils were not official bodies, they afforded principals a chance to discuss common problems with their colleagues.
This is the last in our series on how teacher organisations view the launch of the SA Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) on October 6. PUPILS FORUM spoke to the giant teacher organisation, the National Education Union of SA (Neusa).

THE initiative to form Neusa was taken after the 1976 uprisings, as some teachers felt that teacher organisations at the time were passive and failed to respond to Bantu education and the brutality of the state against pupils.

Neusa president Curtis Nkondo said that, by 1980, the organisation was already operating nationally, despite state repression.

Sadtu a realisation of Neusa's aims

It was banned in February 1987 until February 2 this year. After its unbanning, the organisation grew rapidly and is now commands a large membership throughout the country.

Nkondo said the establishment of Sadtu is a victory for Neusa, because one of the objectives at the organisation's launch had been to form a single non-racial teacher body to fight apartheid education.

Asked if affiliation to a political party jeopardised Neusa's service to the community, Nkondo said: "It should not, because, when we adopted the Freedom Charter, we believed its aims were those of everybody. When we say 'the doors of learning and culture shall be open to all', who does not wish that to happen?"

Meanwhile, teachers from the Bolobedu Teachers' Union (BTU), in the Far Northern Transvaal, have distanced themselves from the remarks made by their president, Molebatsi Masedi, to PUPILS FORUM two weeks ago. Masedi said the organisation was opposed to affiliation to Neusa because Neusa was affiliated to the UDF.
In the sixth in a series on the future of teacher organisations, PUPILS FORUM spoke to the African Teachers Association of SA (Atasa), the largest and oldest black teachers' organisation.

ATASA's history can be traced back to the beginning of the century, although it had different names.

Before 1921, when a national teachers' organisation was launched, there were four bodies representing teachers in the country's four provinces.

Through the efforts of the executive of the Cape Native Teachers' Association (CNTA), a convention of the four provincial teacher associations was held in Bloemfontein on December 16 1921. This aimed to bring together all the organisations to form a single body.

CNTA president at the time, Professor DDT Jabavu, was elected president and FHM Zwide general secretary of the organisation which was to become Atasa.

However, during its formation, the teacher body could not function properly as a national structure since the education departments were still provincially controlled.

It was only in 1953, when control over education was centralised, that the teacher body began operating effectively at a national level.

At its 1962 annual conference, the Federal Council voted to change the name of the organisation to what is today known as Atasa. DM Mphahlele, who had been elected president at the previous year's conference, became the first president of the renamed organisation.

Atasa has been offering bursaries and scholarships to countless black South Africans over the years.

It is one of the few teacher organisations in the country which is affiliated to a world teacher body. It is affiliated to the World Confederation of Organisations of the Teaching Profession.

According to its current president, Hamilton Dlamlenze, the idea of having a single non-racial teacher body came from Atasa.

He said he had a meeting with the leadership of the SA Congress of Trade Unions in 1987 while he was part of a National Education Co-ordinating Committee delegation which was visiting London.

Dlamlenze said they had been disappointed by the emergence of new teacher organisations such as the National Education Union of SA, which, he said, had come as an alternative to Atasa. The argument was that Atasa was being "soft" on the government.

He said his organisation foresaw a split of ideologies in the teaching profession and came up with the idea of calling for unity.

He said Atasa would disband on October 6 and throw its weight behind the SA Democratic Teachers' Union, which will be launched on this day.

He said the organisation would not vote for affiliation to a political party or trade union, because this would mean that there was a persuance of ideologies within the organisation which, he said, would jeopardise their service to the community which had differing political beliefs.
DDT Jabavu, the founder of the organisation which was to become Atosa.
Principals complain of Neusa

SCHOOL principals in Zaaiplaas, Middelburg, are objecting to the presence of the National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) in their schools, claiming that it is a political organisation.

This is according to Zaaiplaas Neusa secretary Lemmy Mogale, who said that, since the organisation was formed, its members had been harassed by school principals.

He added that a meeting had been called where parents were mobilised against Neusa. "They were told to campaign for the dissolution of Neusa because it had turned school premises into factories by introducing union matters into the school," said Mogale.

The principals were allegedly accusing teachers who belonged to Neusa of teaching politics in their classrooms "without considering the fact that subjects such as history and economics were politically related."

"The relationship between school principals and Neusa members has deteriorated to such an extent that principals have been absent from school for more than two weeks fearing that they might be attacked by Neusa members," said Mogale.

He said that the principals of two schools asked police to arrest teachers who were Neusa members because "they were holding illegal gatherings within the school premises".

"The two also made a call to Neusa to register with the government, otherwise they would not allow it to operate in their respective schools."

Mogale said Neusa had sent a petition to the Middelburg circuit office of the Department of Education and Training (DET), demanding the resignation of the two principals "who were against the existence of Neusa."

The DET's Highveld regional director and the Middelburg circuit inspector were not available for comment at the time of going to press.
A COLD war is looming between Daveyton parents and teachers after local students accused their educators of not performing their duties.

At a meeting called by the local branch of the Congress of SA Students (Cosas) last weekend, students revealed that teachers, mainly in high schools, spent most of their time in school staff rooms working on their University of SA and Vista University assignments.

The students' meeting was poorly attended because most Daveyton residents were attending another meeting called by the town council to discuss the rent issue.

Only about 20 parents turned up at the meeting at the Lionel Kent Centre. They left angry and urged other parents and teachers to meet immediately.

According to the meeting's organisers, teachers had been informed of the meeting, but had not attended.

Responding to questions from angry parents about why students had not called the meeting earlier, Cosas branch president Stanley Rapodile said a crisis committee had been elected some months before. This committee had been expected to call parents, students and teachers to meetings to discuss the education crisis in the township.

However, this committee had not fulfilled its tasks.

A parent who lives near Rivoni Secondary School said she always saw teachers and students moving in and out of the school and she had wondered when any learning took place.

Rapodile said the shortage of teachers and textbooks also had a detrimental effect on schooling.

A few weeks ago, students staged a sit-in at the Department of Education and Training's Highveld regional offices in Springs to demand textbooks.

A few days later textbooks were delivered to some schools. However, according to Rapodile, these were too few and one textbook still had to be shared by up to eight students.

Parents at the meeting were also told of the misuse of a school vehicle by school authorities.

Rapodile called on parents to intervene in the crisis which their children faced in the schools. He said the best way to do this was to form Parent-Teacher-Student Associations.

A parent told PUPILS FORUM that he had suspected that all was not well in the schools, as parents had not been asked to attend any meetings for some time.

"We decided to call a parents' meeting because we foresaw trouble. Some students even went to the extent of threatening to physically attack the teachers. Students are considering not writing examinations because they feel they are not ready," said Rapodile. He added that the teachers' response when approached by the students had not been an encouraging one.

"When we ask them why they are not teaching us, they say: 'We will get our salaries whether you pass or not,'" said Rapodile.

Since the meeting was poorly attended, those parents present mandated the students to arrange another meeting for this weekend. All parents, teachers and students in Daveyton are requested to attend.
Technology can assist teachers

Computers have brought a new dimension to the role of the teacher — helping to make learning more stimulating and freeing teachers from mundane tasks, to spend time with pupils on a one-to-one basis.

Yet, says Lexpress Data marketing director Toby Chance, many teachers are threatened by the prospect of increased use of computers — and the sci-fi myth of the "robot teacher" persists. Teachers and trainers tend, as a group, to be conservative and not technically minded — and many resist the potential role of technology.

"In fact, the best teacher is a warm body in a classroom — but South Africa is not over endowed with either good teachers or classrooms. Where they exist we should use every tool at our disposal to make them more effective," he says.

"But interactive multimedia teaching does compare favourably with a poor teacher — and it has the advantage of being consistent."

To date, computers have been perceived as a costly investment — but Mr Chance maintains that, while the capital costs are relatively high, the running cost of a computer system is minimal.

He estimates the cost of developing a good English literacy programme in about five vernacular languages, for example, costs about $6 million.

"Once a programme has been developed it can be reproduced and circulated among schools at minimal cost. Over the years it can be upgraded — the initial development cost need never be repeated."

"By comparison, the cost of training and employing an ineffective teacher keeps rising with inflation. It makes far more sense to use computers to take the drudgery out of teaching — for instance in repetitive learning exercises and marking tests — so that the teacher can concentrate on the more creative aspect of her job."

The use of computers in local schools was promoted in the De Lange Commission report of more than a decade ago.

The Government has again started to follow the lead given by most leading private schools and is investigating the potential use of computer programs.

Two major problems need to be overcome — the high capital cost of installing equipment, and the lack of infrastructure to accommodate it — especially in the rural areas.

Mr Chance estimates the cost of a workstation at between R4 500 and R5 600, depending on the level of sophistication.

This initial outlay is daunting, but over a five to 10-year working life — during which each workstation will be used by numerous pupils — the cost is not excessively high.

The most basic option is a single disk drive system. From this level, one may take the system one step further to incorporate an audio board — which demands the extra capacity of a hard disk drive.

At this level, the computer can be linked to a video system to offer interactive multimedia teaching — ideal for literacy and language training.

Pictures on the screen show the student the object of discussion, and a recorded voice demonstrates how the word is pronounced. The student can then repeat the word — and the computer plays back his voice and the correct pronunciation, for comparison.

The next step in sophistication introduces the compact disk ROM system, which offers the advantage of vast storage capacity — 350 MBytes, equivalent to 350 000 typed pages of information — and virtually indestructible storage disks. Although currently costly, these will be manufactured locally by Gallo from the end of this year.

Teaching methods must be examined

A fresh look at teaching methods is needed if South Africa is to overcome the lack of teachers and resources and the shortcomings of its educational system.

The traditional method of seating about 35 pupils in rows while a teacher — who may or may not be qualified — imparts information, simply is not effective in producing leaders and problem-solvers.

"We need to deal with the way in which teachers present their subject matter — and at the same time make the subject matter relevant to the local context," says educationalist Gillian Maskell.

The past few years have seen a clear trend away from the authoritarian traditional system in favour of more democratic systems that develop the child at his own pace.

A system which met with some initial government resistance — but has since been accepted — is the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) method favoured by a number of church communities.

An American system, it has been adapted for the local context and offers a number of advantages, not the least being cost.

"All ACE teachers are fully qualified to Government standards, in addition to having ongoing training in the use of the system," says Trevor Yoko, executive director of ACE SA.

Although teacher-pupil ratios tend to be high — ranging from 9.1 to 20:1 — in theory the system could adapt well to situations where few fully qualified teachers are available.

Another system which has gained ground in recent years is the Montessori programme — initially geared more towards pre-school children, but now established in a few primary schools. Here, again, children are encouraged to learn at their own pace — making extensive use of specialised sensorial equipment.

In both these systems, as in many others, the teacher's role is that of a facilitator rather than an impartor of knowledge.

An alternative, which could prove a cost-effective means of releasing teachers to work with children on a one-to-one basis within the limitations of the conventional system, could be the introduction of teacher aides.
The DEB is not an easy test. The preparation is intensive, and the students must work hard to pass. However, with the right mindset and dedication, success is possible. Many pupils work long hours, but they still manage to pass the exam. The results are encouraging, and the students are proud of their achievements.

Assistance as future MATRIC pupils dismiss last-minute exam

NEWS

WHILE some matric pupils arrange for assistance as future MATRIC pupils dismiss last-minute exam

Students struggle to complete their DEB project on time. The project is a crucial part of the DEB exam, and failing to complete it can result in a poor grade. Many students are struggling to meet the deadline, and some are considering seeking help to complete their projects.

The DEB is a tough exam, and many students find it challenging. However, with the right attitude and hard work, success is possible. The students are encouraged to stay focused and motivated, and they are told to trust in their abilities.

Preparation is key to success in the DEB exam. The students are advised to work hard, stay focused, and seek help when needed. With the right mindset and dedication, success is possible.
A major teachers' organisation, the National Education Union of South Africa, did not have a mandate from its six affiliates to disband and no agreement could be reached. The Transvaal Teachers' Association, the African Teachers' Association and the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) have decided not to join the national non-racial teachers' union. The Transvaal Teachers' Association has decided to disband.
Teachers

start

325

union

BY SY MAKARINGE

A NEW 100 000-strong
non-racial teachers' union, composed of
teachers' organisations
with differing political affil-
itations, is to be
launched in Soweto this weekend.

The new union, to be
called the South African
Democratic Teachers
Union (Sadtu), will be
launched at Shareworld
entertainment complex on
Saturday, culminating in a
teachers' rally at Orlando
Stadium on Sunday.

Keynote

ANC deputy president
Mr Nelson Mandela will
deliver the keynote ad-
dress to more than 1 500
delegates representing
more than 20 teachers' organisations from
throughout the country on
Saturday.

Mr Jay Naidoo, gen-
eral secretary of the Con-
gress of South African
Trade Unions, said at a
Press conference in
Johannesburg yesterday
that the launch of Sadtu
would be attended by rep-
resentatives of the Mass
Democratic Movement.
Teachers start giant union

From Page 1.

40/90

against the background of the continuing crisis in education and the "upsurge in teacher militancy".

A number of affiliate organisations would dissolve while others would hold dual membership for a year, during which time they would wind down their operations, he said.

The launch also comes at a time when the Transvaal United African Teachers Association is expressing reservations about the dangers of "sacrificing status and values of the teaching profession".

It said the formation of Sadtu had political overtones.
In advertisements placed in several newspapers this week, Tuata said it would not consider dissolving until Sadtu had "clearly demonstrated that it was a professional body with no political party alignment or affiliation and truly representative of all teachers in the country".

Mr Thulas Nxesi, Sadtu general secretary-elect, said the question of forming an alliance with a political party or trade union would "only be entertained" when the body held its first annual congress next year.

He said Cosatu came into the picture as "a convener and facilitator" of the unification process.
Hitch at launch of teachers' body

JOHANNESBURG. — The launch of the biggest and most representative teachers organisation in the country's history suffered a slight setback this week with the withdrawal of four teachers' bodies.

The Transvaal United African Teachers Association and the Natal Teachers Society will no longer take part in the launch of the South African Democratic Teachers Union.

Two other bodies, the Natal African Teachers Union and Cape African Teachers Union, have asked for more time to decide on their future.

The top leadership positions in the union of two Cape Town educationists will be confirmed this weekend when about 1500 delegates, representing more than 20 progressive teacher organisations, will converge on Soweto to launch the new union.

Mr. Shepheard Mlidiana, of the Democratic Teachers Union, will be elected president of Sudu and Mr. Randall van den Heever, of the Cape Teachers Professional Association, will be general-secretary.

The new trade union will represent more than 100 000 teachers.

The keynote address will be delivered by ANC deputy-president, Mr. Nelson Mandela. This will be followed by a closed session where the name of the union will be formally adopted, the constitution ratified and numerous resolutions adopted.

As agreement has been reached on all issues affecting the union, the conference will have consensus on the new executive committee and the resolutions tabled.

On Sunday, a mass rally will be held at the Orlando Stadium, Soweto, to celebrate the birth of the new union. ANC national executive and SACP member, Mr. Govan Mbeki, will deliver the main address.

All the tips and form for the Gold Bowl
**OBSESSIVE-ORGANIZATIONAL SYNDROME**

**Samantha Wengender**

Teachers across the state are facing a daunting task — organizing a new union. They are fighting to protect their jobs and improve working conditions. The movement is gaining momentum, and more and more educators are coming together to demand better pay and benefits. This week, they held a rally in the capital to raise awareness about their cause.

**AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS**

Educators are affiliated with various organizations, including the National Education Association (NEA), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). These organizations provide support and resources to help members advocate for their rights and make their voices heard.

**TRADE UNION UNITY**

The new union is a fresh start for educators, who have long been fighting for better wages and working conditions. They hope to unite with other unions to create a stronger voice for all educators.

**EDUCATION MAIL**

The weekly mail, October 5, 1990
Historic teachers' launch this weekend

HISTORY will be made this weekend when 15 teacher organisations merge to form a single, non-racial body, the SA Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu).

The formation of the new body will be the culmination of two years of debates among about 150,000 teachers represented by the 15 bodies throughout the country and across racial lines. These include the African Teachers' Association of SA, Teachers' Association of SA, United Teachers' Association of SA and the National Education Union of SA.

The Natal Teachers' Society and the Transvaal Teachers' Association have been taking part in the preliminary talks as observers. However, they feel they still need to consult their members and no white teacher organisations will be joining Sadtu.

The talks to form Sadtu started in Harare, Zimbabwe, in 1988 and were hosted by the SA Council of Trade Unions and the ANC.

Since then, Cosatu had the task of mediating in the talks between progressive teacher organisations which emerged in the eighties and older teacher bodies.

The new organisation expects to command a membership of about 150,000 at its launch. About 1,800 delegates are expected at the launch at Shareworld, outside Johannesburg.

Speaking about the immediate aims of the new body, the assistant general secretary elect, Thembelani "Nexus" Nxesil, said Sadtu would seek recognition from the national education ministry and step up the demand for a single education department.

He said teacher organisations which had not been part of the Unity Forum - formed during the teacher unity talks - would be allowed to join the organisation once it was launched.

The components of the forum, he said, would disband one year after the birth of Sadtu.

Nxesli said the new organisation would not affiliate to any trade unions or political parties. However, this would be discussed this at its first congress next year.

The president elect, Shepherd Mdladlane, will share the stage with ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela at the opening of the launching conference tomorrow. Govan Mbeki will address the launching rally at Orlando Stadium on Sunday.
Addled brains and bored kids are costing SA its future.

Our teachers can't teach science and our kids aren't even listening.

The cost could be our future.

By ROBERT LAING

W/C Mail Supp 310-11/10/90.
Most industrial countries are concerned about how many children are getting a grounding in science from teachers unqualified in the discipline. In this country the numbers reach crisis levels, with many pupils having no maths teacher at all.

Of the 5,652 pupils who wrote the Department of Education's matric higher-grade maths exam last year, 84 percent failed. Of the 886 who passed, more than half scraped through with an E (40 to 49 percent).

Nearly 90 percent of the 5,048 candidates for the DET's higher-grade physical science exam failed. Not a single matric pupil managed to get a distinction in physical science. Only four managed to get Bs.

DET science examiner Eddy Jansen says: "I admit the problem is terrible. Our teachers can't teach and the syllabi bore the kids to sleep."

Jansen says he is fighting his bosses for less theory and more practical work in schools: "I've prescribed 64 chemistry experiments this year — two a teaching week. You should see this year's chemistry paper; it looks like a comic book, full of diagrams and multiple-choice questions. I want science exam papers to stop looking like telephone directories."

Every school built by the DET has half-a-million rands worth of laboratory equipment which the present syllabi hardly use, Jansen says.

The chaos created by apartheid's 18 departments of education hides some of the problem. This country has an extra handicap in that, while industrial nations struggled to encourage young people to persevere with maths, Verwoerd forbade maths being taught in non-white schools. Less than 5 percent of the total science and engineering graduates in 1988 were black, 88 percent were white.

Because of the high failure rate in science subjects, schools tend to encourage their pupils to look to the humanities. The effects on higher education are becoming increasingly evident: 82 percent of graduates in 1986 studied arts or social sciences, engineering accounted for 5 percent, natural science 11 percent and maths 2 percent.

Is science inherently harder to learn, or is it the result of poor teaching?

Science and technology have become viewed as arid subjects, to be learnt by rote, with less scope for the imagination than the humanities.

In America, high-profile scientists like physicist Richard Feynman and mathematician Morris Kline have been outspoken critics of the education authorities for selecting dull and empty commercial textbooks and uninspiring syllabi.

"Ignorance of mathematics has attained the status of a social grace," Kline said.

It's an old problem. Even giants of maths hated it at school. Oliver Heaviside, a school dropout who later reformulated science by introducing vectors, wrote: "It is shocking that young people should be adding their brains over mere logical subtleties, trying to understand the proof of one obvious fact in terms of something equally obvious and conceiving a profound dislike for mathematics."
Strikes policy keeps SA's teachers apart

THE country's major teachers' bodies are sharply divided on the use of strikes to settle pay disputes.

And although both organizations claim to represent teachers of all races, the possibility of their uniting seems increasingly remote.

This week the whites-only Teachers' Federal Council, representing 90,000 public school teachers, announced it was opening its ranks to all races.

Three days later the Congress of South African Trade Unions launched its new South African Democratic Teachers' Union, which is also open to all races.

But neither appears likely to achieve its objectives.

The TFC has effectively alienated the majority of black teaching associations because of what its chairman, Professor Hennie Maree, calls its "strong view on the inappropriateness of certain industrial actions such as strikes, go-slows and stayaways".

"Through the creation of proper negotiating and bargaining mechanisms, applied in an acceptable and credible manner, such actions may be permanently eliminated," he said.

Sadtu, on the other hand, is set to be both militant and political.

According to president-elect Shepherd Molladinana, it aims to "eradicate apartheid and vigorously strive towards a free, non-racial, non-sexist, compulsory and democratic single education system with a mass-based curriculum".

He said Sadtu would negotiate with the Minister of National Education because of its commitment to a single education ministry.

The keynote speaker at Sadtu's launch, ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela, told more than 2,000 delegates it was their duty to "democratize the schoolroom".

"Education, he said, had been misused as a tool of apartheid. The new South Africa needed a new approach.

Mr Mandela urged improvements in the quantity and quality of teachers.

He said they had played an important role in the struggle against apartheid and must continue to do so, as education was important to society and the country's future.

However, Sadtu is experiencing difficulties in uniting black teachers' associations.

At least two -- the Transvaal United African Teachers' Association and the Natal Teachers' Society -- have declined to join, maintaining that a federal system is better than the unitary one favoured by Sadtu.
Tuata gets a no from Sadtu on observer status

"There are other organisations with similar problems and our constitution does make provision to accommodate them," Scoopesengoe said.

But, says Tuata executive officer Noel Huntingtonford, this provision only states that all participating organisations should be invited within a year.

Huntingford said Tuata endorsed the idea of teacher unity, but when it met to discuss the launch of Sadtu, serious queries came up and the union decided not to empower the mother body, ATA, to enter into the unity agreement.

Alkaa, which includes affiliates of Tuata - the Natal African Teachers' Union (Nataa), the Orange Free State African Teachers' Association (Ofatsa), the Cape African Teachers' Union (Catu), Border Progressive Teachers Union (Bptu) and the Transkei Teachers Association (TTA) - cannot disband without members' consent.

At a meeting of these affiliates on September 29, no unanimous agreement could be reached.

Two affiliates were against signing, two uncertain, and two in favour.

One of the questions Tuata would like answered is why some top-ranking ATA officials made premature statements about diminishing the association, knowing they had no mandate.

They also question Sadtu's claim to be democratic in view of the "infodemic methods used in NTUF meetings."

They also mentioned partially shows towards Cosatu-aligned organisations.
New teachers’ body formed

By CHRIS MABUYA and ELIAS MOERANE

THOUSANDS of teachers attended the rally of the newly formed South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU) held at the Orlando Stadium yesterday.

Opening the rally SADTU president Shepherd Mdlalana said: “This is the moment every teacher has been waiting for. Unity, organisation and struggle should be the watchwords of the organisation. All teachers should see themselves as one under the SADTU family.”

He said SADTU will fight for a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist system of education. “We want to tell the world that we still have 17 different departments of education in our country.

“We want the world to know that conditions in our schools are not showing what De Klerk called irreversible.

“We have no schools, no resources and the present ones are overcrowded. Some schools have just received textbooks.”

Mdlalana said teachers should fight for their rights “now”. These rights included “equal job equal pay” for all teachers.

“The department of education will not protect any teacher. In the past teachers waited in vain for this ‘manna to come from heaven’.

“We must refuse to be loyal to warnings that we be careful of biting the hand that feeds us and that half a loaf is better than no bread.

“We want the whole bread.”

Turning to accountability, Mdlalana said teachers are part of the community. SADTU needed teachers who are responsible, committed and who will be under its care and discipline.
A dream come true

South, October 11 to October 17, 1990

SADTU PRESIDENT: Shapelo Mphahlele

SA DALI'S LATEST SHORT STORY: "THE ELECTION AS PRESIDENT"

Sheikh Gunaratna

The teacher's joy: Celebrating at Sharrowdale

For Sharrowdale Mildred and

Teacher's Guild, Caledon

"A dream come true"
EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

DEILIING IS GROUNDED IN THE IDEA THAT ALL CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION. THIS MEANS THAT EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND THRIVE IN A SUPPORTIVE AND ENGAGING ENVIRONMENT. OUR GOAL IS TO HELP CHILDREN REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND PREPARE THEM FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE.

WE OFFER A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO MEET THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF EACH CHILD. WHETHER IT'S EXTRA-SCHOOL PROGRAMS, HOME VISITS, OR IN-SCHOOL SUPPORT, WE HAVE A SOLUTION FOR YOU.

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY CHILD IS UNIQUE AND THAT THEIR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY SHOULD BE PERSONALIZED TO MEET THEIR NEEDS. OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS WORK CLOSER TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD RECEIVES THE SUPPORT THEY NEED TO GROW AND PROSPER.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EXCELLENT SERVICE AND TO HELPING CHILDREN ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS. WHETHER IT'S ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, OR EMOTIONAL, WE ARE HERE TO HELP. LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY CHILD HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

WE OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS. WE ARE commitmentED TO INNOVATIVE AND STRATEGIC LEARNING AND EARNING STRATEGIES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN AND CREATE A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

WE PLACE A GREAT DEGREE OF IMPORTANCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TEACHER AND STUDENT. OUR TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS WORK TOOLS TO FOSTER A POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.

WE ARE DEDICATED TO OFFERING QUALITY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES THAT HELP CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY CHILD IS UNIQUE AND SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED. WE ARE HERE TO HELP CHILDREN GROW AND THRIVE.

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the sad classroom clowns

Despite this, she was still hesitant to publish and worried about the response from people she wrote about, some of whom were portrayed in a less than flattering light.

However, the climate seemed right and she decided to go ahead, to publish and be damned.

"I never thought of it as a political book; it is more about personal interactions involving people who have been disadvantaged as a result of a political system," she said.

De Villiers is the kind of teacher who is always a favourite with her pupils: pretty, fun and caring. She says she will always return to teaching, however well her book fares — and from initial reactions it is sure to rocket up the best-sellers list and create a storm of criticism of the DET which, who knows, might stimulate reforms.

"I am essentially a teacher, absolutely typical. I love teaching and being in a classroom."

"When I left Unitas, I was in a state of shock, but also felt I had let down the children. I wanted to get back there as soon as possible and I still feel — when my son is old enough — that I will."

She said she would never go back to a white school, because the need for teachers there was not so great, but if she returned to Soweto she hoped it would be under "educationally normal" circumstances.

© The names of the institution and staff in this report have been altered to protect the individuals mentioned.

thumb in his mouth, removed it with loud sucking sounds.
"Good Lord, Richard! You didn’t make them up?

"Oh yes, Liz. It was the only thing to do. It saved me a lot of work. Of course I could not give them high marks otherwise someone —"

he pointed towards the principal’s office,

Room Number One — "would become suspi-
sious. So I was forced to keep the marks low."

Sitting in the staffroom one day, De Villiers heard the swishing of a sjambok and a girl

whispering in the next-door cubicle.

The lashes increased in intensity and the girl began to wail softly. Three more, and one lash
shook on to the table with a crash, moving it
about. By this time the child was sobbing,
while Conrad, the teacher wanted, "You will be
sorry, you will never forget this."

Conrad was relentless, in a seeming trance,
as the girl shrieked out in a dementia of pain.

After 10, 11, 12 lashes, De Villiers could re-
maintain a silent witness in her English teachers’
cubicle no longer and rushed out to try to stop
the torture. She found a young girl, with blood
trickling down her head, hugging her body

The principal rushed out of his office to stop
the beating; both he and Conrad stood to lose
their jobs if the authorities found out, as DET
regulations allow only a certain number of lash-
es — three at most — "to be administered" and
these only by the principal or his deputy. Girls
may not be struck at all.

De Villiers' experiences as a teacher in Soweto
continued, each one more bizarre to her way
of thinking and matrix of values. She started
writing them down, using her hours in the
staffroom which should have been used for

teaching but which, because of the laziness of
the principal in drawing up a timetable, was es-
centially free time for the teachers. The chil-
dren, in the meantime, sat waiting in their class-
rooms, frustrated yet apparently unfazed by the
complete lack of organisation and care on the
side of the authorities.

Eventually in 1985, De Villiers was driven
out of Soweto by the chaos which had set in.

After she had been attacked by a group of kids
(not from Unitas) imbued with the spirit of "lib-
eration before education" that swept through
the schools at that time, it was deemed unsafe
for her to continue working there.

Traumatised by her experiences, she turned
her notes into a book, Walking the Tightrope,
which has just hit the bookshop shelves.

"I initially wrote the book for myself — it was
as though I was inside a time bomb and until I
expressed my thoughts and knowledge onto
paper, I wouldn’t have been able to relax at all.

"However, it wasn’t until the beginning of
this year, with the 'new South Africa,'" she
said, sketching quotation marks in the air to em-
phasise her scepticism, "that I thought I should
take courage and try to make a contribution to
the process."

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

WEEKEND MAIL, October 12 to October 18 1990 15
Ikageng principals hounded

By DAN DHLAMINI

Protesting teachers chased out principals at eight Ikageng schools this week following a DET circular announcing that some teachers had been put on probation.

South African Democratic Teachers' Union spokesman Elias Luthuli said the eight principals were seen by the union "as an extension of the DET".

DET Diamond Fields region spokesman J Chambers told City Press his department was investigating the incident.
Cops bar march to DET

CHANTING Diamond Field region teachers were this week barred by police from marching to the DET offices in Potchefstroom.

Teachers said they had to scatter in all directions as police – with dogs – fired teargas, birdshot and rubber bullets at them.

Police denied that dogs or teargas was used, but confirmed birdshot and rubber bullets were fired at "illegal marchers who stoned police vehicles".

There were no injuries and no arrests were made.

National Education Union of South Africa (Neusa) regional president Simon Scholai said a delegation eventually managed to escape the Ilanga police roadblock and presented a memorandum to DET regional director Gunther Merhold.

Their demands include a single service contract for all teachers, a living wage, job security for qualified teachers on "temporary" status, and the reinstatement of Bethal teacher TJ Motlupi.

Neusa expressed concern at letters informing individual teachers their services would be terminated at the end of the year because they had not made themselves available for evaluation by the DET.

It was also concerned about letters from the regional office stating that pupils who had paid exam fees but who had not registered formally with the DET would not be able to write exams.
Teacher, took funds.
To get high priority, Education in Rural Areas
DET suspends unionists

By LULAMA LUTI

Teachers in Bohlo-
kong near Bethlehem
have threatened not to
mark internal examina-
tion scripts until two of
their colleagues, who
were suspended last
month, were reinstated.

MP Jacobs and ZM
Leeu, members of the
National Education
Union of South Africa,
were suspended by the
DET – allegedly for their
union activities.

Jacobs and Leeu
were reportedly mandat-
ed by Neusa to write a
letter to Motshepuwa Pri-
mary School principal
SA Nkosi, demanding a
refund of money de-
ducted from two teach-
ers’ salaries. Jacobs
and Leeu were later sus-
pended.

A Neusa spokesman
this week confirmed that
teachers in the area
had decided they would
not mark exam scripts
until the two were rein-
stated.

Meanwhile, several
meetings between par-
ents and DET officials
have failed to resolve the
pending conflict.

At another meeting
on Tuesday, principals of
all schools in the area
decided to stage a “sit-
in” at the DET area
offices to protest the rein-
statement of Jacob and
Leeu.

The DET could not
be reached for comment.
KwaNdebele teachers stage sit-in

Ten teachers began a sit-in at the Education and Culture offices in KwaMhlanga yesterday after the Minister failed to arrive for an appointment with the SA Democratic Teachers' Union, according to a union spokesman, Willie Kutumela. The union wished to discuss alleged intimidation of teachers, deducted monies; and teachers' dismissal and transfer. Mt Kutumela said they planned to stay until the Minister spoke to them. — Staff Reporter.
KwaNdebele teachers stage sit-in

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Mr Kutumela said they planned to stay until the Minister spoke to them. — Staff Reporter.
Minister seeks ruling against teachers' union

WILSON ZWANE

THE Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) has until next Tuesday to show cause why it should not be interdicted against disobeying Department of Education and Training (DET) instructions.

The interdict application was brought by Education and Training Minister Soffel van der Merwe on Tuesday this week against the Sadtu Witbank branch and 428 school principals and teachers of the department in the Witbank area.

In a statement yesterday, the DET said the application was in response to "evidence that Witbank's branch of Sadtu had issued written instructions to schools in the area to the effect that the internal examinations be conducted contrary to the management and arrangements of the department.

In terms of the application, Sadtu and its branch committee in the Witbank inspection circuit of the DET have to show cause why they should not be restrained from instructing or encouraging teachers to ignore or to act contrary to departmental instructions, or to hinder or in any way prevent inspectors or other officers of the DET from entering school premises to perform their duties and functions.

However, an agreement on "certain terms of the application" was reached by the respondents before the application was heard and the DET said the court had ordered the agreement be made available to all teachers in the Witbank area who had to give reasons on or before Tuesday next week why it should not be confirmed.

Principals are to comply with all departmental instructions in relation to the moderation and submission of schedules of the results of the internal examinations of the DET.

The school principals are also to give all instructions to teachers at their respective schools to ensure that these instructions are complied with.

It was also part of the agreement that the members of the Witbank branch committee of Sadtu and principals and teachers would not issue any reports to the pupils in respect of the internal examinations until the moderation of the results by the DET has been completed.
DET suspends teacher

THE Department of Education and Training has suspended the chairman of the Saulsville/Atteridgeville Teachers’ Union, Mr Leonard Dau, who allegedly prevented DET officials from entering the premises of the school where he teaches.

Dau, a teacher at Thohoyandou Primary School, faces charges of misconduct for allegedly preventing departmental officials from executing their duties when they visited his school, a spokesman for the DET said yesterday.

In a statement released yesterday, SATU called on the DET to unconditionally reinstate Dau and another teacher, Mr TA Makita, who was allegedly unfairly dismissed from his post. A spokesman for the DET said Makita agreed to be temporarily employed at Gatang Secondary School in Mamelodi from January to June this year because that post belonged to another teacher who reported back to school in June. He rejected allegations that Makita was dismissed.
Get to work or else... says DET official

By LULAMA LUTI

THE Department of Education and Training (DET) has warned teachers in Behlokong near Bethlehem to return to work or "face appropriate action".

This week DET assistant director for Bethlehem Caesar Venter said teachers were given a November 27 deadline to submit marks for all subjects and promotion schedules.

"The final day for the promotions by myself and principals is November 28 and thereafter I will be away on holiday," he said.

The teachers' decision follows the suspension of two colleagues allegedly for involvement in the National Education Union of South Africa.

Venter confirmed the suspension of MP Jacobs and ZM Leeu, but declined to give reasons.

In another development the DET has issued notices to 104 teachers informing them of salary deductions because they were absent from school on July 10.

City Press was this week shown the notice, which said an amount of R94 would be deducted from salaries in January.

Venter also confirmed this.
Stoffel moves to stop issue of reports

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

The Minister of Education and Training Dr Stoffel van der Merwe has obtained an urgent interim Supreme Court ruling to stop 428 Witbank principals and teachers issuing thousands of unauthorised school reports this week.

In papers before the court, the Witbank branch of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) and 428 Department of Education and Training (DET) principals and teachers were accused of "isolating" the DET.

Dr van der Merwe said the Witbank branch of the Sadtu had issued written instructions to schools to the effect that the internal examinations were to be conducted contrary to DET instructions. The Sadtu had issued its own timetable and said that pupils should not attend school on certain days.

DET officials and inspectors had been refused entry to the DET's Witbank schools and principals were not complying with DET instructions on the moderation of results.

In an affidavit, DET director-general Dr Bernhard Louw said the respondents were creating a situation in which, contrary to public interest, pupils would be issued with reports purporting to be official department documents.

These reports would say the pupil had passed an examination conducted according to the uniform standards and requirements of the Education Act.

He said that during the year the union had issued a circular which made it clear it was organising a campaign to isolate the DET from its schools, principals and teachers.

Before the application was heard, an agreement was reached between the Minister and the respondents that it would be in the best interests of the pupils that certain terms of the application should be subject to an immediate agreement.

In terms of the agreement, principals were to comply with all department instructions on the moderation of results.

Principals were to instruct their teachers to comply with the order. Principals were also to attend a DET meeting to moderate end-of-year results.

The order was granted by Mr Justice Swart. The respondents have been given until tomorrow to give reason why the agreement should not be made final.
More periods for teachers move likely to cause row

THE Department of Education and Training has announced that from next year, the number of teaching periods a day will be increased in all its secondary schools.

Mr Hennie de Wet, the DET's public liaison officer in Pretoria, said at present the school day consists of 10 periods of 35 minutes each.

This will be replaced by a school day of 11 periods of 32 minutes each.

"The new system was developed so that every examination subject can be allotted eight teaching periods a week.

"Other measures are that Standard 8 pupils will in future be required to take only six subjects instead of seven.

"Both official languages will not be compulsory for Standards 8, 9 and 10. However, the second official language may be taken by pupils who wish to do so," he said.

In addition, De Wet said as the new school day will differ by only two minutes from the existing one, there is no valid reason for increasing the number of teaching posts at schools to accommodate the new timetable.

The announcement has already drawn sharp criticism from some Soweto teachers.

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

Those interviewed by the Sowetan said it was badly timed and may get 1991 off to a bad start.

A Soweto school principal who asked not to be identified, said the DET was knowingly increasing the problem.

He said it must still be very clear in the minds of the DET officials that one of the main complaints that led to the "chalk-down strike" by teachers in the Johannesburg region was the congested time-tables.

Stubborn

"It is crystal clear that the DET is not prepared to listen and furthermore it does not want to consult.

"It stubbornly says it cannot succumb to pressure. More periods in any other language means overloading the teacher.

"The irony here is that we are not given more teachers. It will not come as a surprise if teachers do not comply and instead defy the new directive. I, for one, would rather stick to old number of periods which were somehow acceptable."
Witbank teachers
for 28
1990
bow to DET terms

Pretoria Correspondent

Witbank schoolteachers, taken to court by the
Minister of Education and Training for not
complying with instructions, have now agreed
to comply with DET directives.

Last week the application in the Pretoria
Supreme Court by the Minister against the
South African Democratic Teachers Union
(Sadtu) and the principals and teachers at 18
black schools was postponed to yesterday.

It was to obtain an interdict stopping Sadtu
and the others from writing exams on their
own dates, thus shortening the school year.

At the time, Sadtu and the principals
agreed to comply with lawful DET instruc-
tions. It appeared that teachers had also sub-
mitted to the agreement.

Mr Justice le Roux ordered that copies of
the order now directing them to comply be
distributed to all the teachers.
Sadtu applies to DET

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

THE newly-formed South African Democratic Teachers Union has formally applied to the Ministry of National Education for recognition. The union's delegation has met in Pretoria, for the first time, with the new Minister of National Education, Mr L A Pienaar. A follow-up meeting is to be held in January next year.

In a joint statement, the two parties said the Minister accepted Sadtu as one of the important partners when negotiating general educational policy matters, specifically the conditions of service of educators.

They said the discussions covered a wide range of issues and marked the beginning of a relationship between the educational authorities and Sadtu.

During the meeting, Sadtu formally applied for recognition. The Minister undertook to forward the application to the relevant authorities and undertook to respond to the application as soon as possible.

The parties also agreed to establish a joint working group to discuss a number of vital issues. These include the nature of collective bargaining relations between Sadtu and the educational authorities and the composition, nature and criteria for admission to a negotiating forum in which a number of teachers’ associations will be represented.

In addition, the statement said the Minister undertook to raise with his education colleagues issues requiring urgent attention, namely the permanent appointment of probationers and temporary personnel.
**Matanzima’s fear is unfounded – Holomisa**

**FORMER Transkeian President Kaiser Matanzima had no reason to flee the homeland, the chairman of the Transkei Military Council, Major-General Bantu Holomisa said yesterday.**

Matanzima reportedly fled the territory on Tuesday and has appealed to the South African Government for protection from an alleged plot to assassinate him.

The Government has received a cable from him asking South Africa to intervene as he feared for his life. The cable was sent at 5 pm, half an hour before Matanzima checked out of Queenstown’s Royal Hotel.

It is believed he left his farm in Ezebeleni in Transkei in the early afternoon for Queenstown.

“[I] have no knowledge of him fleeing the country and if he has done so, then he did it of his own accord for reasons only known to him,” said Holomisa.

“But I must point out that he has made such alarming statements in the past and when we investigated, we did not find any evidence backing up his allegations,” said Holomisa.

**SADTU plans mass action**

**THE Pretoria branch of the South African Democratic Teachers Union is planning mass community action against the suspension and dismissal of two of their members.**

**A spokesman for SADTU, said the union was consulting with all organisations for maximum support.**

The spokesman said Mr Shine Dau of Atteridgeville was suspended by the Department of Education and Training after he allegedly requested a school inspector to get out of the school premises.

The union alleged that Dau’s action was in line with the demands of the “defiance campaign” waged by teachers.

Mr Tshepo Makita of Mamelodi was dismissed on charges of “misconduct” after he allegedly refused to meet with the northern Transvaal regional director Mr Job Schoeman.

The union official said Makita was also dismissed because he was allegedly on “a temporary post” even though there is a shortage of 17 teachers at his school.

Schoeman confirmed that Dau had been formally suspended on charges of misconduct. He said Makita was not dismissed, but not re-appointed to his post.”
The end training and experience in South Africa.

"The expression of the team's confidence in our potential to develop our further education and training programs.

School in 1971.

The expansion of the team's confidence in our potential to develop our further education and training programs.

Programs for teachers in South Africa.

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Programs for teachers in South Africa.
Teachers-targeted-for-disciplinary-action-

THE Pretoria Education Co-ordinating Committee (Precc) has requested a meeting with the regional education authorities to iron out problems in preparation for the 1991 academic year.

Precc spokesperson, Adolphus Mphephu told PUPILS FORUM that Pretoria was among the regions that had had no proper schooling since the beginning of this year. He attributed this to the "lack of co-operation" from the regional education authorities.

It was in this region where about 200 teachers were dismissed for taking part in the defiance campaign. The dismissals sparked off a one-day national boycott.

After five meetings with Pretoria regional director Job Schoeman failed to resolve the crisis, Mphephu said, the National Education Co-ordinating Committee was asked to intervene and a meeting with education and development aid minister, Stoffel van der Merwe was held.

Van der Merwe, who is regarded by his junior officers as being soft on community organisations, advised the two parties - the Pretoria regional authorities and Precc - to sort out the crisis amicably.

According to Mphephu, Van der Merwe said they should do so to prevent another crisis in the forthcoming academic year.

The two parties met and agreed that all dismissed teachers be reinstated without loss of any benefits other than their monthly salaries.

The meeting also dealt with the case of about 2 000 teachers who did not receive their July salaries. Their salaries were withheld because teachers refused to follow the DET calendar and continued with classes even after schools were supposed to have closed.

This was part of the defiance campaign aimed at pressurising the DET into addressing the grievances of black teachers.

Mphephu said the dispute over the non-payment of salaries was currently under discussion with regional director Job Schoeman.

As part of their defiance campaign, teachers also barred DET inspectors from schools.

Despite assurances by Schoeman soon after the defiance campaign, that no teacher would be victimised for participating in the protest actions, a number of teachers were targeted for disciplinary action.

According to Mphephu, an Atteridgeville teacher, LS Dau was suspended after he asked an inspector to leave the premises of a certain school.

Mphephu said Dau did not expel the inspector but advised him to leave, because his presence could have disrupted classes.

Another teacher, TA Makila of Kgateng School in Mamelodi, was dismissed for "unclear" reasons.
THE National African Teachers Union of South Africa is to hold a mass meeting at Legazi Central High School in Nelspruit tomorrow at 11am.

Mr Nhlanhla Motsumeyane, NATASA's national publicity secretary, said the purpose of the meeting was to introduce the union to teachers in the area.

He said discussions would include the union's policy document.
Teachers' union meets the DET

By SANDILE MEMELA

A ROW is brewing between the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) and the Department of Education and Training (DET) after threats to teachers on probation who refuse to be evaluated by inspectors and principals.

This comes after the historic meeting this week between a Sadtu delegation and National Education Minister AL Plenaar in Pretoria, where a joint working committee was established.

Also agreed on was a structure for collective bargaining by teachers and new criteria for teacher representation in negotiations with the DET.

In a joint statement, Plenaar undertook to treat urgently the permanent appointment of teachers employed as temporary personnel.

But Sadtu assistant general secretary Thembelani Nxes said some Sadtu members with temporary posts who refused to be evaluated were still being victimised.

He said several temporary teachers had received letters threatening them with loss of their jobs.

"Threatening teachers with expulsion is not likely to resolve the crisis," said Nxes.

He promised his organisation would do everything to protect the interests of its members.

He has demanded the DET prove its commitment to resolving the education crisis by withdrawing its threats to teachers.

"We are committed to the resolution of the education problem, but will use our power to deter our members and for justice in education," said Nxes.

Political comment and newsbriefs by K Sihle, headline and sub-editing by K Ndabho, both of 28 Black Street, New Doornfontein, Johannesburg.
THOUSANDS of black teachers in the Transvaal and the Free State lost their jobs this week, setting the scene for what the SA Democratic Teachers' Union forecasts as a "chaotic and violence-ridden 1991".

But according to the Department of Education and Training, it's the teachers' own fault.

The union claims that "not less than" 4 000 primary and secondary school teachers have refused to be evaluated by the DET's circuit inspectors, as set out in their conditions of service.

They allege that the inspectors victimise teachers, particularly those known as activists in the "education struggle".

Warning

The Director of Liaison Services for the DET, Corrie Radermeyer, said:

"We warned about this situation earlier in the year when it became clear that inspectors were being prevented from gaining access to schools.

"We said that teachers on probation (those hired this year and late last year who have not yet been evaluated) could lose their jobs if they persisted with these actions."

The regional offices of the DET in the Transvaal and the Free State sent out letters in October asking probationary teachers to "apply in writing to be evaluated."

Deadline

The letters warned: "Refusal to be evaluated may lead to people themselves being responsible for the termination of their own services."

Final reminders were mailed in mid-November stating that "if no reply is received from you on or before 30 November 1990 it will be assumed that it is your intention to act in conflict with the Departmental instruction and your services will be terminated."

SADTU assistant general secretary Thembe-nani Thubu Nketsi: "We met Minister Louis Pienaar on November 23 and had discussions with him about temporary teachers and those on probation."

"We agreed to set up a joint working committee on the issues, so you can imagine how surprised we were when these letters started arriving."

"SADTU agrees that evaluation of teachers is necessary, but we see nothing wrong with this being carried out by the school principals."
Bursary offer to student teachers

THE Steel and Engineering Industries Federation of South Africa is to offer a number of bursaries to students of good academic ability in recognition of the urgent need for an adequate supply of well-trained teachers, especially for black teachers.

A spokesman said the bursaries are open to secondary school teachers in their second or third year of study at teacher training colleges in South Africa who are planning to teach mathematics, physical science, English, Afrikaans or technical subjects. Preference will be given to student teachers of high academic merit.

Seifsa bursaries for student teachers taking full-time courses amount to R1 100 a year. There are no contractual obligations attached to the bursaries. Application forms are available from: Head - Education and Training Division, Seifsa, PO Box 1338, Johannesburg, 2000.
Teachers to submit to DET

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

Teachers who were taken to court by the Department of Education and Training for starting a defiance campaign against the department, have now agreed to comply with the DET's directives.

Mr Justice le Roux this week ordered that copies of the interdict directing teachers to comply with instructions from the department be distributed to all of them.

Last week, the Minister's application against Sadtu and others from writing exams on their own dates, was postponed in the Pretoria Supreme Court to Tuesday last week.

The Minister was seeking an order stopping Sadtu and others from writing exams on their own dates, thus shortening the school year.

At the time, Sadtu and the principals agreed to comply with lawful DET instructions.

It appeared that teachers have also submitted to the agreement.
A TEACHER crisis is developing since about 4000 teachers on probation could be fired because they are unable to undergo official evaluation due to a "ban" on inspectors from visiting schools.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has circulated letters to all teachers on probation and in areas where the inspectors do not visit the schools, inviting them to apply in writing to be evaluated.

Apparently most of the teachers had not done this by the time the deadline expired on November 30.

In the DET’s final reminder, it was stated that those teachers who did not apply the department would “accept that it is your intention to act in conflict with the departmental instructions and your services will be terminated.”

It was unclear at the time of going to press if the teachers had actually been fired.

The move was condemned by the SA Democratic Teachers’ Union (Sadtu) which described it as victimisation.

Sadtu assistant-general secretary Thembelani “Thulas” Nxesu said the department’s warning was unacceptable.

He said a Sadtu delegation met with the national education minister Louis Pienaar last week and it was agreed that a joint working committee would be formed to draw up a job description for inspectors, before they could be accepted in the schools.

In a joint statement released after the meeting, the two parties agreed that the education minister would consult with other education officials about the permanent appointment of probationers and temporary personnel.

Thulas charged that the undertakings of senior officials were being disregarded by their juniors.

An irate Thulas said: “You meet with the minister today and you agree on something. But, when you go back to your region, you find no change.”

He said his organisation remained committed to negotiating with the department around this and many other issues.

“We believe that this move is not in the interests of education in this country,” he said.

If the teachers were not readmitted, many children would be without teachers at the beginning of next year.
**SWEET DREAMS**

**Next year** will be the one in which school boycotts end, teacher strikes take place after hours, the first year in 15 that learning takes place in Soweto schools... that is what the Soweto Education Co-ordinating Committee wants but there is little sign it will happen.

The outlook for black schooling, using Soweto as an example, already looks like another chapter in a horror story. In Soweto this year 12,000 pupils wrote matric: only 14% are expected to pass. In primary schools, 37% of all pupils failed and the schools — already crowded and understaffed — face the largest influx of Grade One pupils ever.

Last weekend the committee met pupil and teacher representatives in the Magaliesberg to start seeking solutions for the problems faced next year. They addressed three major issues:

- □ Violence;
- □ Erosion of the education culture as a result of actions by teachers and pupils; and
- □ Other programmes to supplement inadequate education.

**Disciplinary action**

Thirty-three schoolchildren died during recent violence in Soweto. However, says committee chairman David Mapepe, all were killed outside schools during school hours.

"We have proposed very strict rules and regulations to ensure that all children are in school between given times in the morning and afternoon. Rosters will have to be kept and children who miss lessons will be subject to disciplinary measures decided by the school and parents. Teachers who miss classes will also be subject to disciplinary action.

"There was a perturbing incidence of youngsters becoming victims of violence in shebeens. We have made proposals that peddlers of liquor should meet Soweto civic asso-