Cops beat up alleged wizard

Allegation of the Year: Abounding Mindwarp Yampympy (37) with the assistance of the Year Toppy

45 Murders
Planned for Hit Squad

KwaZulu Police implicated in violence • Policemen in witch-hunt dream

KwaZulu Times Thursday 28 January 1993
R40-m down the Mutlomuvi River

By Julianne du Toit

Farris Siwela said the Lebowa government had told them the water could be used only for coffee irrigation and could not be used by the community, which now carries water in buckets from the river.

But Claasie Claassens, director-general of the Water Affairs and Forestry Department, said the dam water would have fulfilled the needs of 80,000 people living in the area.

No one can work out why the dam failed, except to say the concrete tunnel under the earthen wall collapsed, undermining the rest of the wall.

Consulting engineer P.J. van der Walt, of Eksteen, Van Wyk and Nissen in Pietersburg, said he was baffled by the collapse.

Frans Cillie of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, which lent most of the money for the building of the dam, said investigations would be carried out.

A large earth dam in Lebowa, built at a cost of about R40 million, mysteriously collapsed in the early hours of Monday morning when it was only between 26 and 28 percent full, Lebowa engineers have confirmed.

The Zoeknog Dam on the Mutlomuvi River near Bushbuck Ridge was finished only a month ago, and was being filled for the first time.

The collapse has enraged game reserve owners downstream, particularly the Varty brothers who own the exclusive Londolozi game reserve.

They said the dam should never have been built in the first place. Its construction and collapse had caused huge ecological damage.

"These people are stealing water," said John Varty.

The community around the Zoeknog Dam has expressed its satisfaction over the collapse. School principals...
Mud-slinging after collapse of dam

THE spectacular hole that appeared in the Zoeknog Dam this week has led to speculation that corruption may have been responsible for the disaster.

The Zoeknog Dam, on the Matlomuvi River in Lebowa, was completed only a month ago at a cost conservatively put at R38 million.

Early on Monday morning, the brand new dam wall collapsed, sparking speculation among property owners in the area that millions of rands had disappeared into back pockets. Sources in the area said the dam's construction may have failed because of the use of second-grade materials or theft of monies destined for construction.

The dam, which was built to hold 12 million cubic metres of water, was being filled for the first time when it burst, but was only 28 percent full.

The Lebowa government, whose Department of Works constructed the earthen dam wall, said it was the concrete tunnel underneath the dam that failed.

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), which put up R30 million for the scheme, concurred that this seemed to be the situation.

But Grinaker Construction, which put up the spillway tower and the concrete tunnel, retorted it was the wall that had failed, not their construction.

“We have 100 percent confidence in our construction,” said managing director “Bean” Bornheimer.

The consulting engineers, Eksteen, Van der Walt and Nissen, of Pietersburg, said they were baffled.

An inquiry by independent professionals would have to be appointed by the contracting party, the Lebowa government, said P J van der Walt, who was in charge of construction.

The earth had been properly compacted, and instruments to detect moisture and vibrations had been installed. He could not say whether these instruments had given any untoward readings.

A community leader from the Zoeknog area said that in his opinion, people with vested interests had built the dam, because villagers living around the dam were told they could have no access to its water.

Farris Siwela said they were told to sink a borehole or take water from the river. There is no running water in the villages surrounding the dam.

Siwela said there were rumours that the dam had been sabotaged by angry neighbourhood youths.

He said the Lebowa government had told him the water was meant for coffee farmers. A group of white farmers had shares with the Lebowa government in the proposed coffee project, he said.

The community became so angry that they had told Londolozi’s community contact officer, Solty Mphaule, that if they could not have access to the water, no one would.

Lebowa government project official Bernie Badenhorst denied the water was only for coffee farmers, saying it was for consumption by 90,000 people in the area.

For Londolozi private game reserve owners John and Dave Varty, the dam burst is just one incident in a long line of shady happenings in the Sand and Sable river systems, of which the Zoeknog Dam is part.

They have been fighting since October against various governments they allege have been “illegally” damming the river.

In December, at a meeting between Londolozi and Lebowa and Gazankulu government representatives, a Gazankulu official threatened that if the Vartys took them to court over the water, they would be “run ragged” in the homeland’s courts.

Varty said that after the meeting the man from Gazankulu’s Department of Agriculture proposed a compromise: If the Vartys, with their good environmental track-record, approached the DBSA for R53 million to build a dam near Thulamahashe in Gazankulu, a plan would be made to keep supplying Londolozi’s animals with water. Gazankulu, with its bad financial track-record, would find it difficult to get a loan, the official implied.
FINANCERS of a R40m dam on the Molopo River in Lebowa which collapsed last week are to finance the project's reconstruction, and a panel of 20 experts has been appointed to investigate the cause of the breach.

The collapse of the earth-wall at Zeeknag Dam had filled up the river, and angered environmentalists and local residents.

It is believed the dam was breached when two-thirds of a concrete tunnel collapsed last week, washing away part of the earth-wall.

Engineer P.J. van der Walt, of consulting engineers Eksteen, Van der Walt and Nissen, said an investigation could take months. It was impossible to say at this stage what had caused the incident, he said.

He said the volume of water released (the dam was about 30% full) was the same as that of a once-a-decade flood, and the banks of the river had not burst. "No agricultural land was affected," he said.

Development Bank acting CE Nick Christofolou said the bank, as the financier of the Lebowa government project, had undertaken its own investigation and had decided the project was still justified.

The bank would fund any independent investigation and would provide bridging finance to repair the dam.

He said the accompanying agricultural project had been put on hold, but a coffee project could be irrigated from the river for the next 18 to 20 months.
Zoeknog Dam break to hurt wildlife, tourism

By Julienne du Toit

When the Zoeknog Dam in Lebowa gave way last week, it was not just R36 million that was washed down the river.

The tons of soil from the dam wall turned the river a thick orange-brown colour, so solid it looked like a sand road from the air.

But it was not so thick as to clog up the gills of the fish. The damage was far more subtle.

It coated and smothered the eggs and hatchlings the fish have just laid on the gravel bottom of the Mutlomuvi River, and also the river it flows into — the Sand — and ultimately the Sabie River.

According to biologist Des Weeks, of Rhodes University, who is doing studies on invertebrates in the Sand River system, this huge load of topsoil does not kill, but weakens the life in the river.

It is not just the Mutlomuvi River that is in trouble, but the entire Sand-Sabie river system.

In a space of less than 100 km, the Sand River and its tributaries run through the territory of three governments: South Africa, Lebowa and Gazankulu.

The two homelands, which are politically hostile to each other, usually do not communicate on river matters, and this has led to a great deal of misunderstanding, according to Londolozi game reserve owner John Varty.

He maintains the Sand River is perennial. From his birth, it has flowed, clean and strong, throughout the seasons. A perennial river has certain rights. It must be kept flowing. No one can completely dam it or channel it, he says.

Last year, Varty and his brother became frantic. The Sand River was not flowing. Their hippos were trapped in shrinking, stagnant pools.

A trip in a helicopter showed them the problem. The water was not flowing beyond a weir in Lebowa, built to trap water for Champagne Citrus Estates.

Because of this, Gazankulu water officials further downstream, unaware the river was flowing strongly above the Lebowa weir, maintained that the river was a seasonal one.

A seasonal river can be sucked dry by anyone for any purpose. So the Gazankulu officials said they were under no obligation to release water from the Edinburgh Dam, which the Sand River flows into, to save Londolozi’s hippos.

Before the wrangle became too complicated, the rains came, and most of the hippos were saved.

SA Department of Water Affairs director-general Claasie Claassens admitted, after some argument, that the Sand River was perennial. The problem was that the entire catchment area was overdeveloped, he said.

At the rivers' source high in the Drakensberg, exotic pine trees and bluegums planted for forestry were sucking up 30 to 40 percent of all the rain that would go into the river, Varty said.

Further down, citrus trees used up 200 tons of water for every ton of citrus produced.

The Mutlomuvi had been dammed at Zoeknog for coffee, which was also not a water-economic crop.

Lastly, there were hundreds of thousands of people. Very few had running water, but when they all did, even more water would be used.

And as less and less water found its way downstream, to the Sabie Sand Reserves and the Kruger National Park, so the game would suffer.

And if the game suffered, the tourists would be less willing to come, which would be a blow to the tourism industry.
Cloud of uncertainty hangs over Kersaf performance

MARCIA KLEIN

UNCERTAINTY over how Kersaf would absorb the effects of unrest, massive expansion and unregulated casino operations had made forecasting difficult, analysts said.

Analysts' forecasts for the six months to end-December varied from a 10% decline in earnings to a 3%-10% increase.

Uncertainty was also reflected in Kersaf's share price, which has been volatile in a strong market.

Kersaf interim results, which will soon be released, could be disappointing and dull at best, an analyst said.

Analysts expected Kersaf's share price to be sharply down following unrest in the area.

Occupancies, which affected the amount of business in the casinos, were expected to be significantly lower than the previous year.

Transkei Sun, which had relatively high occupancies in the peak period, was expected to show little if any growth.

Sun City and the Carousel remained buoyant. The Carousel would make a significant contribution to Sun Bop as it was operating for less than two months in the previous interim period.

Operations in Swaziland, Lesotho and other smaller areas more dependent on occupancies would have "fallen out of bed," an analyst said.

Leisure and entertainment group Interleisure was likely to report unchanged earnings. Cinema attendances had held up well.

Interleisure results would come off a high base as its second half was worse than its first in the previous year.

Q Data stays on growth path

COMPUTER software and services company Q Data continued to achieve a real growth in profit, increasing earnings by 31% to R6.46c a share in the six months to December last year.

The company declared an interim dividend of 7.5c a share compared to 6c a share in the same period in 1991.

Turnover rose 36% to R25.6m (R16.0m) and pre-tax profit rose 61% to R9.95m (R3.71m).

Chairman Piet den Boer said the increases were the result of "the solid, consistent performance of the services arm of the Q Data group, a substantial improvement in first-half sales by a number of the group's product companies, and the excellent results achieved by the two new companies operating in the networking and systems integration environments."

Q Data paid tax of R5.32m (R2.76m) as a result of an offshore investment that was expected to show positive results in the next financial year, he said.

Group income after tax rose 37% to R4.03m (R2.85m).

Den Boer said the bulk of software sales occurred in the second half of the year and the company was confident that substantially improved earnings would be achieved in the second half of the financial year.

"Despite the negative economic conditions affecting many organisations, the group's proven track record of success in its dedicated market niche gives the Q Data board confidence in achieving a steady growth in earnings a share over the previous financial year."

Q Data's southern African operations achieved an 80% increase in after-tax profits, he said.

Lebowa slashes its net losses

THE Lebowa Development Corporation boosted its turnover 7.5% last year despite continuing lack of industrial investment in the poverty-stricken northern Transvaal. Chairman Willie Ramabha said the corporation's financial statement last week.

Turnover increased to R15.7m and net losses before extraordinary and abnormal items were slashed to R409.900 from R5.9m in 1991.

The corporation's retained income for the year was R3.5m.
Slave wages at new coffee plantation

Workers earn R240 a month

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

The twisted iron and steel reinforcements and the concrete of the Zoeknog Dam lie smashed to the ground.

Concrete slabs that formed a tunnel for water are strewn all over and covered with silt, sand and soil that once formed the great wall.

An army of labourers are on site, putting stones on the outer walling to strengthen what remains of the wall. Others are clearing the rubble left by the gushing water after the dam burst.

Project beneficiaries

They are the “beneficiaries” of the R37 million project that government spokesman Mr Louis Therin speaks highly about.

“They work five days a week, from 7.30 in the morning to 4.30 in the afternoon, for R7 a day.

This figure translates into R140 a month.

Therin also boasted of the “hundreds” of jobs that would be created by the coffee plantation that is to use the dammed water.

Workers we spoke to and who have been working at the plantation for over six years earn R280 a month.

Mrs Agnes Maladi (29), of Casteel, village near Acomhoek, is a mother of two. Her work is to put stones that are delivered by trucks on to the dam wall.

“It is really horrible. I can’t tell you why I wake up and come here every day because what I get is nothing. I keep coming because I hope one day they will feel pity for us and pay us decent wages,” she told us.

As we spoke, trucks and tractors rambled on in the area, clearing more land for more coffee. Coffee that is owned by a corporation that no one in the village knows anything about but whose planting has shrunk their grazing land.

Water is the issue

In the villages the issue is water. For the coffee masters it is water. For the game rangers it is water.

The damming of the Mlonmbe River in the form of the now crumbled Zoeknog Dam was intended to provide water for villagers and for the coffee, the latter to result in more of the R280 a month jobs.

But local activists, such as IDT co-ordinator Mr Luckson Malhobula, dispute this and say the jobs alluded to is in fact disguised slavery.

How can people go and boast about creating jobs when people are paid R140 and R280 a month? These capitalists are just taking people’s land away by bribing chiefs. As a result they no longer have grazing land or fields to plough,” Malhobula said.

But the rambing of the trucks and tractors clearing more land is a sure sign that the project is there to stay and that more and more black people will soon find themselves queueing for those jobs.
W

AS IT divine intervention on be-
half of humans and animals
downstream or the work of sabo-
teurs?

Or, worse still, was it just
plain poor workmanship of an unbelievable
magnitude?

These are the questions that taxing
the minds of all who have seen the gaping hole at the
Zoeknog Dam outside Bushbuckridge.

Built at a cost of R37 million and completed
two months ago, the dam collapsed in the early
hours of January 25, filled to only 28 percent of
its total capacity.

The collapse, which left in its wake a major
environmental tragedy that killed fish and made
water uninhabitable for hippos and crocodiles,
had focused attention on the dam itself and how
it will affect the local communities and business
interests.

Speaking to the different players in the R37
million game is extremely enlightening. What
becomes obvious is that there are opposing
commercial interests that are fighting for and
against the dam.

On the one hand, the Lebowa government,
through the Lebowa Agricultural Corporation
(LAC), acquired R37 million from the Develop-
ment Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to build
the dam on the Mil瘤obe River.

The primary aim was to develop further an
existing coffee plantation managed by the LAC.
This project is reputed to have the capacity to
create jobs for "hundreds" of local black people.

Lebowa deputy chief engineer in charge of
water Mr Louis Theron said the coffee planta-
tion would eventually occupy 350 hectares.

The dam, he said, would also provide drinking
water for over 100 000 people in the region,
including some in Gazuankhulu. Theron emphaz-
ised that it was actually the latter reason that
motivated the damming of the river.

The department "intended" to build a purifi-
cation centre at the dam to ensure that "water
that is supplied to the villages was good for
human consumption", he added.

"The dam is a major achievement for Lebowa
and will provide jobs and water. The collapse is
a tragedy but it will have to be rebuilt for the
purposes for which it was created. Otherwise the
money will have gone down the drain," Theron
argued.

At the other extreme are private game lodge
owners who depend on the river for water and
for their animals.

For them the Zoeknog dam is a major disas-
ter that has almost dried up their supply.

At least 12 lodges in the Sabie area — Mala
Mala, Londolozi, Castleton, Ravenscourt,
Othawa, Touko, Exeter, Umsita, Alicecot, Ulu
Lapa, Idube, Dolini and Inyati — depend di-
rectly on the Sabie River which is fed by the

Mathatha Tsedu, Investigations Editor:

Londolozi communication manager James

Mil瘤obe River.

For these private lodge owners the argument
against the dam is clothed in environmental
terms.

Mr James Marshall, communication manager
for Londolozi, argued that damming the river
upstream was an infringement of the rights of
lodge owners downstream and a murderous act
on water animals such as hippos.

"This river is home to hippos, crocodiles,
large species of rare birds and beautiful vegeta-
tion. What has been done is wrong. The Lebowa
people are not only damming the river, they are
also planting gum trees right on the edge of the
river, siphoning water off for coffee and leaving
the river virtually empty.

"One gum tree needs about 200 litres a day
to survive and if they are planting these trees and
citrus fruit trees on the river’s edge, they are
disturbing the river.

"To cap it all, they went and built the dam and
now, thank God, it has collapsed," Marshall
said.

He said their concern was also for black
villagers along the stream who have depended
on the river for drinking water since time immem-
orial.

"The lodge owners may be able to drill for
water but the residents cannot. Where are they
supposed to get water from? This river was dry
after they closed the dam," he said, introducing
the villagers as one of his reasons for fighting the
dam project.

Deputy chief engineer Louis Theron.

We spoke to villagers at Zoeknog and
Madjemberi villages who are to benefit from the
dam. They were happy at the promise but decried
the fact that they had no access to the dam water
at present.

Caught in between the arguments of the two
capitalist pivots, the villagers have now become
the trump card for both sides, dealt to strengthen
opposing points of view.

And as the argument rages, the dam that never
was lies in ruin, with workers on site doing mop
up operations.

They are the workers who had to spend the
night in the nearby hills after the dam collapsed
and almost washed them downstream.

The costs of repairs will run into further
millions but with R37 million already gone,
literally down the river, the argument about
rebuidling is merely academic.

Marshall denied that it was the game lodge
owners who bombed the dam for water.

Theron said he did not know how it happened
and was awaiting results of an investigation by
experts.

Locals are just amazed at the damage and are
wondering whether they will ever get water from
the dam.

In the interim, the crocodiles and hippos, the
villagers downstream and the game lodge own-
ers, are just happy that water is flowing down-
stream for now.

See page 7
Lebowakgomo mass action planned

By KHANGALE MAZIKHO

THE Lebowakgomo Civic Association has declared a five-day stayaway in the capital of Lebowa from tomorrow.

LCA secretary Champ Sepuru said the planned mass action followed failure by Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodieke to respond to their demands presented to him on February 2.

The demands included:

- The immediate servicing of Zone S and an immediate halt to the development at Zone R, which was unoccupied;
- The immediate removal of Lebowakgomo's town manager;
- The immediate allocation of church sites as agreed with the office of the town manager; and
- The immediate creation of posts for unemployed teachers.

The LCA has also placed a ban on all Lebowa government-registered vehicles – as well as cars belonging to Lebowa members of parliament – from entering the township. However, ambulances will be exempted from the ban.

Sepuru said although nothing had been decided regarding schools, "we do not guarantee the safety of those who will either go to school or work during the stay-away period."
De Meyer Commission: cost/completion of task

190. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(a) What is the total cost that has been incurred to date by the Commission of Inquiry into the Appropriation of the Lebowa Revenue Fund and Alleged Mismanagement in Lebowa (De Meyer Commission) and (b) for what date is this information furnished?

(b) Whether this Commission has completed its task; if not, (a) why not, and (b) when is it expected to do so and (c) what estimated additional cost will have been incurred by the Commission by the time it has completed its task; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(a) and (b) The total cost that has been incurred by the Commission of Inquiry into the Appropriation of the Lebowa Revenue Fund and Alleged Mismanagement in Lebowa (De Meyer Commission) is:

1 April 1990–31 March 1991 R36 924
1 April 1991–31 March 1992 R193 103
1 April 1992–2 March 1993 R126 141

Total R376 168

(2) No.

(a) The activities in the Office of the Receiver of Revenue in Lebowa still has to be investigated.

Teachers' salaries: disparities on grounds of gender

198. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

(a) Whether, with reference to the reply to Question No. 1 on 19 February 1992, disparities in teachers' salaries on the grounds of gender have been eliminated; if not, (a) why not and (b) from what date is it envisaged such disparities will be eliminated; if so;

(b) Whether any payments have been made in terms of the new policy; if so, from what date;

(c) Whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

(1) Yes.

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

(2) Yes, from 1 January 1992.

(3) No.
NEWS
Chief Minister implicated in alleged shady dealings  • Accident claims six lives

Desai slams 'race war'

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

LEBOWA Development Corporation (LDC) chairman Mr Willie Ramoshaba has blown the whistle on alleged corruption by members of the cabinet in the homeland.

A few hours after he went public, however, he was replaced as chairman of the board, which is appointed by the cabinet he was complaining about.

Ramoshaba told a media briefing in Johannes- burg that the alleged corruption included Lebowa Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike who, he claimed, bypassed structures of the corporation to secure a R245 000 loan for his brother.

Approached for comment on Friday, Ramodike denied that he had applied for a loan from the LDC.

He announced that Ramoshaba had been demoted from chairman to an ordinary member of the LDC board. The new LDC chairman is University of the North acting rector Mr John Malatji.

Ramoshaba said attempts to stop the corruption had been unsuccessful because the board could only report its concern to the same cabinet it was complaining about.

Board members who complained were kicked out. He mentioned Mr Matome Maponya as the most recent example.

He said Ramodike had approached him personally last year for a loan to buy a farm.

"I told him it was not possible as rules prohibited cabinet members from receiving loans. He then put together what amounted to a loan proposal for his brother, Mr PZ Ramodike, who was to buy the chief minister's bottle store for the same amount the chief minister needed to buy his farm."

PAC sends condolences to victims:

A RACE war against whites was counter-productive and was not Pan Africanist Congress policy, the movement's information chief Mr Barney Desai said yesterday.

Speaking on his return from a PAC national executive meeting in Umtata in Transkei, Desai said the organisation wanted to convey its condolences to the victims of an attack by AK-47 rifle-wielding gunmen.

Desai said the organisation was outraged by calls to the media, and the South African Press Association in particular, claiming responsibility on behalf of the PAC's armed wing, the Azanian Peoples Liberation Army, for the attack in which a white woman and a 16-year-old schoolboy died.

"It is not our policy to conduct a race war against whites and we don't know who these guys are," Desai said.

"That kind of thing is counter-productive and we are outraged. In fact we want to convey our condolences to those involved. Our policy is not to fight a race war but to bring about democracy," he added. Sapa.

'Corruption' exposed

Top Lebowa government official blows the whistle:

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

LEBOWA Development Corporation (LDC) chairman Mr Willie Ramoshaba has blown the whistle on alleged corruption by members of the cabinet in the homeland.

A few hours after he went public, however, he was replaced as chairman of the board, which is appointed by the cabinet he was complaining about.

Ramoshaba told a media briefing in Johannesburg that the alleged corruption included Lebowa Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike who, he claimed, bypassed structures of the corporation to secure a R245 000 loan for his brother.

Approached for comment on Friday, Ramodike denied that he had applied for a loan from the LDC.

He announced that Ramoshaba had been demoted from chairman to an ordinary member of the LDC board. The new LDC chairman is University of the North acting rector Mr John Malatji.

Ramoshaba said attempts to stop the corruption had been unsuccessful because the board could only report its concern to the same cabinet it was complaining about.

Board members who complained were kicked out. He mentioned Mr Matome Maponya as the most recent example.

He said Ramodike had approached him personally last year for a loan to buy a farm.

"I told him it was not possible as rules prohibited cabinet members from receiving loans. He then put together what amounted to a loan proposal for his brother, Mr PZ Ramodike, who was to buy the chief minister's bottle store for the same amount the chief minister needed to buy his farm."

PAC sends condolences to victims:

A RACE war against whites was counter-productive and was not Pan Africanist Congress policy, the movement's information chief Mr Barney Desai said yesterday.

Speaking on his return from a PAC national executive meeting in Umtata in Transkei, Desai said the organisation wanted to convey its condolences to the victims of an attack by AK-47 rifle-wielding gunmen.

Desai said the organisation was outraged by calls to the media, and the South African Press Association in particular, claiming responsibility on behalf of the PAC's armed wing, the Azanian Peoples Liberation Army, for the attack in which a white woman and a 16-year-old schoolboy died.

"It is not our policy to conduct a race war against whites and we don't know who these guys are," Desai said.

"That kind of thing is counter-productive and we are outraged. In fact we want to convey our condolences to those involved. Our policy is not to fight a race war but to bring about democracy," he added. Sapa.

'Corruption' exposed

Top Lebowa government official blows the whistle:

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

LEBOWA Development Corporation (LDC) chairman Mr Willie Ramoshaba has blown the whistle on alleged corruption by members of the cabinet in the homeland.

A few hours after he went public, however, he was replaced as chairman of the board, which is appointed by the cabinet he was complaining about.

Ramoshaba told a media briefing in Johannesburg that the alleged corruption included Lebowa Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike who, he claimed, bypassed structures of the corporation to secure a R245 000 loan for his brother.

Approached for comment on Friday, Ramodike denied that he had applied for a loan from the LDC.

He announced that Ramoshaba had been demoted from chairman to an ordinary member of the LDC board. The new LDC chairman is University of the North acting rector Mr John Malatji.

Ramoshaba said attempts to stop the corruption had been unsuccessful because the board could only report its concern to the same cabinet it was complaining about.

Board members who complained were kicked out. He mentioned Mr Matome Maponya as the most recent example.

He said Ramodike had approached him personally last year for a loan to buy a farm.

"I told him it was not possible as rules prohibited cabinet members from receiving loans. He then put together what amounted to a loan proposal for his brother, Mr PZ Ramodike, who was to buy the chief minister's bottle store for the same amount the chief minister needed to buy his farm."
Ex-Lebowa chairman is dismissed by Cabinet

By Mathatha Tsedu

Former Lebowa Development Corporation (LDC) chairman Willie Ramoshaba, who last week alleged that the Lebowa Cabinet was interfering with the running of the corporation, has been dismissed from the board.

His ousting was confirmed in a letter from the director of economic affairs and technology, M.G Ratshaba, on Monday.

Ramoshaba's allegations, made at a press conference in Johannesburg, were denied by Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramolide yesterday.

LDC staffers yesterday staged a two-hour demonstration at the corporation's head office in Lebowakgomo, denouncing alleged nepotism in the allocation of jobs and unilateral restructuring.

The demonstrations are set to continue today, according to a spokesman for the workers.

Ramoshaba said members of the Lebowa Cabinet who appointed the board used their influence to get loans for themselves and dismissed those who opposed corruption.

Ramoshaba cited a case in which he alleged that Ramolide, having failed to secure a loan to buy a farm, used his brother, P.Z Ramolide, to apply for a loan and use it to buy the chief minister's business complex near Lenyele.

The loan application was approved within five days instead of the usual two months and the money was deposited into the chief minister's account in Tzaneen.

Ramolide said yesterday that he had used "my own resources, financial assistance of the Land Bank and Nedbank in Tzaneen" to buy the farm.

But confidential LDC documents in possession of The Star reveal that the chief minister had indicated to the LDC that the sale of the business complex was to enable him to buy the farm.
'Mister Clean's loan!' by Moses Mamaila

DEPOSED Lebowa Development Corporation chairman Willie Ramoshaba this week accused Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramotike of using his influence on the corporation to obtain a loan for his brother.

Ramoshaba also said Ramotike engineered his dismissal earlier this month as the LDC board chairman because he was opposed to corruption.

Speaking to City Press in Johannesburg this week, Ramoshaba said Ramotike approached him around August last year, wanting the corporation to grant him a loan of R210 000 to enable him to buy a farm.

"I told him his application could not be processed as it was against the regulations of the corporation to give loans to cabinet members. In fact, it was Ramotike who introduced the rule when he ascended to power as he was then known as 'Mister Clean'.

"But when he realised I wasn't budging, he arranged with his brother, PZ Ramotike, that the latter would make a loan application of R210 000 from the LDC, saying that he wanted to buy a shopping complex owned by Ramotike.

"The Chief Minister went to the LDC managing director and had the loan processed within a week," he said.

Ramoshaba has denied any irregularity took place.
A lesson in ecology no textbook could give
LEBOWA Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike yesterday suspended a cabinet minister, fired his white departmental head and several technicians amid allegations of spying and an assassination plot against him.

"An enraged Ramodike produced a bugging device at a Press conference as he announced that the Finance Minister, Chief Chris Mothiba, and the chief director of the chief minister's department, Mr NH Fick, would leave their posts with immediate effect.

"My attention has been drawn to the fact that about eight Lebowa MPs are behind a plot for my assassination after having failed to overthrow my administration with the help of a group of white people.

"The aim is to overthrow my administration and substitute me with a puppet who would facilitate the recruitment of the people of Lebowa into an anti-Patriotic Front," he said.

Mothiba and Fick were not available for comment yesterday. Mothiba was reappointed to the Cabinet about a year ago after being kicked out by Ramodike when he took over the reins of government in 1987.
Plot to kill Lebowa's chief alleged

LEBOWAKOMO — Lebowa's Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike said yesterday there had been plots to assassinate him.

He added that bugging devices had been found in his office as well as in the conference room of the self-governing territory's Cabinet.

Ramodike, who made sweeping changes to his administration, said: "The general public is entitled to know that evil plans have already been arranged for my assassination and the assassination of some policemen."

A departmental chief director, seconded to Lebowa from South Africa, was "forthwith released of his functions" after the bugging devices were found, Ramodike told a news conference in Lebowa.

He called on President F W de Klerk to recall seconded white technicians attached to the Department of Public Works and Transport, who were placed in his offices without approval of the Cabinet.

Ramodike said a private company would be appointed to investigate the bugging devices.

— Sapa.
Stop harassment call

The South African Democratic Teachers Union has urged Lebowa Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramoliko to stop the alleged harassment of teachers and to end corruption and mismanagement in education.

Sadtu also called on Ramoliko to refund teachers from whose salaries deductions were made following the 1991 and 1992 strikes when the education department adopted a policy of no work, no pay.

Lebowa Education Department spokesman Mr SF Seroka said the question of deductions from salaries was still sub judice, adding that no comment would be made until the matter had been finalised.

Seroka said Sadtu's demand for free political activity in Lebowa had em-
- Ramodike ● 27 inmates walk free

THE MARCH STOPS HERE ... Police stop a group of demonstrators at gunpoint in the Durban city centre.

Lebowa puts De Klerk on the spot

By Don Seokane

Lebowa Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike has threatened to shut down his administration unless the government agrees to wipe out backlogs in education and health services.

Ramodike, lashing out at President FW de Klerk's administration after holding a cabinet meeting with his ministers, said failure to meet such demands may result in the handing over of the keys of Lebowa government buildings to Regional Development Minister Mr André Fourie.

He disclosed during a Press briefing on Tuesday that his government was prepared to postpone the seating of the legislative assembly or “close shop” indefinitely if the demands were not met.

The demands, which were contained in a memorandum to be submitted to Fourie, included:

- Immediate approval of pension benefits measures and Bills passed by the Lebowa legislative assembly;
- Provision of infrastructure in 16 Lebowa townships;
- Erecting a nursing college at Mankweng, outside Turffontein, or in the northern Transvaal;
- That applications for funding of development projects approved by the Development Bank should be urgently released.

Ramodike added that this year’s ordinary session of Lebowa’s legislative assembly will be the last one. This will mark the end of the last chapter of apartheid and homeland politics in our region and the dawn of a new era which we all have been waiting for.”

The threat to “close shop” has been made in the past but it was never carried out.

The Lebowa government has been under pressure by nurses recently who alleged that they were overworked and understaffed.

The pension demands also followed upheavals by pensioners who accused the Lebowa government of misusing funds destined for pensions.

A cabinet minister, Chief Harry Rammupudi, was dismissed following an outcry over pensions.
Lebowa puts De Klerk on the spot

By Don Seokane

Lebowa Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodie has threatened to bring down his administration unless the Government agrees to wipe out backlogs in education and health services.

Ramodie, lashing out at President PW de Klerk's administration after holding a cabinet meeting with his ministers, said failure to meet such demands may result in the handing over of the keys of Lebowa government buildings to Regional Development Minister Mr André Fourie.

He disclosed during a press briefing on Tuesday that his government was planning to postpone the sitting of the legislative assembly or "close shop" indefinitely if the demands were not met.

The demands, which were contained in a memorandum to be submitted to Fourie, included:

- Immediate approval of pension benefits amendment Bill passed by the Lebowa legislative assembly;
- Provision of infrastructure in 16 Lebowa townships;
- Erecting a nursing college at Mankweng, outside Turffontein, or in the northern Transvaal; and
- That applications for funding of development projects approved by the Development Bank should be urgently released.

Ramodie added that this year's ordinary session of Lebowa's legislative assembly will be the last one. "This will mark the end of the last chapter of apartheid and homeland politics in our region and the dawn of a new era which we all have been waiting for."

The threat to "close shop" has been made in the past but it was never carried out.

The Lebowa government has been under pressure by nurses recently who alleged that they were overworked and understaffed.

The pension demands also followed upheavals by pensioners who accused the Lebowa government of misusing funds destined for pensions.

A cabinet minister, Chief Harry Rammupadu, was dismissed following an outcry over pensions.
Lebowa deal ‘irregular’

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

About 2,000 tons of cleaning chemicals are to be dumped into Lebowa over the next three years after an “irregular” R15 million deal between the Bantu Land Commission and Firechem.

The deal, signed late last year, was not put to public tender after the Lebowa cabinet asked the Tender Board to waive the procedure, a Sowetan investigation has revealed.

Sowetan can also reveal that Firechem has since donated R100,000 to the United People’s Front party of Chief Minister Mr. Nelson Ramodike, whose department requested the tender waiver.

The UPF is in dire financial straits and used up R16,000 of the donation two weeks ago.

Firechem, among whose directors is former Daveyton mayor and close friend of Ramodike, Mr. Tom Boya, is dumping large quantities of cleaning chemicals at schools and hospitals.

The contract makes provision for training but we did not find a single worker who said he or she had been trained.

Some workers have complained about burns after using the chemicals.

The Lebowa government set police on reporters who asked for comment.

The police said they were ordered by the Lebowa Police Commissioner, Vangile MA Malele, to search our car for “documents of a cabinet decision.” We were kept for an hour before being allowed to leave.

The police action followed a message for us from the chief public relations officer for the Lebowa government, Mr. Kj Sekati, to be at the government buildings in Lebowa on Monday for an interview with Deputy Minister Mr. LL Mpya.

Mpya was Tender Board chairman at the time of the Firechem contract.

The contract was negotiated by Boya, who has close working relations with Ramodike.

Boyana referred all inquiries to Mr. Douglas McNaught, a director of Firechem, but indicated that the contract “was not put to public tender after the Lebowa cabinet asked the Tender Board to waive the procedure.”

McNaught refused to discuss the contract but confirmed the donation to the UPF.

Legal sources have said the contract could be illegal as such a large sum of money will be tendered for publicly and have asked why the Lebowa government chose not to do so.

The Tender Board, an independent body independent of the civil service, and whose task is to allocate contracts to lowest and most efficient tenderer, is seen in Lebowa as a mere rubber stamp for the UPF’s cabinet.

Sowetan can also reveal that two weeks ago the board granted a R1.3 million tender to a cousin of Ramodike, Mr. Ronald Rasebotsa, to supply meat to the Grooteboom Hospital.

Rasebotsa, trading as Black Movie, was the most-expensive tenderer, charging R226,971 more than the lowest bidder, Badikila Butchery. He does not own a butchery, which is a prerequisite for such a tender.

A tender board source said in 1991 they had refused to approve the purchase of cars for members of the cabinet, saying the money should be used for building schools.

“Tender Board members said the cars purchased,” the source said.

This string of 26 Mercedes Benz costing between R3.5 million and R4 million, have been replaced by new ones this year.

Those bought two to three years ago, all 230E and 300SE models, now stand in the scorching sun of Lebowa, gathering dust.

They are due to be sold on auction.
Corruption scandal mushrooms

By Jacques Pauw

Hundreds of tons of chemicals are being dumped in Lebowa after the home‐government signed an irregular multimillion-rand contract with a South African chemical firm.

A few months after the Lebowa government signed the R15 million contract with Firechem Lebowa, the company donated R100,000 to the ruling United People's Front (UPF), which at that stage was in serious financial difficulty.

The contract, which was never put out on tender as regulations stipulate, was approved by Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and his Cabinet. Ramodike is also UPF leader.

The contract will lead to a massive oversupply of chemicals to the homeland and amount to a waste of millions of rands.

A Star investigation has also found that millions of rands of taxpayers' money is still being lost through maladministration in Lebowa — despite promises by Ramodike to clean up his administration after the damaging De Meyer Commission report, published late last year.

De Meyer revealed evidence of massive corruption and incompetence amounting to hundreds of millions of rands.

Ramodike, who calls himself "governor" of the homeland, was both directly and indirectly implicated in the corruption. He refused to accept responsibility but vowed to take steps to remedy the situation.

However, corruption and wastage of money seem to continue unabated.

The De Meyer Commission found serious shortcomings in the process of allocating tenders. Three weeks ago the Tender Board awarded a contract of R1.3 million to a cousin of Ramodike to supply meat to State hospitals.

Ronald Raseboisa, owner of Black Movie Butchers, not only tendered R27,000 more than the lowest tender — but was awarded the contract despite not even owning a butchery.

Another example is a brand new fleet of 20 luxury Mercedes-Benz cars worth between R3.5 million and R4 million being delivered to Ministers and their deputies.

The new luxury cars are intended to replace 26 existing Mercedes-Benzes, which are only two or three years old.

A Star attempt to interview former Tender Board chairman LP Mpya on the Firechem contract ended in failure.

Firechem managing director William McNaught said he would not like to comment on the contract with Lebowa, but said the whole deal was above board and that his company acted in good faith.

He confirmed the donation to the UPF, but said there was nothing sinister in doing so as his company had a policy of "ploughing something back in the community."

● From traffic policeman to "Governor of Lebowa" — Page 6
The Lebowa Tender Board, already accused of being nothing but a rubber stamp for the homeland government, approved a multimillion-rand deal between the Lebowa Cabinet and a chemical company without querying why hundreds of tons of chemicals were needed. The board also did not question why the contract was never put out to tender.

According to government documents, the office of the homeland's Chief Minister, Nelson Ramoluke, asked the Tender Board on October 13 last year to approve the R15 million contract with Firechem for the provision of cleaning chemicals. The government said the contract would be "more convenient" to get supplies from one company.

Deputy director T J M Mampane, who signed the letter on behalf of the office of the Chief Minister, denied knowing about the deal, although the document is filed with the Lebowa Tender Board in Lebowakgomo.

According to information, three out of the seven Tender Board members did ask questions about the contract, but it was nevertheless approved.

The contract allows for a supply of 1 500-2 000 tons of cleaning chemicals.

Before the contract was approved, government departments had to purchase cleaning chemicals separately.

Government warehouses in Lebowa have been flooded with cleaning chemicals since Firechem started deliveries in February. At the Jane Furse Hospital, about 120-kg bags of chemicals are lying in the store room. Officials say chemicals are delivered to them whether they need them or not. The Star was told that officials in the departments of Health and Education who have complained about the supply of chemicals have been threatened with dismissal or a transfer.

According to estimates, the Lebowa government service should not need more than R2 million worth of cleaning chemicals a year.

The Star was told that a letter has been written to the Department of Education complaining that some people show "a very strange inability to the chemicals. Firechem managing director Douglas McNaught said his products were environmentally friendly and he was unaware of any complaints. The Star has established that Firechem recently donated R100 000 to the United People's Front, which has aligned itself to the ANC.
Lebowa has been described by the De Meyer Commission as a pit of corruption. Jacques Pauw focuses on Nelson Ramodike, the homeland's Chief Minister, and gives details of a R15 million contract awarded to a South African chemical company.

There was a time, almost 20 years ago, when Mogoboya Nelson Ramodike was lurking behind bushes waiting to issue traffic tickets to offending motorists.

Today, the former traffic cop calls himself "Governor of Lebowa," and is one of South Africa's highest-paid civil servants with an annual pay package of R199,152. His administration controlled a budget of some R2,3 billion in the last financial year.

Reports earlier this month claimed he also receives a household allowance, an entertainment allowance and a transport allowance, totalling R7,000 a year. To maintain and improve his house he gets a further R7,000 a month.

Locking out at the reports as "untrue," Ramodike said he had to pay income tax whereas the "State President's salary does not even attract tax deduction at all."

Ramodike has become one of the most controversial politicians in South Africa, a man accused by the De Meyer Commission of heading a massively corrupt and incompetent administration.

De Meyer said Ramodike was implicated in the scandal and was, among other things, the illegal owner of two liquor outlets.

In a homeland where Mercedes-Benz cars for government officials are as commonplace as hunger and poverty, the commission found that although his 420 SE was replaced with a 500 SE, the 420 SE was still used as a "substitute car." According to reports he also "personally owns" a Mercedes 200 E.

Nelson Ramodike ... has denied all allegations of corruption.

And 20 new Mercedes-Benz cars, earmarked for Ministers and deputy Ministers, were delivered to the homeland barely two weeks ago to replace older models.

According to government sources close to Ramodike, he is experiencing financial problems. He has asked people close to him to help him settle certain debts, while it is known that he has difficulty keeping two of his children at school and university. He has also not been able to repay a widow for a loan of R20,000.

Two weeks ago, Lebowa Development Corporation (LDC) chairman Willie Ramoshaba was fired after exposing further Cabinet corruption — and it was the Cabinet that ordered his dismissal.

Ramoshaba alleged that Ramodike, having failed to secure a loan to buy a farm, used his brother, P Z Ramodike, to apply for a loan of R245,000. The purpose of the loan was to buy the Chief Minister's business complex near Lenyenye.

Three weeks ago, one of Ramodike's cousins, Ronald Rasebotsa, was allocated a government contract of R1,3 million to supply hospitals with meat — although Rasebotsa does not own a butchery.

Ramodike has always vehemently denied any allegations of corruption against him.

"The public should praise and thank me for having been brave enough to expose the mismanagement of funds in Lebowa government services, which took place before I was elected political head of the territory," he said before firing two Ministers implicated in the report.

Ramodike, who became Chief Minister of Lebowa in 1987, is described as a daring and aggressive politician who has repeatedly stated his opposition to independence for the homeland.

He has claimed often in the past that there have been plots to oust or even assassinate him. Ramodike dismissed his chief director, Boet Piek, at the end of last month after the alleged discovery of bugging devices in the Cabinet room and in his office.

At a June 16 rally in Johannesburg in 1991, ANC president Nelson Mandela referred to the presence of Ramodike and forgave him for "past mistakes."

This week, however, ANC supporters in Pietersburg refused to listen to Ramodike when he tried to deliver a speech at a memorial service for Chris Hani.
Deputy Commissioner: R.769

The report of the Commission referred to above was submitted by the Secretary for Regional Affairs, Mr. G. S. A. Jayasuriya, M.C.P.

The report contains recommendations for the Government of the Province of the Northern Province on the future of the Northern Province and its development. The recommendations are based on an extensive study of the Northern Province conducted by the Commission, which was established by the Government in 1972.

The report recommends the establishment of a separate Provincial Administrative Unit for the Northern Province, with its own administrative structure and autonomy. It also recommends the provision of adequate resources and facilities to the new Provincial Administration, including financial assistance from the central Government. The report also highlights the need for a long-term plan for the development of the region, focusing on education, health, and infrastructure.

The recommendations of the Commission have been presented to the Government for consideration and implementation.
Nelson Ramdohr prides the end of the road for Loboga as a homeland
Investors like the look of Leplat

THE share price of Lebowa Platinum (Leplat) has doubled since the beginning of the year, with the market viewing the company in a better light since the recent rally in platinum prices.

The JCI loss-making producer recorded one of the largest price gains on the JSE yesterday, rising 20c to close at 132c.

Since the metal price rally, the share had increased from its low of 50c in December last year.

It stood at a high of R11 in 1990.

Chairman Barry Davison said yesterday that there were no new developments at the mine.

"The operation is meeting its target of 70 000 tons a month," he said.

Leplat shelved plans last year to increase output to 100 000 tons a month after production problems underground.

Fergusson Brothers analyst Philip Marlillier said: "The market has viewed Leplat in a better light with the rise in platinum prices."

Improved prices were likely to restore the mine to profitability, and ease the recent strain on cashflow.

The mine has been forced to borrow money to finance capital spending and to buy metal on the open market to meet its contractual commitments.

Long-term debt stood at R92m in the six months ended December 1992.

Platinum prices rose to highs of about $335/oz last week from $340/oz in early March.

The metal was fixed at $375.00/oz yesterday afternoon, up $1.75/oz on the morning fix."
Lebowa's sick wait for cure

IN LEBOWA'S Matlala Hospital near Marble Hall, half of the 228 beds stand empty.

Consulting rooms and wards have been commandeered as living space by policemen, hospital staff and trade union officials.

At the end of a brightly-lit corridor a fully equipped operating theatre is being used as a store.

Matlala superintendent Dr Nkombua Lushiku said: "After five, we don't get people here. They can't come because there is no transport."

**Drugs**

The outpatient wing at Matlala is a typical example of bad planning and maladministration in a chaotic and inefficient Lebowa Health Department, according to another medical superintendent, Dr John Millard.

Dr Millard, who runs the Jane Furse Memorial Hospital 50km down a dirt road from Matlala, is at his wit's end.

Superintendents are batting problems ranging from drug shortages and poor facilities to underpaid staff, he said.

Drugs supplied by the government stores frequently run out.

Last month, chemicals supplied by Furse were cut off by the company that allegedly cut an illegal R15-million deal with Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramolwe.

A luxury German car — were delivered to Jane Furse by government officials in a luxury German car.

The hospital has since been swamped with supplies of cleaning chemicals and overpriced mops.

But health workers believe the most serious problem is that health funds are not being channelled in the right direction.

According to Operation Hunger, 400 000 people are receiving food aid in Lebowa. This figure represents a 500 percent increase over the 1992 statistics.

Thousands more suffer from malnutrition and associated diseases such as gastro-enteritis and tuberculosis.

"There is a desperate need for improved primary health care in the region," said Dr Millard.

"People often have to walk up to 50km to find a clinic, yet the government insists on pumping money into hospitals that don't need repairs."

The total 1992-1993 budget for health in Lebowa was R530-million.

The region has 20 hospitals and 148 clinics.

Lebowa's Director of Health, Social Welfare and Pensions, Professor Moses Bopape, admitted his department was "very much behind" but denied that primary health care was not a priority.

**Rural**

"Most of Lebowa is a rural area and we have old hospitals inherited from missionaries. So we are upgrading them," he said.

At Hafulanang — a new primary health-care centre in Mokwete — bedroomed by the Kellogg Foundation — Rose Mathibuza raised her arm and pointed out across the dry valley.

"Fifty percent of children in our area are underweight."

"There is insufficient food and water comes from the river."

"Stethoscopes don't do away with dirty water."

"We don't need new hospitals."

"We need clinics!"
Tough trading conditions knock bakery

HARSH conditions in the food sector saw Lebowa Bakeries (Lebaka) report a 21.8% drop in attributable earnings to 10.9c (14c) a share in the six months to end-March.

Directors said the recession and high unemployment in the Transvaal region had affected results. There had been some good rains, but some areas were still affected by the drought. Political stayaways, boycotts, labour stoppages and strikes had also been factors.

Turnover fell 9.6% to R47.6m from R52.1m, and operating profit by 31.3% to R4.5m from R6.3m, with the operating margin being reduced by 28.5%.

Although interest paid was lower, interest received declined by 47.5% to
LEBAKA

Less dough

Bread may be the staple diet but it's of little consequence when the nation is eating less. This axiom is clear from Lebowa Bakeries' interim results. The baker and confectioner reports a 22% drop in attributable earnings to 10.9c a share.

Turnover of R47.6m is 8% down on a year ago. Population is around 2m but rural areas have been hard hit by the dip in disposable income. Extreme pressure on margins (the effect of drought, despite good rains in some areas) and general political upheaval saw operating profit down 23% to R6.8m. Fixed costs, though contained, did not fall in the same proportion. Interest paid was lower, but neutralised by a 47% decline in interest received. Lebaka should benefit at year-end from the new company tax rate.

From February, Lebaka entered into a joint venture with Albany Bakeries. The assets of Lebaka's Bushbuckridge branch and Albany's Barberton Bakeries were combined. Financial director Timothy Lehong says the formation of Ridgeton Bakery, though not expected to have much impact this year, will bring benefits next year.

Capex is still rising. Of R13.1m budgeted for this year, under half was spent in the first half, some of which was on a bakery project which will start production in July. The remaining R7.5m will go on expanding activities and replacement costs.

Over 70% of capex is to be funded internally. This is positive for gearing, now a healthy 7.7% (10% at year-end).

With continued socio-political problems, affecting the consumer and labour markets, and unlikely to show marked improvement soon, management is aiming to achieve taxed earnings for 1993 similar to the R6.7m of the previous year.

The share price, at 130c, is down 12% since the release of the figures. With limited growth prospects, the counter is unlikely to offer much excitement.

Marilyn Greig

EATING LESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mar '92</th>
<th>Apr '92</th>
<th>Mar '93</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turnover (Rm)</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>47.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Income (Rm)</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attributable (Rm)</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earnings (c)</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividends (d)</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+ Annualised.
HONORABLE ASSEMBLY,

(1) A motionAny request of the Speaker for an adjournment is made by one of the Members present in the House. The motion is seconded by the Member of the opposition. The Speaker then directs that the motion be put to a vote. The motion is carried by a majority vote.

(2) The motion is then referred to the Committee on Special Privileges. The Committee meets and considers the motion. They recommend that the motion be accepted.

(3) The motion is then debated in the House. The debate is open to all Members present. The debate is concluded by a vote. The motion is carried by a majority vote.

(4) The motion is then referred to the House Committee on Rules. The Committee meets and considers the motion. They recommend that the motion be adopted.

(5) The motion is then debated in the House. The debate is open to all Members present. The debate is concluded by a vote. The motion is carried by a majority vote.

(6) The motion is then referred to the Governor. The Governor then signs the motion into law. The motion becomes law.

RESOLVED, That this Assembly do adjourn to meet at a future date.

[The document appears to be a draft or a working copy of a legislative session's proceedings.]
Lebowa nurses end strike

AN EIGHT-WEEK strike by Lebowa nurses ended this week with the signing of an agreement between the Department of Health and Social Welfare and a workers' committee.

The department agreed to pay all arrears of salaries by September 30, and to recommend that the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union be recognised.
Teachers march over salary cuts

LEBOWAKGOGO - Lebowa police and South African soldiers manned roadblocks as about 2,000 South African Democratic Teachers Union members marched on the homeland's legislative assembly building.

The marchers were demanding a refund of salaries deducted after a strike in 1991. No violence was reported. Sapa
Halt on payments until financial crisis resolved

SA moves on Lebowa

BY MCKEED KOTLOLO and NORMAN CHANDLER

In an unprecedented step, South Africa today takes over financial control of Lebowa because the local Legislative Assembly failed to pass a budget for the 1993-94 financial year.

This was announced yesterday in Pretoria by Local Government Minister Andre Fourie. He said "no authorisation exists (for Lebowa) to incur any expenditure or to make any payments".

This means cheques issued to homeland officials, contractors and others with a claim on Lebowa will not be met until the situation has been resolved.

"Lebowa government Ministers whom I met in Pretoria yesterday appeared to be surprised at our decision but later, after discussions, they accepted the taking over of the financial situation as being in the interests of all," Fourie said.

The homeland's budget was R3.5 billion and an additional R300 million was requested in April. This later doubled to R722 million before Lebowa, after a further meeting in May, reduced it to R306 million.

The decision means that in order to ensure the "efficient continuation of services", the Minister, with the approval of the Cabinet and in accordance with the authority vested in him by Section 25 of the Constitution of the Self-Governing Territories, was compelled to exercise control over Lebowa's financial administration.

The South Africa Government said it appeared that the financial management of the Lebowa government had deteriorated to such an extent that intervention had become inevitable.

Fourie said the first indication that Lebowa was in financial trouble came in April when a request for additional funds was received.

The department would act in close co-operation with the Lebowa government and officials.

An investigation would be launched into irregularities "which have been assuming alarming proportions over the past few months", he said.

Fourie disclosed that a "financial task force" was being sent to Lebowa to assist in the investigation.

The Government has appealed to the Lebowa government and its officials as well as civilians, political groupings and others to remain calm and provide co-operation.

It warned, however, that officials, existing recipients of welfare allowances and suppliers who would have received payment yesterday, may encounter problems in cashing their cheques.

Consideration

The South African Government has undertaken to make all legitimate payments as soon as possible.

Other homeland states, whom Fourie did not name, had submitted their budgets in time, although some had also requested additional funds. These were under consideration.
Seshego civic unified

The disgraced Seshego Civic Association is to be unified tomorrow when an eight-man working committee meets to complete the process. The committee - made up of four former officials and four from the new executive committee - has been involved in the mediation process conducted by the Independent Mediation Service of South Africa.

The former executive committee was recently accused of misappropriating funds totalling over R30,000, corruption and improper handling of financial records by Mr Japie Maboea, treasurer of the new executive.

However, former executive committee chairman Mr Robert Moningi denied the accusations, saying the only funds received by the civic was R6,000 from the United States Agency for International Development and R1,480 from a fundraising function.
Terror bus attack: Three men released

POLICE released three men yesterday who were detained for questioning in connection with the terror attack on a bus in Beaufort West last week. A fourth man who was arrested on Monday, has not yet been released, a police spokesman said.

He is expected to appear in court this week in connection with the illegal possession of a firearm.

Earlier yesterday, police fired teargas at pupils who refused to disperse when they protested at the Beaufort West police station, demanding the release of the arrested men. They then stoned at least five cars in the town's main road. — Staff Reporter, Sapa

Govt moves on Lebowa

THE government is taking over the financial administration of the non-independent Lebowa homeland from today after irregularities of "alarming proportions" emerged.

The move is the first decisive step by the government to reintegrate Lebowa into South Africa.

With irregularities and overspending in most if not all of the 10 independent and non-independent homelands — all of whom are heavily dependent on the South African taxpayer — Pretoria's action is a warning to all homeland administrations they could face similar action soon.

Lebowa has a budget of R3 684 billion and requested R390m more.

The Lebowa administration would remain intact till a new dispensation had been implemented. — Sapa

Taxi war: Suspects given bail

A SUPREME COURT judge warned two Codeta committee members yesterday he would not grant bail of R10 000 each should there be "as much as a whisper" of intimidation of state witnesses.

Mr Sandile Nonquana and Mr Patrick Nonquana are charged with two counts of murder and one of attempted murder, each related to the taxi war.

They were yesterday released on bail by Mr Justice H L Berman following an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The men were previously refused bail by a Mitchells Plain magistrate on the grounds that they may interfere with state witnesses.

Referring to evidence by a state witness that he would refuse to testify if the men were released on bail, Mr Justice Berman said the state could not be held to ransom by this and the men's right to bail should prevail.

Mr Justice Berman said given the volatile nature of the taxi business certain state witnesses might indeed feel in danger.

There was however nothing to show that the danger they feared was promoted by the appellants. Strict bail conditions were set.

Mr Marcus Broeksma appeared for the state. Mr William King, instructed by Mr William Smith, appeared for the men.
Officials accused of graft

SA govt takes over chaotic Lebowa fiscus

PRETORIA — A government task force was dispatched to Lebowa today to take immediate control of the homeland's deteriorating financial situation.

Regional and Land Affairs Minister André Fourie said yesterday the "unprecedented" intervention, including the freezing of all Lebowa government cheques, had become necessary in the interests of SA taxpayers.

Lebowa had overspent its 1992/93 budget of R320m by about R72m, he said.

An investigation into financial irregularities would also be launched following indications that graft and self-enrichment by officials had reached "alarming proportions". Evidence that officials had been upgrading their posts and authorising salary back payments had been confirmed by the auditor-general's office, Fourie said.

The Lebowa Legislative Assembly's failure to pass its 1993/94 budget within the prescribed time gave SA the statutory right to intervene under the Constitution of the Self-Governing Territories Act of 1971.

But Lebowa's recent request for R500m in additional funds, a structural adjustment programme report on the territory's finances, and a letter of concern from the auditor-general to the Tambo and Regional Affairs Department had indicated that Lebowa's financial situation was far from sound, Fourie said.

"The financial management of the Lebowa government had deteriorated to such an extent that intervention by the SA government became inevitable," Fourie said.

Officials, existing recipients of welfare allowances and suppliers, who would have received payments on August 31, would have problems cashing cheques. From today all Lebowa government expenditure would be unauthorised.

The SA government, which would draw cash from Lebowa's expenditure account to meet the territory's immediate obligations, undertook to make all legitimate payments as soon as possible, Fourie said.

He appealed to Lebowa officials, inhabitants, political groupings and concerned parties to remain calm and cooperate in setting up a sound financial administration.

Fourie said Lebowa government representatives had expressed surprise yesterday morning when warned of SA's intervention. He had informed a delegation, including Chief Minister Nelson Ramotodi, that the move was not vindictive, but was taken "in the interests of the taxpayers of SA".

He restated government policy that self-governing territories should remain in place until a new, regional dispensation was approved by national negotiators.

PETER SOLBERG reports Ramotodi described Fourie's allegations as "a diabolical lie". He had been under the impression Fourie had called the meeting to discuss the homeland's budget and was surprised that a decision had been taken already.

Ramotodi said seconded SA finance officials were "incompetent". He was being victimised because of his ANC ties.

"The truth is that there has been a delay in the annual sitting of the legislative assembly because of the continuous meetings that we have held with Fourie.

"It is nonsensical to suggest that any money has been misappropriated. Fourie is blowing the matter out of all proportion. We have nothing to hide," he said.

DP land affairs spokesman Peter Soal said the Lebowa government had been irresponsible and incompetent in allowing financial chaos to develop. But the crisis was a direct consequence of NF policy and it was government's duty to intervene.
Silent 'coup' in Lebowa

By Josias Charle

The South African Government has taken over the control and administration of all financial matters of Lebowa and a probe is to be launched soon into certain alleged irregularities. The unprecedented steps will come into effect today.

Announcing the measures yesterday, South African Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Mr André Fourie said Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and his Cabinet have been told about the new steps and, though surprised, accepted them.

They attended a meeting yesterday with South African Government officials to discuss the matter. The measures were taken after the Lebowa Legislative Assembly had failed to pass a budget for the 1993-94 financial year within the prescribed statutory period, Fourie said.

"In order to ensure efficient continuation of services I am compelled to exercise control over Lebowa's financial administration from September 1," Fourie said.

He said the financial management of Lebowa had deteriorated to such an extent that intervention by the SA government was inevitable.

"This is confirmed by among others the fact that the Lebowa government requested additional funds as well a report from the Auditor-General," Fourie said.

He disclosed that Lebowa's budget for the previous financial year was about R3.7 billion and on top of this they had requested an additional R360 million which subsequently shot up to R722 million.

Fourie said after a meeting with Ramodike and his Cabinet on May 7 they agreed to bring down their additional request to R306 million.

As of today officials from the South African Government are to be seconded to Lebowa and all expenditure and payments will be made by Fourie.

"At the same time an investigation will be launched into irregularities which evidently have been assuming alarming proportions over the last few months," Fourie said.

The Government was not being vindictive in its actions but it was acting in the best interests of South African taxpayers as well as Lebowa officials, he said.
Lebowa overdraft
facility closed

A LEBOWA government overdraft facility, provided by the Standard Bank was closed earlier this week when the SA government, told bank officials it would not continue to guarantee a spiralling overdraft.

It is understood the account was opened three years ago when the Lebowa government first experienced cash flow problems. An overdraft limit, guaranteed by the SA government, was established. It was administered by the Lebowa treasury. (H)

Bank officials became concerned at the account's state at the end of last year and discussions were held with the Lebowa government treasury. When it continued to deteriorate, the bank opened discussions with the SA government which was technically in a position to provide comfort to the bank for amounts over the established limit.

Although the account by which the account was overdrawn is not public, a source in the Regional and Land Affairs Department which disburses funds to the local governing territories, said it formed a substantial part of the R360m shortfall in Lebowa's budget estimates.

The SA government was to have provided further guarantees for the overdraft by yesterday. Instead SA government officials met bank officials and "reached an understanding" about the overdrawn amount, a source close to the negotiations said. He said it was probable SA had paid the debt. A new account, to be administered by SA officials, has been opened to cover cashflow problems.

"A Standard Bank spokesman cited customer confidentiality and said he could not comment on the issue."

PATRICK BULGER
Lebowa hits out at SA over budget

Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike yesterday claimed the South African Government had caused the financial crisis in his territory by not allocating enough money to the self-governing state.

Local Government Minister Andre Fourie announced on Tuesday that South Africa would take control of Lebowa's finances because a budget had failed to be passed for the 1993/94 financial year.

The problem arose after Lebowa asked for an additional R722 million to supplement the homeland's R3.6 billion budget.

Ramodike said in a statement: "Mr Andre Fourie's department failed to provide an adequate budget for the needs of the people of Lebowa, and the Lebowa Cabinet refused to accept the budget."

However, the Democratic Party welcomed the move as an effort to control excessive spending. But DP MP Kobus Jordaan said in a statement that the decision "smacks of political chicanery of the first order."

Jordaan said the Lebowa case was just the tip of the iceberg. He added that the sub-council on regional and local government of the proposed transitional executive council should be given control of expenditure in the self-governing territories in order to level the political playing-field.

Sapa reports that the PAC said that while it appreciated Government moves to take over control of Lebowa's finances, they were "long overdue."
Promotions cost R60m

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Lebowa's financial crisis was triggered by the mass promotion of public servants who alleged they were being "unduly prejudiced" and demanded more pay, a source within the self-governing territory's government said yesterday.

The promotions have cost the Lebowa government R60m to date. The money came from a bank account opened on behalf of Lebowa by the SA government three years ago when Lebowa's cash flow problems began.

The SA government stepped in and took over the financial affairs of the territory earlier this week. At the same time it closed the account which had reached R245m in overdraft, of which the SA government had agreed to guarantee only R185m.

The Lebowa government was until Monday this week under the impression that Pretoria would settle the bill with the bank. Instead it invoked a section of legislation governing the finances of the self-governing territories to take over Lebowa's finances.

At the same time Pretoria sent a financial task team to sort out the territory's financial crisis.
Looting stopped in tracks

Ramode is said to be a failed financial controller who cannot manage a budget

IN REGULAR PROMOTIONS

Ramode Reared

Sowtham 3/4/93

Looting not hinted with money

Mission Ramode... "Leadership"

13

Friday September 3, 1993 SOWETHAN

IRREGULAR PROMOTIONS FRAUD

No Disclosures and Back Pages

By Don Sekkerand

Ramode's career has been marked by a series of irregular promotions, where he failed to meet expectations and was eventually dismissed. His inability to manage a budget has contributed to financial shortfalls and allegations of corruption. Despite these challenges, Ramode remains a controversial figure in the financial sector, with some calling for his reinstatement and others advocating for his dismissal.

In a recent interview with industry analysts, Ramode expressed his commitment to improving financial management practices. "I am committed to learning from my mistakes and working towards a more transparent and accountable financial system," he said.

The case has sparked debates about the need for stronger regulations and oversight in the financial sector. Critics argue that without rigorous accountability measures in place, individuals like Ramode can continue to exploit the system for personal gain.

The full report on Ramode's career and the implications of his actions is expected to be released next month.
SA takes over Lebowa finances after chiefs try to oust Ramodike

Paul Stober reports on moves to depose Lebowa leader Nelson Ramodike

The South African government's move to take over the finances of Lebowa follows hard on the heels of a bid by local chiefs to rid the self-governing territory of its chief minister, Nelson Ramodike.

Two weeks ago, chiefs opposed to Ramodike tried to pass a motion of no-confidence in the chief minister in the Lebowa Legislative Assembly. Chiefs constitute the majority of assembly representatives.

Ramodike survived the motion by bussing youths, armed with knobkerries and other weapons, to the legislative assembly, a local source said. There they were left to wander about "as some kind of intimidation tactic" during the motion.

In a recent application in the Pretoria Supreme Court to have the defeat of the motion set aside, Ramodike was accused of ensuring the motion was not debated or put to the vote. He is also said to have removed the Speaker of the assembly, who was sympathetic to the motion.

The court action, brought by Chief Walter Mowamoco, failed. An application by the former Speaker, Boleo Maseke, that he be reinstated was also dismissed.

Chiefs opposing Ramodike have been complaining about conditions in their villages, including a chronic shortage of water, collapsing infrastructures and a breakdown in the health service as overworked and underpaid nurses and doctors resign. The aged have accused the Lebowa government of misusing money meant for pensions.

African National Congress sources in the region, who are close to the chiefs, said the real problem was that the chiefs felt Ramodike was "no longer taking care of them. He is juggling them around. They want the Mercedes, but they don't want to be his property."

Chiefs who held cabinet posts in Lebowa and were dismissed after the De Meyer Commission report and other revelations of massive government corruption, believe they were scapegoats.

When the chiefs made known their intentions to depose Ramodike, it came to the attention of South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha, who is also the National Party head in the Northern Transvaal, said the sources.

The South African government is believed to have indicated it would back the chiefs in the hope that Ramodike's successor would be less well-disposed to the ANC.

"They are funny bedfellows, Botha is hoping to win the support of the chiefs but that is not going to happen," said the source.

Although the Lebowa government is part of the ANC-led patriotic front, the ANC's Northern Transvaal region opposes Ramodike. The Lebowa leader was driven out of a memorial service for Chris Hani in April this year. "There are no activists in the area who like Ramodike," said the ANC source.

Ramodike has attributed Pretoria's move this week to take control of Lebowa's finances as a response to his ties with the ANC.

The measures — which mean that no cheques issued by the territory's administration to officials, welfare recipients or suppliers can be cashed until its financial crisis is resolved — were taken after the Lebowa legislative assembly failed to pass a budget for the 1993/94 financial year.

Lebowa overspent its 1992/93 budget of R3.6-billion by R772-million, says Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie.

Ramodike is reported to have been taken by surprise by the South African move. He claimed he was being victimised because of his ties to the ANC.
Pay hikes spark Lebowa crisis

LEBOWA’s financial crisis was triggered by the mass promotion of public servants who alleged that they were being “unduly prejudiced” and demanded more pay, a source within the homeland’s government said yesterday. 31/9/92

These promotions have cost the Lebowa government R60m to date. The money came from a bank account opened on behal of Lebowa by the SA government three years ago when Lebowa began experiencing cash flow problems. (1)

The SA government stepped in this week and took over the self-governing territory’s financial affairs. It also closed the account which was R245m in overdraft, of which the SA government had agreed to guarantee only R185m.

Allegations of arbitrary promotions in the Lebowa civil service were first made by Patrick Bulger

Lebowa

by CP deputy regional and land affairs spokesman Schalk Pienaar, who alleged that the problems began when staff at Lebowa’s Groothoek Hospital threatened to go on strike unless they were promoted.

The source said nurses had claimed that their merit records, which promotion assessments were based on, had not been kept up to date. At the end of June they went on strike.

"All of the rest of the public service threatened to go on strike unless they were also promoted. The government decided the same principle must apply to all and began backdating promotions and giving more pay to people they called deserving officials who had been unduly prejudiced," he said.

The personnel task team intended reversing the promotions, he said.

To Page 2

31/9/92

From Page 2

To Page 3

"All of the rest of the public service threatened to go on strike unless they were also promoted. The government decided the same principle must apply to all and began backdating promotions and giving more pay to people they called deserving officials who had been unduly prejudiced," he said.

The personnel task team intended reversing the promotions, he said.
Gravy train too fast even for SA

ByThemba Khumalo

GROSS mismanagement of funds plunged the Lebowa government into an unprecedented financial crisis which prompted Pretoria to step in and administer the homeland's finances for a period of six weeks, Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andries Fourie said on Friday.

He told a press conference in Pretoria that his government's intervention came after the SA Development Bank had found that Nelson Ramodieke's government had overspent its budget by R60-million, plunging Lebowa into a R722-million deficit.

Fourie said the bank also found that Lebowa civil servants were promoted three times above their original posts at a time, which meant that their salaries rose significantly. This caused a serious financial crisis.

He added that Lebowa took on new staff, despite the fact that there was no money to pay their salaries.

The bank also discovered that the homeland had an R60-million bank overdraft, said Fourie.

"Any government the world over will budget according to its ability rather than its needs," he said.

Ramodieke earlier accused Pretoria of interfering in his administration's affairs, and of seconding incompetent officials to his government.

Fourie said he would not be dragged into mudslugging with Ramodieke, adding that Ramodieke was scoring political points while he (Fourie) was only concerned with facts.
Receiver takes over in Lebowa

The Lebowa financial crisis escalated further this week when the Receiver of Revenue moved in to ensure income tax is paid in the homeland — and that central government gets its share.

The move came in a week when the Pretoria government took the unprecedented step of taking charge of the finances in the territory following revelations of maladministration and Lebowa's refusal to pass its R3.6-billion budget.

The administration of income tax in the territory was also found to be "not up to standard", said Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Andre Fourie, who admitted: "We were not getting the taxes we were due."

The minister's colleagues explained that Lebowa had left itself open to Pretoria's intervention when it threatened not to pass its budget unless it received more funds than those allocated.

"This is the only circumstance in which we could intervene. Lebowa created the gap, and we took it," an official said.
Lebowa finances probed

A South African financial task force worked around the clock over the weekend checking whether there had been widespread corruption in Lebowa's financial affairs.

Mr. Andries Fourie, the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, says that instances of mismanagement have been identified since the team took charge of Lebowa's money matters last week. The arrival of the task force has also had an unfortunate effect for local people, the Government has called in the Receiver of Revenue to investigate personal finances.

Fourie said the Government took the action with reluctance but was legally obliged to do so. Fourie revealed that Lebowa had received 21 percent more for its 1993/94 budget compared to the previous year and was one of two territories the other was QwaQwa— which had asked for additional money.
Lebowa resists fiscal takeover

PIETERSBURG:--- The Lebowa cabinet is considering legal action to resist South Africa's take-over of its financial administration, according to Chief Minister Nelson Ramotake's office.

"There has never been any agreement for the so-called take-over of the financial administrative function, an action which may be challenged by the Lebowa cabinet in a court of law," a statement said yesterday. --- Sapa
Lebowa admits misuse blame

LEBOWAKGOMO — Lebowa chief minister Mr Nelson Raimondike admitted yesterday, some seconded officials in his department of finance had been involved in the misappropriation of about R44 million. It was reported

This came a day after an official in the department was dismissed.

He said the money was withdrawn from the tribal trust account since 1991. A committee would investigate. — Sapa
Sharing the burden of Sekhukhuneland’s poverty

Drought, overcrowding and joblessness ensure that the South African takeover of Lebowa’s finances will make little difference to the homeland’s grindingly poor inhabitants.

Paul Stober visits desolate Sekhukhuneland

PEOPLE are not surviving here,” says cleric leader Patrick Tseledi, looking across the small dirt playground into the village of Motlobong.

Between the houses are swaths of green — some grass and vegetable patches which have survived the drought and rains — but the overwhelming impression is of desolation.

In the mountains of Sekhukhuneland, Lebowa, villages are surrounded by bare rock and dotted small homesteads, cracked by the sun. There are no wells, fields or any obvious means of survival for the villagers.

“People look after each other, their parents and their children. They are forced to live in a way they would prefer not to,” said Operation Hunger’s regional director, Johann Ristl.

Ristl has headed his organisation’s relief work in Lebowa for the past eight years. Every day, Operation Hunger provides food for 450,000 people in the Northern Transvaal — most of whom live in Lebowa. From Ristl’s office, the organisation runs the largest school feeding programme in South Africa and distributes nutritional aid to families.

He believes the root problem in Sekhukhuneland is that too many people live in too small an area.

“The area is fairly fertile but it has been overexploited and degraded because of the inordinate population density. There has been overgrowth and deforestation, and life has just about been wiped out. There are no natural resources left. When there is a drought or recession, people cannot turn to natural resources because they can no longer live of the land.”

The last census put the population of Lebowa at over four million, of whom 1.5 million live in Sekhukhuneland. But development workers scoff at this figure, seeing it as gross understatement.

Ristl acknowledges the feeding programme is not going to solve the problem. “We accept the need for sustainable development — but the reality is that children are dying on a daily basis.”

Handing down which means “we share the burden” is a community centre based in Jane Furse which is working on a development programme aimed at improving health standards in the surrounding villages.

The chairman of Hlokomela’s management committee, Aaron Metwaeldi, a doctor who has worked in Sekhukhuneland for many years, talks about “the problem of depression.”

“Lack of basic nutrition has hit the villages hardest, and children have been ravaged by kwashiorkor,” Metwaeldi said. According to Hlokomela’s centre employees, at least half the children up to the age of 12 years are malnourished. In some villages the incidence is as high as 60 percent.

Wherever you go, villagers complain about the shortage of water. The Lephepane government — only nominally in charge of territory since South Africa took control of the financial administration of the territory — is at best, incompetent and corrupt. At worst, it deliberately keeps the region underdeveloped, so that villages remain dependent on it for survival.

“Is what is holding development back. The Lephepane government still has not given water because here it is a political weapon,” said a development worker.

All through the day, youths can be seen pumping containers of water in wheelbarrows while women walk with cans on their heads. “People are travelling a long way to get water because the taps are dry,” said Tseledi. “In some parts of the area the water is in the dugs and you have to go down to the bottom to get it.”

Communities said the health services, electricity supply and education system were in disarray. “The Lephepane government only deploys members of South African Defence Force and builds police stations here,” said Tseledi.

Joblessness is a huge problem. There is virtually no formal business sector around Jane Furse and about 60 percent of the population is unemployed.

With little food produced in the region and virtually no work, it is hard to see how people carry on. “People are selling their goats, fruit or vegetables — going door to door to make a living,” said Tseledi.

Ristl believes a way must be found to increase the agricultural productivity of the area. Although there is some agricultural activity, production costs are too high and too few people have access to land.

“We are not going to feed everybody on a sustainable basis, but we have to ensure we produce as much as possible. If there is no food, we need to find substitutes for people. Food aid is not a long-term solution,” he explained.

Few residents believe the South Africans will change anything in the region.

“We never wanted to be part of Lebowa. Unless people have a say in the Lebowa government, these problems will never be solved,” said a black Lebowa Civic Association member.

A special supplement for the legal fraternity.
Next week in the Weekly Mail & Guardian — Review/Law
A joint ministerial committee established to oversee the clean-up of maladministration in Lebowa met for the first time only on July 30 — more than eight months after government announced its formation. Even then it did not complete its agenda. Proceedings ended when agreement could not be reached on Lebowa’s request for more money. The homeland’s Chief Minister, Nelson Ramodike, demanded to see President F W de Klerk and the meeting adjourned.

By then Lebowa’s financial crisis had deteriorated to such an extent that less than a month later, last week, government stepped in to take control. (111)

The joint ministerial committee was supposed to have been a key element in government’s efforts to remedy the massive financial and administrative irregularities exposed in a report of the De Meyer Commission last year. The commission, headed by Johannesburg chief magistrate Olaf de Meyer, found that there was a breakdown of financial administration in the homeland due to unqualified officials, unauthorised actions and contempt for the legislative process.

When he released the report in November, former Land Affairs Minister Jacob de Villiers said remedial action would include the appointment of a committee of Lebowa government Ministers to oversee the implementation of the commission’s recommendation, and a joint Lebowa-SA ministerial monitoring committee to check the implementation. It was unclear this week why the committee had taken so long to have its first meeting.

Regional Land Affairs Minister André Fourie, who is responsible for homeland affairs, told the FM that when he took office on April 1 he immediately arranged for a meeting on the earliest possible date, which was July 30. He says the Lebowa committee of Ministers was established and submitted regular reports to the joint committee.

However, it seems that either too little was done to ensure De Meyer’s recommendations were implemented, or the situation was totally out of control. Last week government took control of Lebowa’s financial affairs — the strongest possible action in terms of the Self-Governing Territories Constitution Act.

The final straw was apparently the Lebowa legislative assembly’s refusal to approve a budget for the current year. Earlier warning signals included:

- A request by Lebowa for additional funds even though it had not yet approved a budget;
- A cash-flow problem which resulted in Lebowa exceeding its overdraft facility “by a large amount,” according to government;
- Allegations of massive and unscheduled salary increases for some civil servants.

What is not clear is why, in the first place, the corrective steps supposedly taken by government and Lebowa last year were unsuccessful and, secondly, why it took so long to realise they were not working.

Ramodike — implicated in alleged malpractice — said at the time that De Meyer’s findings were “a dismay to all of those in responsible positions at political and official level (Current Affairs November 13).” But it seems that neither the official steps announced by De Villiers nor Ramodike’s dismay had much effect — and no-one in government seemed concerned enough to do anything about it.

In a background document published last week on the financial crisis in Lebowa, government says irregularities in the homeland’s administration had assumed “alarming proportions” in recent months. Fourie denies “quite categorically” Ramodike’s claim that SA’s action is in response to his support for the ANC. “The move is in the interests of the people of Lebowa and SA taxpayers. Financial control in Lebowa will be restored within four to six weeks and our action will then be seen to have been correct.”

In terms of the action, government has provided a budget of R3,6bn for Lebowa and will retain financial control. The money will be allocated to the homeland’s 10 State departments which will use it to continue with their normal functions.

Government has assured Lebowa’s civil servants, recipients of welfare payments and suppliers to the State that they will be paid and that normal services will continue.

Given that government will be out of office within a year and the homelands reincorporated into SA, the relative lack of outrage that greeted the latest Lebowa scandal is understandable. It is as if a punch-drunk public has come to accept that the Nationalists are no longer capable of honouring commitments, particularly to taxpayers.
Crisis has gripped Lebowa, where civil servants have not been paid following the takeover of the homeland’s financial administration by Pretoria.

By late yesterday, civil servants were on a virtual strike and it was announced that a court interdict may be brought today by both the Lebowa Cabinet and workers.

At issue is an insistence by South African Government officials, now in charge of finances, that salaries be paid out in terms of the computer tapes used at the end of March this year. This would effectively reverse the backdated salary increments that sparked the takeover last month.

The Lebowa Cabinet had submitted last month’s salary computer tape but this was rejected by Pretoria officials. Following the stalemate, Central Government officials yesterday handed Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodikile a letter stating that they would henceforth take over the computer operations in Lebowa.

The letter, from Regional and Land Affairs Minister Mr Andre Fourie, also said certain executive functions of government relating to finances would now fall under their control. Fourie said Ramodikile was not co-operating with officials, despite agreeing to do so last month.

A Government spokesman in Pretoria said yesterday a major announcement was to be made late last night in Parliament.

It is believed this could mean a wholesale takeover of the administration, which would effectively oust Ramodikile from office.

Ramodikile addressed workers yesterday and said he would not be ousted by Fourie. He ordered Fourie’s appointees to leave the Lebowa government premises within 30 minutes. An official later told Sowetan that police had advised the officials to leave, but their response was unknown.

Yesterday’s events followed weeks of declining services as Lebowa government functions dwindled, with no petrol for vehicles and banks dishonouring government cheques, sources said.

Trouble in Lebowa started on August 30 when Pretoria announced a takeover of control of finances. The move was sparked by large-scale promotions of civil servants, with backdated benefits of up to five years.

The move cost the State about R90 million, which was not budgeted for. Fourie said at the time that the move was illegal and called for its reversal. Ramodikile refused. Fourie said at the time that services would not be affected, but this has seemingly happened.

The takeover of the computer services would mean that Pretoria would be able to pay people on the scales determined by itself, despite protests from Ramodikile, his Cabinet and civil servants.
Bill allows SA to run Lebowa affairs

-Political Staff

Dramatic legislation allowing the government in effect to take over the administration of troubled homelands has been tabled in parliament in response to the mounting crisis in Lebowa.

The territory's chief minister was also told by the government yesterday that Regional and Land Affairs Minister, Andre Fourie, would immediately begin performing those executive powers, authorities and functions as are necessary for ensuring the continuation of the administration of government. But this morning South Africa ordered its officials to withdraw from Lebowa amid reported chaos.

Tensions between the South African and Lebowa governments are growing after chief minister Nelson Ramotake ordered the republic's officials out of the territory. This morning Mr Fourie tabled the far-reaching Self-Governing Territories Constitution Amendment Bill, designed to address the crisis in Lebowa.

It gives the president the power to perform or exercise the executive powers, authorities and functions in territories where the administration is in danger of collapse.

The bill marks minister step towards the dismantling of the six self-governing homelands, but does not provide for the removal of the chief minister.

Problems in Lebowa were sparked on August 30 when Pretoria announced a takeover of control over finances. The move followed large-scale promotions of Lebowa's civil servants, with backdated benefits of up to five years.
SA officials withdraw from Lebowa

SA government officials sent to take over Lebowa's financial administration were withdrawn from the territory yesterday after Chief Minister Nelson Ramolide allegedly told Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie that their safety could not be guaranteed.

Fourie confirmed the withdrawal of the officials "until the situation is resolved".

The spokesman said Lebowa had refused to accept SA's right to intervene in the territory's administration, but it was hoped the matter could be resolved by today.

However, Lebowa spokesman Josias Setati denied Ramolide had warned Fourie that the officials' safety could not be guaranteed.

Ramolide said yesterday he would not be pressured to "toe the line" by Pretoria's "carrot and stick tactics".

Addressing a meeting attended by PAC president Clarence Makwetsa in Lebowa, Ramolide said the SA government's decision to take over the financial administration of the territory had caused confusion and conflict in Lebowa.

The freezing of salaries had caused severe hardships among public servants and had subsequently affected services for the ordinary people of Lebowa.

Lebowa public servants demanding to be paid gathered in the grounds of the government complex in Lebowa yesterday, but dispersed peacefully at 4pm.

Possible legal complications about government's power to take over the financial administration of the six non-independent homelands will be removed in terms of the Self-Government Territories Constitution Amendment Bill, tabled in Parliament yesterday.

Our Political Staff reports from Cape Town that the Bill will enable the President to take over the administration of the homelands if he believes this is necessary to prevent the collapse of their administrations.

The measure follows government's decision to take over the administration of Lebowa.
Court plea on Lebowa

Yesterday the regional and land affairs minister told parliament of the government's decision to go to court. He was closing debate on the far-reaching Self-Governing Territories Constitution Amendment Bill, passed by parliament yesterday.

The legislation, which should be promulgated early next week, allows the government to take over, in effect, the administration of troubled homelands.

It gives the president the power to perform or exercise the "executive powers, authorities and functions" in territories where the administration is in danger of collapse.

AN interdict will be sought by the government in the Supreme Court to force Lebowa to allow Pretoria's officials to operate in the homeland.

This follows the withdrawal of the South African officials who had been seconded to run the self-governing territory's finance department amid mounting chaos in the administration.

Tension between the South African and Lebowa governments has been mounting since Chief Minister Nelson Ramoboka ordered the Republic's officials — in charge of finances since August 30 — out of the territory.
Sword of fate hangs over Ramadke

By KRIPANATH MAHAPATRA

The present government, which has been in power for the past 15 years, is facing severe opposition from the opposition parties. The opposition is demanding the resignation of the chief minister and the ouster of the government. The government, on the other hand, is defending its policies and accusing the opposition of being against the development of the state.

The situation has worsened in the recent days, with the opposition parties organizing protests and rallies across the state. The state police have been called in to maintain law and order, but the protests have continued.

The government is under pressure to take action against the opposition and to address the demands of the people. The opposition, on the other hand, is determined to continue its protests until the government resigns.

The situation is tense and volatile, and the government is taking all necessary measures to ensure the safety of the people and property.

The government has also announced a range of new initiatives and projects to boost the economy and create jobs. However, the opposition is skeptical of these measures and is demanding more concrete actions to improve the lives of the people.

The state is facing a critical juncture, and the outcome of this situation will have far-reaching implications for the future of the state and its people.
CP boss warns of next ‘plague’

GEORGE — The only way to stop the April 27 election was for the Concerned South Africans Group (Cosag) not to return to the negotiations table, CP leader Ferdi Hartzenberg said on Saturday.

Addressing the CP’s Cape congress in George, Hartzenberg said Cosag represented 4% to 5% of the electorate and that the only way to show there was no consensus at negotiations was for it to stay away.

“The election must not take place. Our first option is to see that we get our own election for our freedom.”

Referring to the series of “plagues” instituted by the party, he said the fourth plague had been its demonstration against the Transitional Executive Council. Fanning was in progress for the fifth plague, details of which would be announced when everything was ready.

“We must do everything possible to prevent the fifth plague occurring,” Hartzenberg said. “If the election comes, then the public will decide if it is going to surrender, or fight, and I say we must stand up and fight the ANC.”

He said government and the ANC were trying to give the Afrikaans a form of self-determination that boiled down to minority rights. “I want to say ‘Don’t think we will settle for anything less than full self-determination.’”

Ladybrand MP Charl Herzog, speaking on agriculture, said farmers, as the biggest title-deed holders in SA, should be given the opportunity to say whether they wanted their own state or wished to become part of the ANC’s enfranchisement, he said.

MP for Brits Andrew Gerber said education was being used to build a single nation in SA.

“The only way to guarantee Christian national education was to have an own volkstaat.” — Sapa.

New law to be used on Lebowa

CAPE TOWN — Parliament has passed legislation that will allow government to rescind past decisions of homeland governments, which will be applied immediately against Lebowa.

Parliament on Friday passed the Self-governing Territories Constitution Amendment Bill which will allow the President to rescind decisions of homeland governments taken after March 31, 1976.

The legislation provides that this can be done only if the governments concerned are on the brink of collapse or the decision of the government was likely to result in unreasonable financial obligations.

The legislation was unanimously supported, and is going to be used against Lebowa “immediately” to rescind the homeland government’s decision to backdate and increase public servants’ salaries.

Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie confirmed at the weekend that his department would make a renewed effort to gain access to computers which issued Lebowa’s public sector salary cheques.

Last week, Cape Minister Nelson Ramobide refused to co-operate with officials sent to Lebowa to take over the territory’s financial affairs and locked them out of rooms containing computers controlling government finances.

Lebowa had backdated promotions and promoted some officials beyond their stations which resulted in some salaries being more than doubled. Some of its 70,000 officials had also been given back payments of as much as R73,000, Fourie said.

In so doing, Lebowa had exceeded its R166m overdraft facility by about R70m.

Fourie confirmed that if control was gained over Lebowa’s finances, government employees would be paid according to how much they were getting in March this year, plus the 5% increase given to all civil servants, effectively nullifying the salary increases.

Action in terms of the new legislation was not planned against any of the other self-governing states, only one of which apart from Lebowa had an overdraft facility, Fourie said.

The passing of the Bill coincided with the auditor-general’s reports being tabled in Parliament on five self-governing states, which revealed criticism at all of them for the laxity of their financial controls.

The reports, all of which were reported on events that took place two or more years ago, disclosed that financial controls in the states were either shoddy or non-existent.

KwaNdebele’s unauthorised expenditure amounted to R4.7m for the 1991/92 financial year.

The auditor-general found it was impossible to carry out a proper audit in KwaNdebele, where R13m in unauthorised expenditure was recorded in 1989/90.

The KwaZulu 1991/92 report revealed serious shortcomings in systems of internal checking, and 101 cases of theft involving firearms and ammunition worth R76,000 were disclosed.

DP MP Peter Seol said the reports confirmed SA’s worst fears about the “decline, into an abyss of corruption which could cost the SA taxpayer billions if not trillions of rand”.

He described the tabling of the reports after Parliament had adjourned as a “cynical act which will not escape public scrutiny”.

Fourie said the picture painted of the self-governing states being hotbeds of corruption was “unfair.”

Many performed adequately under difficult circumstances, he said.
SA cops move on Lebowa

SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT officials moved in under police guard and seized the computer centre of the Lebowa administration at the weekend.

The officials have been working to iron out the region's chaotic financial affairs.

They moved into the Lebowakgomo computer centre to print or reprint previously dishonoured cheques for salaries, pensions and suppliers after the homeland's coffers ran dry as a result of maladministration.

Thousands of civil servants who had not been paid their salaries again gathered outside the homeland government's offices in Lebowakgomo yesterday, said Mr Kwena Setati, a spokesman at Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramodike's office. The atmosphere was tense, he added. Ramodike could not be reached for comment.

Pretoria obtained a court interdict at the weekend because the Lebowa government would not co-operate. The South African Police's Internal Stability Division sent 120 policemen to provide security, ISD deputy chief General Adriaan de la Rosa confirmed. This was after Mr Ramodike remarked that he could not guarantee the safety of South African officials in the homeland.

The Minister responsible for regional and land affairs, Mr Andre Fourie, will address a meeting in Pietersburg today to explain the situation to parties with a financial interest in the homeland. His spokesman, Mr Helmut Schletter, said: "At the moment we have people in the computer centre going day and night to get the cheques printed and get them out as soon as possible. Every salary cheque had to be reprinted."

The Lebowa government, which has about 70 000 public servants, had been interdicted from issuing more cheques.

The homeland did not pass its budget in the statutory period and therefore has no authorisation to make payments.

In addition, it exceeded by R60 million an overdraft facility guaranteed by Pretoria, Schletter said. One of the examples of why Lebowa had severe cash flow problems was that the salaries of 192 justice officials had not only been doubled, but had also been back-dated. —Sapa.
Financial crisis in homeland escalates

SA security forces move in to guard key Lebowa installations

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The crisis in Lebowa has escalated with South African security forces moving in to guard key installations.

Round-the-clock guards have been deployed at power stations and computer installations as a result of the financial crisis in the homeland.

The chief minister, Nelson Ramodike, and members of his Cabinet have apparently gone to ground after a South African task force unearthed more discrepancies in the homeland’s financial affairs.

Sources in Lebowakgomo, the capital, said that Mr Ramodike and other top political officials were not in their offices yesterday and have not been seen since Friday.

An official at Mr Ramodike’s office said: “They are not at work. They are out.” There was no further explanation.

Sources in Pretoria insisted the government had no knowledge of the whereabouts of Mr Ramodike and his colleagues.

South Africa is today poised to take over all the homeland’s affairs after parliament passed the Self-Governing Territories Constitutional Amendment Act, which was rushed through the House by Regional Affairs minister Andre Fourie as a result of the Lebowa crisis. It is expected to be signed into law by President De Klerk, who returns to Pretoria from the United States and Britain at 9 am today.

According to sources in Pretoria, security forces acted on Friday after the Lebowa government had the day before ordered seconded South African officials — looking into the homeland’s finances — to leave the territory.

South Africa then obtained a Supreme Court interdict in Pretoria to allow the officials from the Department of Regional Affairs and other State departments to continue their work.

The crisis was sparked off last month when South Africa declined to provide additional funding, totalling tens of millions of rand, to bolster Lebowa’s budget, which had not been officially agreed to by the homeland’s legislative assembly.

South Africa said then that it had discovered irregularities of “alarming proportions”.

In terms of the Self-Governing Territories Constitutional Act, South Africa then took over the budget as well as control of financial obligations to the civil service and contractors, and sent in a task force to investigate the territory’s financial affairs.

Meanwhile, there was chaos in the homeland yesterday as more than 60 000 civil servants went into a second week of strikes because they have not been paid.

South Africa declined to authorise September salaries because it says increases agreed to by the Lebowa authorities were irregular.
Lebowa audited under SAP guard

SA GOVERNMENT officials sent to take over Lebowa's financial affairs returned to the territory under SAP guard yesterday, took control of a computer centre and reopened investigations into alleged maladministration that would have left the homeland bankrupt by November.

SAP spokesman Lt-Col Ray Harold confirmed yesterday that 120 internal stability unit policemen had been deployed in the capital, Lebowakgomo, in support of officials from the Regional and Land Affairs Department.

"The sole purpose was to give protection to the people who are investigating the financial situation there at the moment, and not to take over the functions of the Lebowa police," Harold said. Eastern Transvaal police, meanwhile, were deployed on "special perimeter patrols" along the SA/Lebowa border.

Yesterday's intervention followed a stand-off between Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramotikane and SA Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie over Pretoria's decision earlier this month to take over Lebowa's financial administration.

SA moved to investigate irregularities in the territory's financial administration when the Lebowan parliament failed to meet a statutory deadline for passing its 1993/94 budget earlier this month.

However, SA officials were withdrawn from the territory last week after Ramotikane allegedly told Fourie the safety of SA officials in Lebowa could not be guaranteed.

Sapa reports that a spokesman for Fourie said yesterday officials moved into the Lebowakgomo computer centre to print or reprint previously dishonoured cheques for salaries, pensions and suppliers after the homeland's coffers ran dry.

"At the moment we have people in the computer centre going day and night to get the cheques printed and get them out as soon as possible," Fourie said. "Every salary cheque had to be reprinted," Hellmut Schleibner, said.

Schleibner said Lebowa had exceeded its overdraft limit and its offices were struggling to pay employees. He added that the salaries of 122 justice officials had not been paid on time.

Meanwhile, thousands of striking Lebowa civil servants who have not been paid since Pretoria took over the territory's purse strings, returned to work briefly yesterday morning but gathered in the parliamentary compound in Lebowakgomo in the afternoon, according to Lebowan spokesman Josias Sebati.

In a letter to Lebowan civil servants yesterday, Fourie said the continued payment of present salaries would have resulted in Lebowa having no money by November. SAP has for further payment of salaries, pensions and essential services. Fourie said every effort was being made to meet all legitimate payments by October 2.
Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Government officials, under SAP guard, returned to Lebowa yesterday, took control of a computer centre and re-opened investigations into alleged maladministration.

They were sent to take over the bankrupt territory's financial affairs.

A spokesman said 120 internal stability unit policemen were guarding the officials.

Pretoria moved earlier this month to take over Lebowa's financial administration after the Lebowan parliament failed to meet a statutory deadline for passing its 1993/1994 budget.

However, Pretoria's officials were withdrawn last week after being told their safety could not be guaranteed.

A spokesman for Regional and Land Affairs Minister Mr Andre Fourie, told Sapa yesterday the officials took control of the computer to reprint previously dishonoured cheques for salaries, pensions and supplies after the homeland's coffers ran dry.

Lebowa had exceeded its R60m overdraft facility guaranteed by Pretoria, Mr Hellmuth Schlenther said.

Another reason for Lebowa's cash flow problem, he said, was because the salaries of 192 justice officials had not only been doubled, but had also been back-dated.
Call to Probe Lebowa Tender Awards
Officials get massive handouts

Huge gravy train scandal in Lebowa

BY JUSTICE MALALA and NORMAN CHANDLER

Nearly 200 of Lebowa’s Department of Justice officials had their salaries increased from R24,000 a year to R49,000 a year — and each received a separate payment of R73,000 to backdate the huge salary increases, Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Andre Fourie revealed yesterday.

Fourie made the disclosure to Pietersburg businessmen — amid mounting tension between the South African Government and the Lebowa administration — as an example of financial irregularities in the homeland.

Outlining some of the irregularities which led Pretoria to take over Lebowa’s financial affairs, Fourie said 192 officials in Lebowa’s Department of Justice had received the huge backdated salary increase in April.

The Lebowa government had also appointed more than 1,000 R25,000 salary increases were coupled to separate, backdated payments of R73,000 teachers whose salaries had not been included in its budget.

Fourie said South African working groups would take over the homeland’s financial affairs, personnel matters, security, administration, pensions and the “delicate issue of the tender board”.

Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike said last night “promotions” of Lebowa civil servants were not irregular until proved to be so by a “properly constituted investigating body”.

Ramodike also said he objected to members of the Internal Stability Unit “harrassing” officials by fetching them from their homes to help at the Lebowa Computer Centre which South African officials have taken over.

And in a memorandum to the Negotiating Council, Ramodike requested that immediately on its inception, the Transitional Executive Council’s subcommittee on finance should investigate allegations of corruption, inefficiency and deterioration in Lebowa’s financial management.

He also proposed that the financial administration of Lebowa be put under the direct control of the TEC.

Kaiser Nyatsumba reports that the ANC yesterday strongly condemned the Government’s takeover of Lebowa’s financial administration, and accused Pretoria of victimising homelands-hostile to it while turning a blind eye to those which “identify with its broad policy positions”.

...
Lebowa asks TEC to take over its finances

LEBOWA yesterday accused Pretoria of political victimisation and appealed for the territory's financial administration to be placed under the direct control of the Transitional Executive Council (TEC).

In a memorandum for consideration at the Kempton Park talks, Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike asked the negotiating council to consider giving its finance subcouncil control over the homeland's administration.

He also demanded the immediate withdrawal of the SAP from Lebowa. The SAP's internal stability unit seized a Lebowa government computer centre on Monday to allow SA officials to investigate alleged irregularities in civil service promotions and Lebowa's failure to pass its 1993/94 budget.

Ramodike's memorandum was sent to talks administrative head Theuns Eloff.

He also asked the subcouncil to investigate SA Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie's allegations of corruption and inefficiency in Lebowa.

The chief minister claimed the crisis in Lebowa was politically inspired and was being used for electioneering. Government and the NP could not be allowed to continue "marginalising, victimising and oppressing" Lebowa and its ruling United People's Front.

In Pietersburg yesterday, Fourie spelt out some of the financial irregularities which had led to government's action.

Speaking to businessmen, he said that in April nearly 200 officials of Lebowa's Justice Department were granted salary increases of between R4 000 and R6 000. They each received R6 000 in backdate their increases.

The Lebowa government had also appointed more than 1 000 teachers whose salaries had not been included in its budget. Lebowa wanted to stop capital pro-


ty to enable it to pay officials' salaries, he said.

Fourie said Ramodike had refused his request to meet him yesterday.

But Ramodike found an ally in the ANC, which said it believed the finance subcouncil would have the legitimacy and credibility to take "the necessary measures" to rectify the crisis.

It said the showdown was a crisis of grand apartheid. The finances of all the homelands and TBVC states was "appalling" and they should be reincorporated into SA urgently.

The ANC said while it condemned corruption, SA's action in Lebowa was "hypocritical and arrogant" and came from a government which itself had a track record of corruption and maladministration.

Ramodike denied that he and his cabinet had gone underground and that Lebowa's civil service was on strike.

He said his government was aware of irregularities in Lebowa's administration, as reported by the De Meyer commission, but not of new irregularities.

Meanwhile, Fourie's spokesman Holmuth Schlenther said the officials charged with honouring Lebowa's debts were expected to complete work at the computer centre ahead of schedule on Friday.
OWN YOUR OWN SWEET HOME

Housing packages available in:

- PROTEA GLEN
- DOORNKOP EXT 1
- DORSONVILLE
- VOSLOOBRUS
- ETATWA
- SPRUITVIEW
- CRYSTAL PARK/BENONI
- LOMBARBY EAST/WEST
- KEW
- NATURENA
- RIDGEWAY

Packages from R56 000

Phone
When this time last year, a commission appointed to look into corruption in Lebowa found that millions of rands had been embezzled by state functionaries, Pretoria said there was nothing it could do. But in a matter of three days, the same Government has now piloted a law through the short session of parliament, giving itself power to take over control of any bantustan authority.

Speaking to many in Lebowa, one is left in no doubt about the political opportunism involved. Many point to the presence of the National Party's new member, Chief Chris Mothiba, who is a member of the Lebowa Legislative Assembly and a member of the NP's Provincial governing body.

Mothiba, a former minister of finance, was in the forefront of the battle against Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike in the LLA earlier this year. The attempt to unseat Ramodike failed. The argument now given is that the NP wanted to unseat Ramodike and replace him with Mothiba and use Lebowa administration to garner support for its election campaign.

Dramatic action

With that tactic having failed, it is argued, Ramodike had to be taken out in a way, hence this week's dramatic actions.

There is some merit in this argument, for corruption is not new in any bantustan. Most bantustans, as well as the central Government, bribe people to collaborate in their own oppression. This view is, to a large extent, supported by the African National Congress, which has come out in support of Ramodike, even promising mass action to force Pretoria out of Lebowa Kgomo.

"It is a paradox of today's politics that the ANC, which spent years campaigning for the dissolution of bantustans, today threatens action to ensure their continuance. But, again, there is also an opportunism involved, many say. For Ramodike is a member of the ANC controlled 'Patriotic Front at Codesa'. But, what is the background to this action by Pretoria, which has effectively ousted Ramodike from power? Civil servants employed by Lebowa have been denied promotion for a long time, they say.

Earlier this year, health workers, specifically nurses, downed syringes demanding that their salaries be adjusted accordingly. As the government dog in, community anger grew, and they gave in and paid nurses millions of rands. In the process, clerks in the health department, who were working on the files realised they too had been disadvantaged, and demanded the same.

Computer operators who had to feed in the data for issuing cheques demanded the same and it became an all round demand for justice in the promotions. It was this trend that led all departments to look into their staff and give backdated promotions. The move cost nearly R90 million and has not been completed. As staffs were home, with tens of thousands, the money had not been budgeted for.

The salary account dried up immediately and money from capital projects was used. When this too dried up, a suspense account, which is used to finance specific emergency projects and is refunded each month, was used to pay salaries, with no refunds taken into the account.

Hence the huge overdraft of R245 million. It was at this point that banks started returning cheques by the government, and the request by Lebowa for more funding from Pretoria — an opportunity seized by Pretoria to come in and take over.

Supported the move

At first, Ramodike supported the move, although he said it was not necessary. He defended his promotions and said black staffs had been denied promotions by seconded whites. But when the task force from Pretoria took over and he realised they were intent on overturning the promotions, and aware of the anger that would arise among civil servants, he blew his top and expelled them.

He threatened legal action to stop the takeover but more than a week has gone by and this has not materialised. But Pretoria outmaneuvered him, passing the bill authorising complete takeover in a record three days, and sent troops and crack police units in to take over the computer centre.

Without delay, Pretoria also established commissions to run the affairs of Lebowa, security, personnel, pensions, finance and the tender board, effectively setting up a parallel cabinet that had control of the funds, while Ramodike and his over-sized cabinet remained in office with no power. In desperation, Ramodike has now turned to the multiparty talks in Kempton Park for support.

His ship is sinking fast and he wants a John Rolfe to salvage him, to throw a rope and pull him back. Whether he will get the support he wants is open to question, for the MPC will also be faced with the dilemma that by supporting him they may be seen to be supporting unbridled corruption in homelands. The Lebowa administration is important for Ramodike. Without it, he has no discernible following with his United People's Front. Even the support he now commands through the UPF, is probably because people want favours from him as chief minister.

Has no money

The UPF has no money and almost all its staffers are employed by the government, drawing salaries there while effectively doing party work.

A recent injection of R100 000 by Firechem followed an intervention at a high level to get the company a R15 million contract that was piloted outside the tender board, a deal now in danger of being cancelled by Pretoria. In the region itself, debate is raging about how to deal with the matter.

The ANC supports Ramodike. The Azanian People's Organisation supports the workers but calls for the dismantling of all bantustans. It says corruption should be rooted out by a credible body but rejects the link with the Transitional Executive Council, which is the route the ANC is proposing. The PAC held discussions with Ramodike last week, the outcome of which is unknown.

But the organisation has said it supports the dismantling of all bantustans. And as the debate rages, and Ramodike's fate becomes clearer by the day, basic services in the bantustan are coming to a standstill. In the process, ordinary people suffer, caught between what seems to be political manoeuvring by the NP, against a man who seems not to support it.

Pretoria has said civil servants will be paid today, on reduced scales that cancel out the promotions. This is likely to lead to renewed battles between the Government and the workers.
Lebowa remains tense

BY DIRK NEL
NORTHERN TRANSVAAL BUREAU

Lebowa was tense yesterday as civil servants continued to strike despite assurances by the South African Government that their salaries would be paid by the weekend.

A mass protest meeting was held in Lebowakgomo Civic Centre, where speakers criticised the Government’s take-over of Lebowa’s financial and administrative affairs.

Meanwhile Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike reportedly conferred once again with his Cabinet. Sources said Ramodike was still defiant, and was not considering stopping down.

THE homeland’s request to be put under control of the TEC is called a ‘non-statement’

On Tuesday SA Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie said Lebowa had squandered millions of rands on unauthorised, unbudgeted salary increases for government officials.

Ministry spokesman Helmut Schlechter said yesterday that had the SA Government not stepped in to take over finances in the homeland, Lebowa would have run out of money by November.

Earlier, Ramodike said inadequate funding by the South African government had prevented Lebowa from approving a budget for 1993/94.

He added that “promotions” of Lebowa civil servants were not irregular until proved to be so by a “properly constituted investigating body”.

And in a memorandum to the Negotiating Council, Ramodike requested that — immediately on its inception — the Transitional Executive Council’s sub-committee on finance should investigate allegations of corruption and inefficiency in Lebowa’s financial management.

He also proposed that the financial administration of Lebowa be put under the direct control of the TEC — a call backed by the ANC.

Fourie said yesterday that the ANC’s call for Lebowa’s financial administration to be placed under the control of the TEC sub-council on finance was “a non-statement”.

The TEC had not been implemented nor did the powers given to the sub-council allow it any administrative capability.

“Furthermore, even if it were not for the above, by the time the TEC was set up its sub-councils would have been instituted, Lebowa would have run out of money for the payment of salaries, pensions and suppliers,” he said.
Sun setting fast on Ramaphose's reign

Maluleng went to the northern Transvaal homeland to find out how things had gone.

"The end of a brutal dictatorship by its creator. The South African Government. Justice for two decades of corruption and misadministration. And said to have run rampant, is on."

Edited by Mike Shama
Standard faces R60m Lebowa loss

STANDARD Bank stands to lose R60m if no money is found by SA’s task force in Lebowa to honour an overdraft incurred by the homeland.

Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie confirmed yesterday that SA had guaranteed a R185m overdraft facility for Lebowa at Standard Bank, but an additional R60m given to Lebowa when the homeland’s coffers were empty was the bank’s responsibility.

“Only Standard Bank took that risk as a business decision,” Fourie said.

Government was negotiating with Standard Bank, and had promised to “accommodate” it if Lebowa’s finances were stabilised and the money could be found within the territory’s budget. Normal payments on the account would continue.

Fourie described government’s relationship with the bank as “good”.

Standard Bank has refused to comment on its relationship with Lebowa.

Fourie laid the blame for Lebowa’s financial crisis squarely at the door of Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike and accused him of intimidation.

“I get the impression there is intimidation from Ramodike, that his staff and the legislative assembly are scared to take a stand against him.”

Political considerations had played a part in Pretoria’s decision to take over Lebowa’s financial administration.

“The current situation in Lebowa is a direct consequence of the decisions of, and the lack of cooperation from, the chief minister,” Fourie said.

It became clear to Pretoria that Lebowa was in trouble when it requested an extra R50m from government, even before it was supposed to approve a budget.

Government had suggested that the Development Bank of SA’s structural adjustment programme investigate the request, and the programme had, in an August 26 report, alleged maladministration and mismanagement.

Standard Bank had also refused to honour Lebowa cheques, Fourie said.

Irregular promotions in Lebowa would cost the SA taxpayer hundreds of millions of rands a year if they were not stopped.

“It came to the task team’s attention, for example, that 192 senior administrative clerks in the Lebowa justice department were promoted to senior administrative officials. Not only did these officials’ yearly salaries increase from R34 721 to R49 688, but each of them received back-dated payments of salaries, pensions and essential services.”

Fourie said such backdated payments would be investigated, but it would be difficult to recover the money.

He dismissed the call by the ANC and Ramodike for the financial administration of Lebowa to be placed under the control of the Transitional Executive Council, saying this body was not yet operating and its finance subcouncil would have no administrative capability to perform this task.
Civil servants being paid

Lebowa still defies SA Govt

By Norman Chandler
Pretoria Bureau

Lebowa yesterday continued to defy the South African Government over its attitude towards the financial crisis in which the homeland has found itself.

Chief Minister Nelson Ramotake and his Cabinet yesterday again refused to discuss the issue with Regional Affairs Minister Andre Fourie.

SA has, meanwhile, started to pay the monthly salaries of civil servants, while the Standard Bank of SA — Lebowa’s chief bankers — tried to recover almost R70 million from the Lebowa government, which overran its R185.5 million overdraft facility.

Fourie told a media briefing in Pretoria that while the government had secured the R185.5 million, Standard Bank was liable for the recovery from its clients of the R70 million.

"It is a bank-client situation," Fourie said.

Fourie said, "We have promised the bank that the issue will be settled. We are not going to leave the bank in the lurch."

However, we must point out that Standard Bank took the risk."

Fourie, who described the Lebowa crisis as "a difficult problem and unprecedented," said the SA Government had not received the assistance it had needed from Ramotake’s government.

Lebowa’s chief minister still refuses to discuss his territory’s financial crisis with Minister Andre Fourie

"It is a stumbling block," he admitted, saying that up to 70 000 civil servants’ salary cheques — bearing the signatures of a South African and a Lebowa government official — had been reprinted and distributed this week.

Most of the salaries would have been paid by today.

"In addition, every salary earner will be receiving a letter from the SA Government detailing how the situation in Lebowa had arisen and how it is being resolved," Fourie said.

He emphasised that it was not the intention to dismantle the Lebowa government, nor was it the intention to upset the people of Lebowa. "We are, however, concerned that the ANC has got on the bandwagon and stated that it supported Lebowa, particularly after having given its support to the Self-Governing Territories Constitutional Amendment Act in Parliament last week."

Fourie said it appeared that certain officials in the ANC were not in concert with the organisation’s official line or its parliamentary representatives.

Meanwhile, a task force — comprising experts in finance, positions, tenders, personnel and income tax — continues to sift through Lebowa’s affairs. "We cannot at this moment tell you with any accuracy what they have found," said Fourie.

He also said some civil servants who might have been overpaid might be held liable "if it were found that their salary increases were too excessive." He said 192 officials in the justice department alone had received huge increases, some backdating three years, and that other departments were being investigated. A total of 1,147 teachers had been engaged over the past three years, but there had been no money in the budget to meet their monthly salaries.

The SA Communications Service has requested all creditors wishing to inquire about debts to them by the Lebowa government to telephone the Department of Regional and Land Affairs in Pietersburg (01521) 7470, or submit full documentation of the outstanding accounts to the department’s office at room 118, Library Gardens, Grobler Street, Pietersburg.
Law permits takeover of homelands

AS LEBOWAN civil servants queued to draw their salaries yesterday after SA officials had worked non-stop the past week to process payments, legislation allowing the SA Government to take over Lebowa's administration was published after being signed into law.

The Self-Governing Territories Constitution Amendment Act, signed into law on Thursday and published yesterday, allows the Government to take control of a homeland when the State President believes this is necessary to prevent its administration collapsing, or that the administration is incurring "unreasonable financial obligations".

The legislation was tabled in an attempt to halt overspending in Lebowa. Lebowa citizens owe between R60 million and R70 million in tax which still has to be collected and which could cover some shortages. — Sapa.
Liebowa finds itself in a pickle
The fact that civil servants were on the march, even more than the takeover of Lebowa's finances, reflects just how deep the difficulties of this homeland go.

The marchers and Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike — both say the Transitional Executive Council should sort out Lebowa's financial chaos — the longer-term reality is that the public servants are unhappy and are getting organised, and whoever takes over the region will have to deal with that.

The issue that prompted Regional Affairs Minister, Andre Fourie, to step in — mass promotions followed by large salary increases and hefty amounts of backpay, all of it unauthorised — has generally been seen as Lebowa's 58th-episode of corruption, the scam that finally broke the accountant's back. Lebowa's R186.5 million overdraft is now overdrawn by a further R76 million.

But Gilbert Mosena, a town planner in the Department of Home Affairs and joint head of the Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Forum which represents Lebowa public servants, sees it differently. "This mass promotion was simply normalising the situation, and that is something which people don't understand," he says.

"People deserve those promotions and whoever takes over this administration will have to recognise the reality of the situation. All the pressures used to get Ramodike to agree to mass promotion will be used on the next person," he says, adding that Lebowa's civil servants plan to join COSATU's public sector union next year.

Advancement, he says, was at first thwarted by the presence of white officials seconded from Pretoria. Thereafter it was distorted by what Mosena calls nepotism through the Cabinet. "We don't recognise Ramodike. We are not softening our approach to him as a result of this. But we don't recognise this takeover either. We don't see any reason to give Fourie power to run Lebowa as that is to his political advantage," he says.

This theory, that Pretoria's takeover is aimed at giving the Nats political leverage in the area in advance of elections, is also propounded by the regional ANC. "We do not condone the corruption here in Lebowa," says northern Transvaal head Ngoako Ramathlo. "All we are saying is that the Pretoria Government must be seen to be consistent in the way it responds."

The ANC leadership in the region has been siding up the diplomatic route with Ramodike for some time. There have been strikes in the hospitals and schools, a tax boycott by traders, even a protest march by pensioners."

The crowd of around 1,000 people gathered outside the council's headquarters on Saturday said it was easier for the ANC to focus on that, rather than speak out against the Lebowa government's well-documented rip-offs — which keeps saying is the ultimate responsibility of the central government. Ramathlo says: "We are not even sure if that government is qualified to be a judge over the administrations it created itself for purposes of corruption."

Pretoria's moral qualifications aside, someone had to do something because Lebowa has simply ground to a halt. The government fuel depot in Lebowakgomo has not had petrol since September 6 — the supplier, unpaid for too long, has turned off the taps.

Yesterday 66,000 salaries were paid out, a week later than usual and less money than some employees had reason to expect. In a letter sent out with every pay slip, Fourie said: "The continued payment of present salaries as adjusted could have resulted in Lebowa having no money available by the end of November.
SA strips Lebowa's leader of his power

By Claire Robertson, Ciarán Ryan and Ezra Mantini

The South African government has stripped Lebowa Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike of his power to rule the bankrupt homeland.

In a proclamation rushed through a day after enabling legislation was published this week, President FW de Klerk gave Regional Affairs Minister André Fourie the power to override decisions taken by Mr Ramodike and his cabinet.

Although the homeland's ministers will retain their titles after the bloodless coup, the South African government can overturn their decisions and even cancel existing decrees, effectively placing Lebowa under Pretoria's curatorship.

The move - which will send shivers through the ranks of other wasteful homeland governments - gives Pretoria the right to rescind any decisions likely to result in "irresponsible financial obligations, responsibilities or burdens" on revenue funds in Lebowa or South Africa.

Already Pretoria has overturned the Lebowa cabinet's gift of its five-star casino to the former Swimshy and Monte Carlo clubs, both of which were closed down.

The Sunday Times has established that building contracts amounting to R76-million were awarded to the highest bidders.

The last five civil engineering contracts entered into by the Lebowa government went to the highest tenderer in each case - a little-known company called Growcon. Growcon's bids were in each case an average of 20 percent higher than its competitors, according to Des King, a director of the SA Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC).

The Building Industries Association, which has called for an urgent review of tender procedures in the homeland, says Growcon won three road construction projects even though it did not have the ability to carry out the work and had to bring in outside contractors.

Mr King said that on at least six occasions contracts had been awarded to the highest bidder or a company that was way out of line with the pricing recommended by the architects and professional teams. "It makes Al Capone look like a Sunday school teacher," he said.

The additional cost to the South African taxpayer of awarding these contracts has been estimated at R6-million.

Mr Fourie has promised a legal action if the task group uncovers any irregularities at the Lebowa Tender Board.

The Regional Affairs Minister, who faces down cabinet opposition to the Bill granting South Africa the right to intervene in executive decisions in self-governing territories, yesterday stressed...
In the Post, Philip Taylor and other preparatory strapped for hiker's, faulty

war

special report by Claire Robertson

THE LEBOWA TO FIGHT LES MARCHES ON PERTORIA'S ARMY IN

was two hundred of the Local Government恩

1972-73 and 1974-75. Our town, with the...
A face played out on an absurd stage

2006-07-10 9:30

people are not on strike...
Lebowa Protest

BY KHANCANE
MAKHADO

THOUSANDS of Lebowa civil servants will gather at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park this week to protest against salary cuts imposed by the South African government.

This was the claim of Sebola Sebokala, who heads Lebowa’s interdepartmental coordinating forum, a group of civil servants.

The action comes after the takeover of the homeland by the central government a month ago.

Although no date has been finalised, the demonstration is billed for Tuesday or Wednesday, he said.

One of the demands to be presented would be for an investigating board to look into alleged corruption, whether in Lebowa or anywhere else in SA, he said.

There was relief on Tuesday when civil servants were assured their salaries would be paid.
Demand for refund

MEMBERS of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union in Lebowa have given Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie until Wednesday to refund money they say is owing to them.

Sactu officials told a meeting of members at the weekend that Lebowa education authorities and the union had signed an agreement that money deducted during a 1991-92 strike be refunded.

They are asking Fourie to make a declaration of intent to refund their money because Lebowa Education Minister Mr Mokhule Ledwaba, had authorised payments before Fourie took over the administration of the homeland. Sapa and Sowetan Reporter.
Bank defends Lebowa loan

MONEY advanced to Lebowa to meet the homeland's debt was paid in accordance with facilities sanctioned and approved by the SA government, Standard Bank said yesterday.

The bank was responding to claims by government that Pretoria was not responsible for R88m overdrawn by Lebowa shortly before central government took over its administration last week.

Government said it had guaranteed Lebowa's overdraft facility for R186m, but Lebowa overdrew nearly R280m to meet its salary payroll.

The bank said misconceptions had arisen over media reports based on incorrect information. "All amounts advanced to the Lebowa government to meet drawings, including drawings for salaries, have been made in accordance with facilities approved and sanctioned by officials of the SA government," Standard said.

However, the SA National Civic Organisation (Sanco) said yesterday Standard and not the SA taxpayer should carry any losses from Lebowa's financial crisis.

Sanco president Moses Mayekiso said Standard had profited from its relationship with Lebowa, but had "apparently become too greedy" and extended the overdraft facility beyond what government would guarantee. Government should respect the rules of the market in this case, and not accommodate Lebowa through using its strained finances.

"Standard must not set the precedent for getting a bailout. Other banks must learn the lesson that homeland governments are not good credit risks," Mayekiso said.

Cosatu, meanwhile, has called for the urgent establishment of an independent audit commission to investigate and regulate all government expenditure.

It said a Transitional Executive Council subcouncil on finance should oversee the expenditure of apartheid institutions until an interim government was in place. "This will ensure that the massive pillaging of the fiscus ... will be checked before it jeopardises the transition process."

The Lebowa cabinet met yesterday to discuss a submission it is to make at the multiparty talks in Kempton Park today. Lebowa is expected to ask for its financial administration be placed in the care of the TEC subcouncil on finance.
SA govt approved Lebowa loan
Standard

Johannesburg.
Money advanced to Lebowa to meet the homeland's debts was paid in accordance with facilities sanctioned and approved by the SA government, Standard Bank said yesterday.
The bank was responding to claims by government that Pretoria was not responsible for R60m overdraft by Lebowa, shortly before central government sent officials to take over the administration of the homeland last week.
Government said it had guaranteed Lebowa's overdraft facility for R180m, but Lebowa overdrew nearly R250m to meet its salary payroll.
"All amounts advanced to the Lebowa government were sanctioned by officials of the SA government," Standard said in a statement.
Meanwhile, the SA National Civic Organisation (Sanco) said yesterday Standard and not the SA taxpayer should carry any losses from Lebowa's financial crisis. Sanco President Moses Mphoko said Standard had profited from its relationship with Lebowa, but had "apparently become too greedy" and had extended the homeland's overdraft facility beyond what government would guarantee.
'Don’t replace us with other puppets'

LEBOWA Chief Minister Nelson Ramodike, whose territory has been invaded by the Pretoria government, said his entire Cabinet was prepared to close shop and leave office if all homelands were to be dismantled.

In an exclusive interview in Lebowa kgomo, Ramodike told City Press that his government was reluctant to leave office before the legislative assembly was dissolved.

He said should the homeland government resign, it would be replaced with another set of puppets because legally the legislative assembly was still in existence.

"Bantustan leaders, collaborators and puppets should not be replaced with other puppets. If we leave office now, Pretoria will do just that," said Ramodike.

He claims that FW De Klerk’s decision not to dismantle Lebowa was in accordance with developments at the World Trade Centre.

Ramodike believes the takeover of the homeland’s financial administration is a political move.

He said if maladministration was the motive for the invasion, more corrupt homelands would also have been targeted.

He maintained that he was being victimised because he was a member of the Patriotic Front and supported the ANC.

Since the NP rally in Pietersburg, Ramodike believes he has become a stumbling-block to the recruitment drive in the region.

He accused the central government of applying double standards by allowing some officials implicated in corruption to go unpunished.

Ramodike and most of his cabinet have not been paid since August.
OUT TO GET ME'

C/Press 10/10/93

By MOSES MAMAILA

LEBOWA chief minister Nelson Ramodike is positive there is a plot to assassinate him and to destroy his entire cabinet. "There are attempts to kill me," said Ramodike, adding that he had reason to believe that his entire cabinet was on a hit-list. "My typist and my personal secretary have been receiving threatening calls from anonymous callers who warned them to tell me that I should seriously consider leaving this office or my days are numbered," he said.

He said he believed the death threats were linked to the take-over by the central government, saying the threats came shortly after the "invasion." "There are plans to stage a physical coup here," said Ramodike, who said he feared the entire cabinet was in danger.

The chief minister said it was clear that those who wanted to oust him from power through the "silent" coup were not satisfied that he was still in power after all their efforts.

He said he had consequently increased security measures for himself and for cabinet members following the threats on their lives.

Ramodike . . . SA is plotting against me.

During one of the "mysterious" calls, Ramodike said the caller told him Zambian president Fredick Chiluba wanted to see him in Lusaka.

Later another anonymous caller said president Kamuzu Banda of Malawi wanted to see him in Lilongwe.

Ramodike told City Press that his office were earlier this week surrounded by members of the SAP's Internal Stability Unit in an action he described as open provocation.

He also accused the ISU members of interfering in his private affairs and those of other ministers and their relatives - by patrolling the ministerial residence during the night.

WE WANT A LEGITIMATE BODY IN LEBOWA NOT THIEVES

THIEVES UNWANTED . . . A determined protester at the World Trade Centre.
Raiders of the Lost Riles
By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

The entire work force of about 60 000 Lebowa civil servants downed tools yesterday after 15 colleagues were ordered out of their offices by South African Government officials.

Representatives of the workers said 14 members of Lebowa’s department of public works were forced out of their offices on Monday by South African officials who were accompanied by armed members of the Internal Stability Unit.

Also ordered out was Miss Ginny Mathinjwa, a finance clerk based at the computer centre which is now under police guard. Mathinjwa is also a member of the Inter-departmental Forum.

The stoppage yesterday, which crippled all services except health and the police, is the culmination of events that started with the takeover of Lebowa’s finance administration in September.

A spokesman for the Department of Regional and Land Affairs said yesterday that 15 had been found to be obstacles to the functioning of the task force sent by Pretoria.

He said suppliers of services to Lebowa had not been paid since June and that boxes containing claims were lying in the works department offices unprocessed.

He said the 14 works department representatives had threatened task force members with violence last week and had ordered other clerks not to process any payments for contractors until the reductions made in salaries last month were reversed.

The department had then decided to give the 15 workers indefinite paid leave. He said the task force, accompanied by the police, had seized documents needed to process claims by suppliers.

Worker representatives, however, said the problem stemmed from cheques issued to labourers by the Lebowa administration. The cheques were not honoured by the banks and requests to Pretoria’s task force to reissue the labourers with new cheques had been ignored.

“These are people who have effectively been robbed. The staff say that the task force was too keen on processing their white brothers’ claims while ignoring salaries of black labourers,” a spokesman said.

The workers, who spent the day yesterday camped outside the main government buildings in Lebowakgomo, sang and danced the whole day, demanding that Land Affairs Minister Mr. A. Fourie should meet them.

Fourie was attending a National Party congress in Cape Town and was only expected in his office today, a spokesman for his office said.

The workers are understood to have vowed to remain outside until Fourie meets with their representatives, who yesterday met Chief Minister Mr. Nelson Ramolide at his office.

A spokesman for Ramolide confirmed the work stoppage and said the chief minister’s appeal to the multiparty talks for intervention in the stalemate would be discussed today.
Strike cripples

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

The entire workforce of about 60,000 Lebowa civil servants downed tools yesterday after 15 colleagues were forced out of their offices by South African Government officials.

Representatives of the workers said 14 members of Lebowa’s department of public works were forced out of their offices on Monday by South African officials who were accompanied by armed members of the Internal Stability Unit.

Also ordered out was Miss Ginny Mathinjwa, a finance clerk based at the computer centre which is now under police guard. Mathinjwa is also a member of the Inter-departmental Forum.

The stoppage yesterday, which crippled all services except health and the police, is the culmination of events that started with the takeover of Lebowa’s finance administration in September.

A spokesman for the Department of Regional and Land Affairs said yesterday the 15 had been found to be obstacles to the functioning of the task force sent by Pretoria.

He said suppliers of services to Lebowa had not been paid since June and that boxes containing claims were lying in the works department offices unprocessed.

He said the 14 works department representatives had threatened task force members with violence last week and had ordered other clerks not to process any payments for contractors until the reductions made in salaries last month were reversed.

The department had then decided to give the 15 workers indefinite paid leave. He said the task force, accompanied by the police, had seized documents needed to process claims by suppliers.

Worker representatives, however, said the problem stemmed from cheques issued to labourers by the Lebowa administration. The cheques were not honoured by the banks and requests to Pretoria’s task force to release the labourers with new cheques had been ignored.

“They are people who have effectively been robbed. The staff say that the task force was too keen on processing their white brothers’ claims while ignoring salaries of black labourers,” a spokesman said.

The workers, who spent the day yesterday camped outside the main government buildings in Lebowakgomo, sang and danced the whole day, demanding that Land Affairs Minister Mr A Fourie should meet them.

Fourie was attending a National Party congress in Cape Town and was only expected in his office today, a spokesman for his office said.

The workers are understood to have vowed to remain outside until Fourie meets with their representatives, who yesterday met Chief Minister Mr Nelson Ramaodi in his office.

A spokesman for Ramaodi confirmed the workers’ appeal to the multiparty talks for intervention in the stalemate would be discussed today.
Crippled Lebowa is ready to explode

AN explosive situation is developing in Lebowa, crippled by 60,000 government employees on strike.

The strike is to show sympathy for 15 colleagues dismissed by officials of Mr André Fourie's Department of Regional and Land Affairs.

Government employees massed outside government buildings in Lebowakgomo yesterday demanding a meeting with Fourie.

Urgent talks between Lebowa government department heads and officials delegated by Fourie began in Lebowakgomo yesterday in an effort to defuse the tense situation, which has been deteriorating since the South African Government's takeover of Lebowa's financial affairs on September 1.

The homeland's public servants last month expressed dissatisfaction with salary cheques paid out after the takeover.

An official in Lebowa's Department of Home Affairs confirmed yesterday that all work in local government departments had stopped.

The 15 Lebowa officials, members of the civil service organisation and the Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Forum, were allegedly ordered out of their offices for allegedly obstructing the work of seconded officials instructed to speed up the processing of claims from businesses whom large amounts had been owing since June.

The Pietersburg office of the Department of Regional and Land Affairs, which is helping to process the claims, yesterday refused to disclose the total amount involved.

ICP chairman Mr Moseamo Sebola said the Works Department officials had refused to pay white suppliers of services to Lebowa because thousands of labourers and general assistants on the Lebowa payroll had not been paid their August salaries.

Civil servants at a meeting later decided that they would all go on strike in solidarity with the dismissed workers, he said. "We are saying that if SA is so eager to pay the white suppliers why is it not ready to pay the labourers their meagre R500 salaries?"

"The strike will continue for as long as our members are walking the streets," he said.

A spokesman for Chief Minister Nelson Ramotšikane said there had been no talks between Fourie and the Lebowa cabinet on the future of the homeland's administration.

Sowetan Reporter and Own Correspondent.

1 000 workers strike

BY Lulama Luti

ABOUT 1 000 workers at Game Stores countrywide began an indefinite strike yesterday after negotiations with management collapsed.

The workers, all members of the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union, decided on the strike action after management refused to accede to their demands.

Stores already affected by the strike are in Pietersburg, Nelspruit, Bruma Lake in Johannesburg, Game City in Durban and Alberton.

Union spokesman Mr Buxani Mngoma said the union was demanding an increase of R165 across the board, a minimum salary of R1 400 a month, a monthly laundry allowance of R15, discounts of 14 percent for staff and unconditional days off. He said management was instead offering a R120 across-the-board increase, R1 320 minimum a month and that the union drop all its demands.
Homelands crisis deepens

Gazankulu, Venda also in financial difficulties

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

The financial crisis in the homelands is deepening.

After revelations of Lebowa's financial chaos, The Star learnt yesterday that Gazankulu is also experiencing financial difficulties. And in Venda the government is trying to recover R5,5 million in pensions paid in error to five civil servants.

Gazankulu sources said: "Desperate cost-cutting measures were being introduced to save the homeland from bankruptcy in the months before the 1994/95 budget allocation is made.

The Education Department alone is down R72 million, and has instructed school principals to "privatise their schools" and, if necessary, retrench staff to reduce the salary bill. Similar exercises are being followed by other departments.

At least 2,500 unqualified teachers stand to lose their jobs at the end of the year, but will be able to apply for posts in April.

In Lebowa, meanwhile, claims of about R60 million have been received from suppliers to the homeland's government. These are being processed.

Plans are also being made for Regional Affairs Minister Andre Fourie to meet the Lebowa Interdepartmental Action Coordinating Forum next week to discuss grievances.

Yesterday about 60,000 striking civil servants were warned of a boycott of white businesses in and around Lebowa if the crisis with South African officials was not speedily resolved.

They also demanded that 14 dismissed Works Department employees be reinstated and that no white-owned company, which was owed money by the Lebowa government, be paid until casual workers received their overdue wages.

A spokesman for the Regional Affairs Department told The Star that hundreds of casual workers would probably be paid soon.

The Venda civil servants have been ordered to repay the R5,5 million within 21 days or face legal action. They got the money last year as a result of incorrect calculations made when the Venda government pension fund was privatised.

Letters of demand from the country's Pension Implementation Committee had been sent to them, Venda Public Servants Coalition Committee chairman Alidzulwi Muvhango said.
PIETERSBURG. — The Lebowa Inter-Departmental Co-ordination Forum and the South African task team have reached a provisional agreement allowing those officials to return unconditionally.

The agreement was reached between the parties yesterday. An spokesman, Mr. Mosaumo Sebola, said civil servants would resume duties soon.

Lebowa civil servants downed tools on Tuesday to protest against the South African task force which is running the homeland's financial administration. — Sapa
Why Lebowa went on promotions spree

Jockeying for position in the new South Africa was at the heart of the sudden and widespread promotions of civil servants by the Lebowa cabinet, it emerged this week. (PP)

Venda, Gazankulu and Lebowa will all form part of a single northern Transvaal region in future. Their civil servants will have to compete for jobs.

Pretoria's spokesman in Lebowa, Mr Piet Matthee, would not confirm this was the reason behind the promotions, but said Lebowa officials had complained that "Gazankulu has more directors-general than we do."

Lebowa's deputy Minister of Works, Mr Lekau Mamabolo, told workers on Friday: "Our civil servants cannot transfer into the new South Africa with lower ranks. Our people must be promoted."
How some of the cash was squandered

Some of the examples of wild spending discovered by officials in Lebowsa:

• The cabinet ordered R14,000 worth of steak "and a few chickens" for one function;
• A minister managed to go through 14 lunches on a two-day visit to the Palace at the Lost City;
• A junior official on business in Pretoria spent more than two hours — and over R100 — on a long-distance private call (not to his wife);
• The education department was asked to approve a R1,500 take-away chicken lunch for a teachers' conference "because free lunch would motivate them to attend";
• A civil servant could not refund the R116,000 back-payment she received after her promotion as she had spent the money on a trip abroad. She brought back R4.
PRETORIA — Contractors, suppliers and bank officials will meet the Lebowa Cabinet tomorrow to discuss the state of the homeland’s finances and the prospects of receiving outstanding money.

A Lebowa government spokesman said the business community had been plunged into a state of "ongoing confusion" since officials from Pretoria intervened in the homeland’s affairs last month.

The intervention, by a team of SA auditors and police, came in the wake of the Lebowa government’s inability to pass its budget. Allegations of widespread financial mismanagement are being investigated.

Following a meeting last week between Lebowa government officials and representatives of the Pietersburg Chamber of Commerce, it had been decided a meeting for all interested parties should be held, the spokesman said.

At tomorrow’s meeting, those attending would be informed of developments.
Lebowa staff resume duties

LEBOWAKGOMO — Leboa public servants resumed their duties yesterday after a four-day strike.

The decision to end the strike came after the Lebowa inter-departmental co-ordination forum received a letter confirming the unconditional reinstatement of 15 officials evicted last week from their offices by the SA government's task team.

The task team alleged the officials were uncooperative.

A spokesman for the Lebowa public servants denied this, saying the officials were reacting to the "racist attitude" of processing payments for white tenders and contractors, while the salaries for black labourers were not paid.

"The spokesman also called for the appointment of an independent body to investigate misused funds in Lebowa," he said.

He said most of the members of the task team investigating the alleged embezzlement of funds in the territory had earlier been dismissed by the Lebowa government for corruption.

The inter-departmental co-ordination forum would meet Regional and Land Affairs Minister Andre Fourie today in Pretoria to discuss the matter, he said.

— Sapa.
Lebowa, SA try to clear the air

BY NORMAN CHANDLER

South Africa and Lebowa yesterday took joint action to heal rifts between the two countries as a result of South Africa taking over control recently of the homeland's financial affairs.

President de Klerk and Chief Minister Nelson Ramokgopa discussed problems which had arisen — including strikes by civil servants, occupation of computer centres by South African security services, and non-payment of salaries and contractors' fees — at a meeting at the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

Lebowa's legislative assembly did not pass the homeland's 1993-94 budget, resulting in a request from the homeland for more than R300 million to meet its commitments.

According to a government statement on yesterday's meeting, "the two sides discussed the current financial and administrative crisis in Lebowa."

"They agreed to establish a joint ministerial committee to clarify the present limitations on the authority of the Lebowa government."

It was also decided that the time had come for both governments to be continually informed of what "rectifying action" had been taken, and to promote co-operation between two South African financial task forces and the Lebowa government and civil service.

The results of the talks are the first positive signs to emerge in the Lebowa crisis since South Africa invoked the Self-Governing Territories Constitutional Act, later amended, to take over Lebowa's affairs at the end of August.

The first financial task force was sent to Lebowakgomo, the homeland capital, immediately afterwards and ran into problems when it attempted to look into the territory's financial affairs. Security forces seized the computer centre, to enable SA to Reprint 60 000 cheques.
DP candidates to sign conduct code

THE DP is set to adopt a set of regulations for the nomination of election candidates which contain no specific mechanisms for affirmative action on the basis of race or gender.

The DP's draft regulations note that the electorate will expect the lists of candidates to be nonracial and nonexist, but it will be left to electoral colleges to vote for a balanced list of candidates.

In the preamble to the regulations, the DP notes that they provide for a mechanism to screen candidates on the basis of merit, electability, commitment and past performance.

Prospective candidates will be required to sign a "candidate and public representative undertaking", which will include a code of conduct requiring candidates to operate openly, to be accountable to the party and not to use their office for personal gain.

The first position on the DP's list of candidates will be reserved for the leader of the party.

Other candidates will be selected in a complex process whereby a national electoral college will vote for nominees in batches of 20.

The 10 nominees to receive the most votes will join the final list of candidates. The remaining 10 will return to the pool of nominees. This process will continue until there is a complete list.

DP national organiser James Sello said the process was designed to prevent block voting and ensure geographic balance.

WILSON ZWANE reports that the ANC FWV region will ask its members and those of its allies to nominate its key leaders for positions in government at its annual conference in Johannesburg this weekend.

Secretary-general Paul Mashatile said yesterday new regional executive committee members would be elected at the conference.

The conference would then ask its branches to nominate candidates for local and regional governments.

"The members will be given three weeks to do this. And a conference of the regional tripartite alliance will be convened towards the end of November to discuss the lists," he said.

He stressed that nominees did not have to be ANC members. They could come from any mass democratic movement organisation.

It would not be necessary for nominees to leave their organisations, but once in government on the ANC ticket they would be answerable to the organisation.

The weekend conference will be attended by 900 delegates from Cosatu, the SACP, the masses' democratic movement and business.

Bid to resolve Lebowa crisis

LODGE COUTTS

GOVERNMENT and the Lebowa administration yesterday agreed to establish a joint ministerial committee to clarify "limitations on the authority of the Lebowa government" precipitated by last month's takeover of the homeland's financial administration by Pretoria.

An SA delegation headed by President F W de Klerk and a Lebowa government delegation led by Chief Minister Nelson Ramolale met in Pretoria yesterday to discuss the administrative crisis in the homeland.

Government said the parties had agreed to promote co-operation between the Lebowa government and the SA financial task force sent to take over the homeland's administration last month when the territory's assembly failed to meet a deadline for approving its budget.

It was also agreed that both governments would be kept advised of "rectifying action" and ways of normalising the situation in Lebowa would be investigated. A joint committee of officials would be appointed to assist the ministerial committee.
The rotten heart of the homelands

Complete disorder caused by mismanagement and corruption has been revealed by commissions of inquiry into the affairs of Lebowa and kwaNdebele.

By Mduduzi ka Harvey

The latest reports of commissions of inquiry into Lebowa and kwaNdebele reveal a cesspool of corruption and mismanagement which can only accelerate moves to reincorporate them into South Africa.

The fourth and final De Meyer Commission of Inquiry into Lebowa this week ratified the government’s decision to take over the finances of that homeland. The revenue office of the homeland was “poorly controlled and managed” and led to “inefficiency in all sections”, the report concluded.

There is no final graft tally, but the inquiry found that R4-million was outstanding on the 62 cases it had investigated in the Revenue Office. The third De Meyer report, published a year ago, found that almost R1-billion had been lost through mismanagement in the homeland.

“The commission shudders at the thought of what the total amount outstanding will be if all the files are subjected to an audit, a task that has been recommended,” the report says.

It continues: “To create order out of the existing disorder will require a major effort.”

Some order will be restored by the complete overhaul of the system of tax assessment and tax collection. The report suggests that the names of tax offenders be made public and that the government grant a concessionary period to taxpayers to get their affairs in order.

The fifth Parsons report into the affairs of kwaNdebele — also released this week — places blame for mismanagement at the door of then minister of finance David Nguni, and the former chief minister, George Mahlangu.

Blamed ... Former kwaNdebele chief minister George Mahlangu

Nguni did not budget for expenditure incurred, pursued projects without checking whether funds were available and overspent on the budget, the inquiry found. Mahlangu is criticised for forcing decisions on finance officials.

The report says that maladministration was rife in all departments of the kwaNdebele government service because of the total absence of middle management.

The report found that the kwaNdebele Department of Justice was completely disorganised.

Records were continually lost, there was no filing system, appeals did not receive attention and reviews were not sent to the supreme court. No overall control was exercised because of the lack of regular administrative, financial and audit inspections.

Teachers’ salaries were paid by different departments and this gave rise to “losses and malpractices”. Thousands of school packages were purchased, resulting in overspending of R162 926.

The report suggested that ministers had an interest in certain book firms and found that the payment of kickbacks for the award of tenders was widespread.

Cases were also noted where people received public service salaries, but also drew pensions.

KwaNdebele, like Lebowa, had also lost large amounts of money in rental and services arrears, the inquiry concludes. The town of Enkangala, for example, had a potential income of R300 000 a month, but only R20 000 was received monthly, leaving the arrears at about R11.6 million between 1991 and 1992 alone.
Corruption

Commission's expose massive corruption in Kwandebelu

Lebowa

Pretoria - Government yesterday,

Commission exposes massive corruption in Kwandebelu.
Justice department in a quandary

Control of Lepoard Revenue

Call to probe licence testing

should move to SA office

Elangeni will be in attendance

Only 112% are within the law

On paper to save jobs for civil servants
Multi-million rand wastage

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The government expressed shock yesterday at the staggering multi-million rand level of corruption and mismanagement uncovered by two commissions of inquiry investigating the administrations of KwaNdebele and Lebowa.

Reports published this week by the De Meyer and Parsons commissions indicated that theft, "kick-backs", fraud, maladministration, tax evasion, tender irregularities, needless expenditures and chaotic administrative control existed in virtually every department of the dozens examined.

Regional Affairs Minister Mr André Fourie said government was shocked at the level of mismanagement revealed by the reports and was impatient that the financial affairs of the self-governing territories be corrected.

"At the cost of effective government, it damages the economy and is a waste of taxpayers' money. Corruption and maladministration is wholly unacceptable," he said.

The two commissions were established in 1989 and had previously published reports on the 1986 unrest in KwaNdebele and the role of the territory's police force as well as the initial results of an investigation into the Lebowa Government Service, the Lebowa Development Corporation and the now defunct Lebowa Agricultural Company.

Mr Fourie said corrective steps including criminal procedures, the disbanding of a state department and the institution of improved control were implemented as a result of the earlier reports.

The latest De Meyer Commission report included investigations into the administration of Lebowa's Education department, the Chief Minister's Office, the Receiver of Revenue and the departments of Works, Transport and Water Affairs.

The commission concluded that "mismanagement occurred in all the departments that were investigated".

Similar results were reported from the Parsons Commission examination of KwaNdebele's Chief Ministry and the departments of Justice, Interior Affairs, Welfare and Pensions, Education and Culture, Finance, Health and Civil Liaison.

Rough estimates suggest that at least R50m in "needless expenditures" had been approved by officials from KwaNdebele while R30m in unbudgeted funds had been spent on various projects. More than R17m in expenditure was unaccounted for in the office of Chief Minister Mr M.J. Mahlangu.

These figures represented a fraction of the millions, and possibly hundreds of millions of rand, squandered by the two self-governing territories during the 1980s.

The findings of the two commissions included:

- Kick-backs of R1m were paid to officials in KwaNdebele's education department to encourage decisions on construction contracts.
- Electricity meters were not attached to KwaNdebele government buildings leading to the loss of thousands of rands.
- Luxury vehicles became the property of ministers after 18 months while allowances were reduced to include tax.
- The issuing of drivers' licences in Lebowa needed urgent investigation, and
- Widespread theft of cotton, irrigation equipment, milk, milk powder and cattle within Lebowa's Agriculture Department.

The De Meyer Commission blamed the financial chaos on politicians who had set up the self-governing territories' structures.

"The politicians involved are to a great extent to be blamed," it said.

CHIEF MINISTER . . .
KwaNdebele's Mr M.J. Mahlangu
Multi-million rand wastage

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The government expressed shock yesterday at the staggering multi-million rand level of corruption and mismanagement uncovered by two commissions of inquiry investigating the administrations of KwaNdebele and Lebowa.

Reports published this week by the De Meyer and Parsons commissions indicated that theft, "kick-backs", fraud, maladministration, tax evasion, tender irregularities, needless expenditures and chaotic administrative control existed in virtually every department of the dozens examined.

Regional Affairs Minister Mr André Fourie said government was shocked at the level of mismanagement revealed by the reports and was impatient that the financial affairs of the self-governing territories be corrected.

"At the cost of effective government, it damages the economy and is a waste of taxpayers' money. Corruption and maladministration is wholly unacceptable," he said.

The two commissions were established in 1989 and had previously published reports on the 1986 unrest in KwaNdebele and the role of the territory's police force as well as the initial results of an investigation into the Lebowa Government Service, the Lebowa Development Corporation and the now defunct Lebowa Agricultural Company.

Mr Fourie said corrective steps including criminal procedures, the disbanding of a state department and the institution of improved control were implemented as a result of the earlier reports.

The latest De Meyer Commission report included investigations into the administration of Lebowa's Education department, the Chief Minister's Office, the Receiver of Revenue and the departments of Works, Transport and Water Affairs.

The commission concluded that "mismanagement occurred in all the departments that were investigated".

Similar results were reported from the Parsons Commission examination of KwaNdebele's Chief Ministry and the departments of Justice, Interior Affairs, Welfare and Pensions, Education and Culture, Finance, Health and Civil Liaison.

Rough estimates suggest that at least R50m in "needless expenditures" had been approved by officials from KwaNdebele while R30m in unbudgeted funds had been spent on various projects. More than R17m in expenditure was unaccounted for in the office of Chief Minister Mr M.J. Mahlangu.

These figures represented a fraction of the millions, and possibly hundreds of millions of rand, squandered by the two self-governing territories during the 1980s.

The findings of the two commissions included:

- Kick-backs of R1m were paid to officials in KwaNdebele's education department to encourage decisions on construction contracts.
- Electricity meters were not attached to KwaNdebele government buildings leading to the loss of thousands of rand.
- Luxury vehicles became the property of ministers after 12 months while allowances were adjusted to include tax.
- The issuing of drivers' licences in Lebowa needed urgent investigation, and
- Widespread theft of cotton, irrigation equipment, milk, milk powder and cattle within Lebowa's Agriculture Department.

The De Meyer Commission blamed the financial chaos on politicians who had "set up the self-governing territories' structures.

"The politicians involved are to a great extent to be blamed," it said.
Homelands rife with corruption

Commissions report on Lebowa, Kwandebel bele

In some instances the two commissions have recommended legal action and the recovery of millions of rands of government money.

Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Andre FOURIE said in Pretoria last night that “government shares the public's shock and impatience with mismanagement. Corruption and maladministration is wholly unacceptable.”

The two reports have been issued in the same week as the Regulations Council at Kempton Park recommended the abolition of homelands and independent states, established by South Africa as part of apartheid policies.

Calling the establishment of the homelands “part of an obsolete policy”, Mr FOURIE claimed the decision to set up self-governing states was “at the time supported by most white voters”.

President De KLERK on February 2 1990 “turned his back on separate ethnic states which at any rate were not viable. Both central government and the (homeland) governments are in agreement that the present system must be abolished and replaced with a new strong autonomous regional dispensation.”

The De Meyer report on Lebowa says there was a lack of knowledge on the part of a large number of senior officials in regard to administration and management which led to a further lack of proficiency in the lower ranks of the civil service.

“Politicians involved are to a great extent to be blamed for the process through which certain institutions were established. Policy was often formulated without the prior consideration of implications, in particular financial.”

There was mismanagement in the Chief Minister’s department as well as those of Works, Law and Order, Transport, Water Affairs, and Education.

In one instance, it was found that bales of cotton worth R49 652 “simply disappeared” from the Sepitsi Project Farm and Lebowa Development Corporation (LDC). Staff are said to have committed criminal acts in this connection. The commission has recommended a police investigation.

The LDC came in for sharp criticism, particularly as its board of directors was found to have ignored decisions laid down in a government White Paper, published after an earlier investigation was carried out into the LDC.

The Parsons Commission on Kwandebel bele — which first sat in 1989 — found that the chief minister at the time, M G MAHLANGU, gave instructions which seriously affected financial discipline in the homeland.

A list of the instructions from Mr MAHLANGU included a “welcome home function” on his return from a visit to Taiwan and which cost each government department R10 000, a 1968 day of prayer for rain cost R21 000, a million election pamphlets costing R1 million, the transporting of 1 300 children from Soweto and Atteridgeville to a local beauty spot cost R33 000, and boosting the image of the country and its people cost R343 000.

“Kickbacks” of about R1 million were paid to various people in regard to building work which was to be carried out at the Ndebele Teachers’ Training College in 1987.

The extensions were cancelled when it was found there were no funds available. Criminal proceedings have been recommended.

The giant housing project at Tweefontein was not budgeted for at all — and eventually cost taxpayers R28 million.

The commission comments: “It is surprising that such an extensive project was launched without prior budgeting for the initial expenditure or determining that funds could be provided over a period.”

Work on the project was stopped between February 1990 and July 1990 while investigations were carried out, but salaries were continued to be paid.
Homeland Grant Revealed

[Image of a map of Namibia with labels such as 'Kavango', 'Kalahari', 'Sleepers', 'Nhoma', 'Bwana', 'Pangola', 'Tambale', 'Mapali']

From Page 1
BY NORMAN CHANDLER
PRETORIA BUREAU

Commissions of inquiry into two soon-to-be abolished homelands have uncovered rampant maladministration, corruption and theft involving many millions of rands.

The Lebowa and KwaNdebele governments, from Chief Ministers down to the lowest-paid civil servant, as well as public and private companies, have come in for criticism from the De Meyer and Parsons commissions respectively.

Some officials in KwaNdebele, the Parsons Commission found, took a R1 million "kick-back" for building work that never got off the ground, and Cabinet Ministers pocketed money received from discounts obtained on luxury cars and gave "tea-time instructions" in regard to tenders.

The De Meyer Commission which investigated Lebowa — now under further scrutiny by the South African Government after a fiasco developed over its budget allocation — uncovered non-payment of taxes by most of the population over eight years, as well as ministerial instructions which helped deplete government funds.

Unacceptable

In some instances the two commissions have recommended legal action and the recovery of millions of rands of government money.

Minister of Regional and Land Affairs Andre Fourie said in Pretoria last night: "The Government shares the public’s shock and impatience with mismanagement. Corruption and maladministration are wholly unacceptable."

The two reports have been issued in the same week as the Negotiating Council at Kamptown Park recommended the abolition of homelands and independent states.

The Revocation and Assignment of Powers of Self-governing Territories Act to do away

GOVERNMENTS of KwaNdebele and Lebowa come in for criticism from the De Meyer and Parsons commissions

with these states has already been passed by Parliament.

Authorities of the two homelands "presently still accept full responsibility and accountability in the appropriation of funds allocated to them", Fourie added.

In regard to Lebowa, the De Meyer report said there was a lack of knowledge on the part of a large number of senior officials in regard to administration and management, which led to a further lack of proficiency in the lower ranks of the civil service.

There was mismanagement in the Chief Minister’s department as well as those of Works, Law and Order, Transport, Water Affairs and Education.

The commission said revenue collection in Lebowa was "not an honest and fair system for the collection of taxes, which necessarily militates against the willingness of the public to pay taxes".

The report has recommended that every taxpayers’ file since 1986 should be audited because files were in total disarray.

In one instance, it was found that bales of cotton worth R49 652 "simply disappeared" from the Sipol project farm, and Lebowa Development Corporation (LDC) staff are said to have committed criminal acts in this connection. The commission has recommended a police investigation.

The LDC came in for sharp criticism, particularly as its board of directors was found to have ignored decisions laid down in a government White Paper, published after an earlier investigation was carried.

To Page 2
Reports add up the high cost of apartheid

By BRIAN POTTINGER and CLAIRE ROBERTSON

They lived like kings amid a wasteland. The white benefactors of the crass apartheid system - so-called contractors, government officials, and friends - consumed taxpayers' money and squandered it. Now, rather than an endless soap drama, two new reports reveal the never-ending land created by the National Party.

The Oelof de Meyer inquiry into the Lebowa homeland paints a picture of administrative collapse, possible larceny, and suspected fraud in the building of apartheid in the mid-1980s. Millions of rands were misused, stolen or simply lost.

The inquiry reveals a pyramid of, at worst, corruption and, at best, a direct breach of Boerhaave's command. The inquiry stands at the apex.

In 1986 Teralin Engineering, owned by Mr. Strelser, was awarded a contract for building reservoirs and laying pipes. The work was shoddily done so that the contract was terminated. Three years later, Teralin was awarded the exclusive contract to build all the dams in Lebowa.

One of Teralin's former employees, Mr. Marx, testified that the company sometimes paid employees up to R25 000 a month to employees in the Lebowa government, although the employees denied this.

Then there is the case of the obituary of Mr. S.G. van Zyl of the Lebowa Department of Works. In 1988 the department called for a tender to construct new buildings in Gaborone and Maunweng. The department recommended the lowest tender submitted by M.G. Maboya Electrical Contractors. Because the tender was not signed, it was awarded to D.R. Raitadi. The nearest other competitor was B&G Electrical.

Mr. Raitadi told the commission that Mr. van Zyl had asked him to tender. He had told Mr. van Zyl he was not in a position to do so, but Mr. van Zyl advised him to try anyway. Mr. Raitadi won the tender but when he could not find a sub-contractor to do the work, Mr. van Zyl came to his rescue with a white sub-contractor.

When the work was done, Mr. van Zyl told Mr. Raitadi to hand over the department and later arrived with a cheque for R12 210. He also owned B&G Electrical, which put him in an advantageous position of receiving two out of three tenders before the board.

In the case of the Kwandebele Department, a contractor, Mr. Morgan, who owned a B&G Electrical, which put him in an advantageous position of receiving two out of three tenders before the board.

In the Kwandebele Department, the same irregularity that stands out among the scores detailed, involves contracts granted to the brother-in-law of a Tender Board member - and to the member's own private Johannesburg firm.

Mr. J Morgan was a KTB member until last year; he was also a partner in the firm Professional Project Services.

In January 1991, PPS was awarded a contract for the design, supply, construction and supervision of a R3-million project to build 164 classrooms.

No tender procedures had been followed. Although it had undertaken to charge R1 000 for the design, supply, construction and supervision of the classrooms, and although the Kwandebele Department of Works undertook to oversee the work, PPS piled up the costs.

An extra R75 000 was charged for site supervision and design, and another R50 000 for "traveling costs.

The report found that some were built in the wrong villages, and some not at all - but cheques were "blindly" signed.

At least 15 of those that were constructed were in an appalling state.

In September 1990 tenders were invited for the supply of 200 prefabricated toilets. The most expensive was that of Hata-Butte Homes, which has a Kwamkhulu address, among others. (Giving a favoured status as a local firm) and which gave as its tender address that of Mr. H.K. Wilson of Pretoria - Mr. Morgan's brother-in-law.

Hata-Butte did not win the tender - not at first.

The Department of Education wrote to the chairman of the Tender Board recommending that it go to the lowest tenderer, Baltimores, for R80 000.

The name of this firm was crossed out in pen, that of Hata-Butte substituted, and the amount changed to R90 000. Hata-Butte was duly awarded the contract.

But there is no record of the toilets reaching their destinations. Education complained, and a letter bearing the name of Mr. L Mkhwanazi arrived with excuses.
Work on abuses swamps office

PRETORIA — The Transvaal attorney-general's office has been swamped with work since publication last week of reports on misadministration in Lebowa and KwaNdebele by the Parsons and De Meyer commissions.

Transvaal attorney-general Jan D'Oliveira said he had limited resources with which to investigate the "multitudes of allegations" emanating from the commissions.

The two commissions uncovered irregularities and misadministration in virtually every department they investigated, dating back to the late 1970s. These included Lebowa's chief minister's office and its departments of education, receiver of revenue, works, transport and water affairs, and KwaNdebele's chief minister's office as well as its departments of justice, interior affairs, welfare and pensions, finance and health.

Tens of millions of rand and hundreds of the self-governing territories' officials were implicated in the commissions' findings.

D'Oliveira said a special investigation team had been created and additional staff taken on by his office to deal with the "very large number" of cases to be looked at.

UK military attache takes up duty in SA

LONDON — The first British military attache to serve in SA for eight years, Brig James Parker CBE, a former deputy chief of staff of British forces in Germany, will present his credentials to the Foreign Affairs Ministry this week before officially taking up his new duties.

Britain's Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, said in the House of Commons last week: "It is a direct British interest that SA should come through this tunnel of transition safely. Our own correspondent

dealings with SA have returned to healthy normality. We are working to encourage British investment."

He said Parker would be the first defence attache to be sent to the British embassy in Pretoria for eight years.

"We want SA to return to being an area of prosperity and stability after being, for too long, a source of dissen-

sion and disturbance," Hurd said.

ADRIAN HADLAND

The four reports issued by the commissions, which detailed the numerous abuses, ran to almost 1,700 pages.

D'Oliveira said, however, the investigation and the opening of criminal dockets would take months rather than years.

Meanwhile, a finance department spokesman said a team from SA's inland revenue office was in Lebowa attempting to place the territory's receiver of revenue office on a sounder financial footing.

The unsatisfactory state of Lebowa's receiver had been a source of concern for a considerable time, Finance director-general Estian Callit said last week.

New measures, including additional training for Lebowan staff, improvement of administration procedures and the assistance of SA officials, had been introduced.

Receiver of revenue offices in other self-governing territories had been kept under better control. While SA's inland revenue office had been aware of difficulties in Lebowa for some years, until they had taken part in the De Meyer commission investigation they "were not aware of the magnitude of the problem."

CP and ANC in local govt talks

RIGHT-WING local government representatives and the ANC will meet today to discuss transitional measures that will probably be enacted at the end of the month.

The Transvaal Municipal Association, an organisation representing CP councillors, has accepted most of the provisions in the Local Government Transition Bill, as well as Chapter 10 of the interim constitution. The inclusion of the association was seen as a major breakthrough, as CP councillors have threatened to resign any attempts to integrate white towns with black local authorities.

However, intensive discussions between the association and ANC over the past few months had led to compromises, particularly on the ANC's side. Endrenched in the constitution is a provision that reserves at least 30% of council seats for minority groups.

The association provisionally accepted the Bill and Chapter 10, pending the outcome of discussions.

Transvaal Municipal Association president Prof Ben van der Berg declined to give details at the weekend as matters were "still very sensitive". However, he was confident the two sides would reach agreement soon.

Once they have finalised discussions, the proposal will still have to be ratified by the Local Government Negotiating Forum management committee, which sits later this week. If the association endorses the agreements in full, the ANC/civic alliance will put pressure on the association to convince its members to go along with the process.

The association will be expected to intervene in councils that have up to now refused to begin discussions on integration.

Meanwhile, the DP has said it would "vigourously oppose" the agreement. DP local government spokesman Jasper Walsh said the deal was racially biased and would provide "different answers depending on which town you looked at".
Work on abuses swamps office

PRETORIA — The Transvaal attorney-general’s office has been swamped with work since publication last week of reports on maladministration in Lebowa and KwaNdebele by the Parsons and De Meyer commissions.

Transvaal attorney-general Jan D’Oliveira said he had limited resources with which to investigate the “multitude of allegations” emanating from the commissions.

The two commissions uncovered irregularities and maladministration in virtually every department they investigated, dating back to the late 70s. These included Lebowa’s chief minister’s office and its departments of education, revenue, works, transport and water affairs and KwaNdebele’s chief minister’s office as well as its departments of justice, interior affairs, welfare and pensions, finance and health.

Tens of millions of rand and hundreds of the self-governing territories’ officials were implicated in the commissions’ findings.

D’Oliveira said a special investigation team had been created and additional staff taken on by his office to deal with the “very large number” of cases to be looked at.

UK military attaché takes up duty in SA

LONDON — The first British military attaché to serve in SA for eight years, Brig James Parker CB, a former deputy chief of staff of British forces in Germany, will present his credentials to the Foreign Affairs Ministry this week before officially taking up his embassy duties.

Britain’s Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, said in the House of Commons last week: “It is a direct British interest that SA should come through this tunnel of transition safely. Our dealings with SA have returned to healthy normality. We are working to encourage British investment.”

He said Parker would be the first defence attaché to be sent to the British embassy in Pretoria for eight years.

“We want SA to return to being an area of prosperity and stability after being there too long a source of dissenion and disturbance,” Hurd said.

The four reports issued by the commissions, which detailed the numerous abuses, ran to almost 1,700 pages.

D’Oliveira said, however, the investigation and the opening of criminal dockets would take months rather than years.

Meanwhile, finance department spokesman said a team from SA’s inland revenue office was in Lebowa attempting to place the territory’s receiver of revenue office on a sounder financial footing.

The unsatisfactory state of Lebowa’s receiver had been a source of concern for a considerable time, Finance director-general Estian Calitz said last week.

New measures, including additional training for Lebowan staff, improvement of administration procedures and the assistance of SA officials, had been introduced.

Receiver of revenue offices in other self-governing territories had been kept under better control. While SA’s inland revenue office had been aware of difficulties in Lebowa for some years, until they had taken part in the De Meyer commission investigation they “were not aware of the magnitude of the problem”.

CP and ANC in local govt talks

RIGHT-WING local government representatives and the ANC will meet today to discuss transitional measures that will probably be enacted at the end of the month.

The Transvaal Municipal Association, an organisation representing CP councillors, has accepted most of the provisions in the Local Government Transition Bill, as well as Chapter 16 of the interim constitution. The inclusion of the association was seen as a major breakthrough, as CP councillors have threatened to resist any attempts to integrate white towns with black local authorities.

However, intensive discussions between the association and ANC over the past few months had led to compromises, particularly on the ANC’s side. Enshrined in the constitution is a provision that 40% of council seats for minorities.

The association provisionally accepted the Bill and Chapter 16, pending the outcome of discussions.

Transvaal Municipal Association president, Prof Ben van der Berg declined to give details of the weekend’s negotiations, saying: “We are still very sensitive”. However, he was confident the two sides would reach agreement soon.

Once they have finalised discussions, the proposal will still have to be ratified by the Local Government Negotiating Forum management committee, which sits later this week. If the association endorses the agreements in full, the ANC/civic alliance will put pressure on the association to convince its members to go along with the process.

The association will be expected to intervene in councils that have up to now refused to begin discussions on integration.

Meanwhile, the DP has said it would “vigourously oppose” the agreement. DP local government spokesman Jaapar Walsh said the deal was racially biased and would provide “different answers depending on which town you look at”.
Prosecution probe in homelands scandal

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The Transvaal attorney-general’s office has been swamped with work following the publication last week of reports on maladministration in Lebowa and KwaNdebele by the Parsons and De Meyer commissions.

Transvaal attorney-general Mr Jan D’Oliveira said the investigation and the opening of criminal dockets would take months rather than years.

But he added that he had limited resources with which to investigate the “multitude of allegations” emanating from the commissions.

The two commissions uncovered irregularities and maladministration in virtually every department they investigated dating back to the late 1970s. These included Lebowa’s Chief Minister’s Office and its departments of education, revenue, works, transport and water affairs and KwaNdebele’s Chief Minister’s Office as well as its departments of justice, interior affairs, welfare and pensions, finance and health.

Tens of millions of rand and hundreds of the self-governing territories’ officials were implicated in the commissions’ findings.

The unsatisfactory state of Lebowa’s receiver had been a source of concern for a considerable time but the size of the problem had been underestimated, Finance director-general, Mr Esdrin Calitz said last week.
Ramodike hits back

By Russel Molefe

THE disgraced Lebowa chief minister, Mr. Nelson Ramodike, yesterday said the current system of government in South Africa has had corruption as one of its key instruments of survival.

He said all the homelands, as offshoots of a corrupt system, have been kept and nourished by corruption.

Ramodike was reacting to a statement made last Friday by the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs, Mr. Andre Fourie, after the release of the third and fourth reports of the De Meyer commission of inquiry appointed in 1989 to investigate corruption and other irregularities in the homeland.

That Fourie had no reason to investigate the other homelands was an empty argument, as the central government has every lead it wants to investigate.

"But it prefers not to do so because it still serves its interests to keep the other homelands intact. Lebowa and KwaNdebele are, in the eyes of Pretoria, political mischief who do not want to play by the rules and this is why they remain on a shopping list for persecution," Ramodike said.

On Fourie's comment that most of the corrupt activities dating back to the '80s were due to senior officials who did not know their duties, Ramodike said the 10 administrative heads of department were white, seconded officials from Pretoria charged with supervising and training their subordinates.

"Failure to see the promotion of an efficient administrative machinery therefore rests to a large extent on the shoulders of those who sent the supervisors and trainers to manage the administration of this homeland," he added.

Although he concurred that necessary steps be taken against individuals implicated, including the seconded officials, Ramodike emphasised that it was the kind of system that officials work in which encourages final administration and mismanagement.

"We remain convinced that financial discipline was a mere smoke screen to hide political motives behind. We have no objection in the application acceptable to financial measures."
By Don Seokane

A PERSONNEL task team of 26 Government officials has begun investigations into the controversial salary increases and promotions of Lebowa public servants.

Government spokesman Mr Sakkie du Plooy said the personnel task team was in the process of working through all personnel files in order to establish which Lebowa officials qualified for promotions and those who do not.

Du Plooy said the task team consists of staff from various Government departments together with their counterparts in the Lebowa government.

The aim of the team is to establish what the position of each of the estimated 70 000 public servants was on March 30 this year and the findings will be submitted to the homeland’s Public Service Commission, Du Plooy said.

Lebowa public servants’ Interdepartmental Co-ordinating Forum had earlier threatened not to co-operate and called for a stayaway but workers backed down, opting to continue working. Most workers welcomed the arrival of the task team.
Narrowing gap

The next year's general election

By Russell Molefe

UFP teams up with ANC

News

Chief Minister Ramakide forms election alliance • Pass savings to motorists

Somewhere 21/2/2019

The text is not entirely legible due to the angle and quality of the scan, but it appears to involve political news or commentary.
Lebowa. government  


cheques fraud  

PIETERSBURG:  

Fraudulent Lebowa  
government cheques to-  
talling R90 000, have  
been detected in the re-  
gion since Monday.  

The cheques, resem-  
bliing genuine govern-  
ment cheques, were  
cashed at businesses  
but electronic devices  
rejeded them. — Sapa