HOUSING & HOSTELS - T. V. L

1990

July - Sept.
Don't pay says SCA

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

THE Soweto Cry Association has advised Dieploof and Meadowlands rent defaulters to ignore letters sent to them by the Diepmeadow Council's lawyers demanding that they pay their rent arrears.

The letters were sent to defaulters by Florida lawyers Scholtz and Botha as the council tries to end the ongoing rent boycott and recover more than R37 million owed by residents. 

In a statement released at the weekend, SCA president Mr. Isaac Mogase said: "Residents must ignore the letters sent to them by Scholtz and Botha." 

Mogase told Sowetan that the people of Soweto were not opposed to paying their rent but were not prepared to pay the arrears.
NATIONAL building regulations will have to be relaxed to allow for low cost housing in the light of SA’s serious housing crisis, says Johannesburg councillor Christopher Newton Thompson.

Interviewed last week, he said low income groups could simply not afford houses costing R70 000 and more.

Newton Thompson said Johannesburg did not have enough available land to redress its housing shortage.

The only large areas of available land were south of Johannesburg and building there would only scratch the surface of the problem.

About 60,000 units were needed just to relieve existing overcrowding in Soweto and coloured and Indian areas, he said.

In addition there was high population growth and continuing urbanisation with many squatters already living in Johannesburg and on its borders.

About 7,000 houses could be built on council and trust-owned land south of Johannesburg.

There was some land available west of Soweto, east of Lenasia and near to Ennerdale although these were outside Johannesburg’s municipal boundaries.

The northward movement of whites would allow people from overcrowded areas to move into vacant houses but would only slightly help the housing backlog, he said.

The two new townships planned south of Soweto would not do much to relieve Johannesburg’s housing shortage, he said.

While Rietfontein and Stretford would house about 1.2 million people, these would not be people working in Johannesburg.

Newton Thompson said to house Johannesburg’s workers, land would have to be found no more than 20km outside the city.

The Johannesburg City Council in conjunction with the private sector and its metropolitan neighbours had to start building houses as soon as possible.

The Regional Services Council would also have to fund infrastructure and help identify land.

Proclamation of townships had to be speeded up and new financing methods introduced, he said.

TANIA LEVY

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Pta council slaps ban on the use of facilities

THE Atteridgeville Town Council, which has already lost R4 million in revenue since the rent boycott started four months ago, has temporarily banned political and civic organisations from using its facilities.

By MONK NKOMO

Acting town clerk Mr Daan Mouton said yesterday the ban will be reviewed as soon as the rent boycott has been resolved.

Political and civic organisations have been barred from using the football grounds and halls.

The Atteridgeville-lev台北ville, Residents' Organisation, which called for the rent boycott and the resignation of councillors at a public meeting at the Super Stadium on April 1, yesterday threatened to file an urgent application in the Pretoria Supreme Court to challenge the council's decision.

The council, at its meeting on June 27, turned down an application by Asro to hold a public meeting at the Super Stadium on Saturday.

Mouton said the council also rejected an application by the ANC for the use of the stadium.

A spokesman for Asro said they had already briefed a lawyer to have the council's decision set aside.

Supporters

Mouton acknowledged the right of organisations to communicate with its supporters.

He said he agreed that negotiations to improve and stabilise the present situation, particularly in black townships, were important.

"However, in the light of the fact that the council is locked in a struggle to brake the present rent boycott, it has resolved that no organisations will be allowed to hold meetings in this regard at the stadium or at any other facilities of the council."

The rent boycott, however, seems to be far from being resolved. Councillors have refused to resign and Asro has vowed to continue the boycott until the councillors quit.

"Residents will pay affordable rent or a flat rate for essential services rendered by the council but only after the councillors have resigned," a spokesman for Asro said.

Population explosion among blacks

Soweto 4/1190
THE engineering department of the Katlehong Town Council was yesterday attending to a cave-in in the East Rand township.

Katlehong town secretary Mr H Grobler confirmed the cave-in, saying residents had reported it to the council on Monday.

"Yes, it was reported to the council yesterday but there was nobody to do the job because of the stayaway."

**Reported**

Katlehong Civic Association chairman Mr Oupa Thible said on Monday the cave-in had been reported to the council.

The cause of the cave-in was not known.

It was also not known whether the ground - the cave-in was said to be the size of a four-room house had stopped crumbling.

"Unfortunately I cannot say whether it still caves in," said Grobler.

Thible said the cave-in continued every minute.

**Safety**

For the safety of residents, it had been cordoned off by members of street committees in the area around Mofloung and Mosheshoehoe sections.

It was similar to the cave-in that reportedly occurred years ago in the area between the Westonaria and Carletonville, said Thible.
SAP action at Mamelodi questioned

By Mekeed Kotlolo
Pretoria Bureau

Organisers of yesterday's Mamelodi rent meeting are to demand an explanation for police action which resulted in 255 people being injured.

Representations are to be made to Adriaan Vlok, Minister of Law and Order.

UDF leader Moss Chikane charged today that right-wing elements within the police force had been responsible for the disruption of the meeting.

Mr Chikane, who chaired the meeting, said because of the seriousness of the matter, it would be referred to ANC officials, who would, he believed, demand an explanation from President de Klerk and Mr Vlok.

He said by late last night the list of injured people had increased to 255.

When the police action started at 12.06 pm, many people inside the stadium were already scared, listening to publicity secretary Nyobo Malefo. People outside began shouting that the police had arrived.

Mr Malefo left the podium to speak to the police but before he could do so, eyewitnesses said, a teargas cannister landed in front of the podium. Many others followed.

There was pandemonium as people fought to get away.
100 are injured in clash with police

MORE than 100 people were injured in confrontations with police in Mamelodi yesterday, according to Pretoria United Democratic Front leader Mr Moss Chikane.

Police surrounded Mamelodi's HM Pule Stadium where UDF officials were addressing a report-back meeting on the ongoing rents boycott in the area.

Chikane claimed the meeting had the backing of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

He said police blocked the main gate before firing teargas at a crowd of about 1 000 people in the stadium.

Kgalafong Hospital spokesman Dr M Kelly said more than 100 people were admitted to the hospital and a clinic in the township.

Police spokesman Major Billy Vlotman denied police had blocked the gates.

He said the commanding officer ordered his men back after giving an order to disperse. The order was ignored.

Police say 12 people were arrested after they tried to burn the stadium and a minibus and a bus were gutted in petrol bomb attacks.

Police say 12 people were arrested after they tried to burn the stadium and a minibus and a bus were gutted in petrol bomb attacks.

The UDF said it will make a formal complaint to Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok.

MONK NKOMO reports that Atteridgeville town councillors were yesterday warned that electricity and water be cut because of the four-month-old rent boycott. They should vacate their houses and go and live in town.

About 150 residents who attended a rowdy public meeting in the township, convened by the council to resolve the rent crisis, called on councillors to resign immediately.

Councillor E Ntiba urged residents to pay rents and said arrears would be written off if residents started paying from this month.

Ntiba and councillor Mr Justice Tshumu and mayor Mr Velaphi Mathbula, said the council no longer had money to pay for essential services and feared that electricity and water may be cut soon.

The councillors were heckled at the meeting, which was called off at about 10.30am when police, led by a Colonel Kellerman, interrupted and stopped civic leader Mr Chippa Chidi from responding to comments made by the councillors.

Before he was stopped, Chidi, an executive member of the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation, said councillors were refusing to resign because of the "fat allowances" of up to R2 000 they each received every month.

He said a commission of inquiry had recommended the dissolution of the council because of misuse of public funds and had not submitted financial statements.

Chidi said councillors should stop confusing residents about electricity and water cuts if rents were not paid.
Pay or be cut off — mayor

By Abel Mabelane,
East Rand Bureau

Tembisa mayor Solomon More has warned rent boycotters that unless water and electricity accounts were paid, supplies would be cut off on July 15.

He said in a television interview that Eskom and the Rand Water Board had warned the council that if it did not pay its debt by July 15 they would cut off supplies.

He appealed to rent boycotters to at least pay for water and electricity.

A meeting to have been held between a TPA official and local structures on June 28 to discuss the boycott failed to take place. A meeting is planned for some time this week.

Acting town clerk Willem Reillhan said it had not yet been decided whether to allow residents to pay a flat rate for rent.
Evicted tenant may embark on sidewalk protest

By SONTI MASEKO

MORE than 200 tenants are uncertain about their occupancy of a block of flats in Johannesburg following the eviction of one and the summoning of 18 others.

The evicted tenant, Mr Ely Dangi (50), had his furniture and other belongings thrown out yesterday by a messenger of court following a court order to vacate the flat from the beginning of last month.

Other tenants believe their fate will also be the same and have vowed to help Dangi put up a tent in front of the building to protest against the eviction.

Dangi was chairman of a tenants' committee affiliated to the anti-eviction group Actstop.

The building is under the care of a Mr Barry Cohen.

A Johannesburg lawyer who acted for Cohen said although he felt sorry for Dangi, he and other tenants were given sufficient time to find alternative accommodation.

He said all the tenants had to go as the building was to be refurbished and used for business purposes.

Another tenant, Mr George Sejapaha, said that last month the landlord had refused to accept the rent money which they were paying through Actstop's lawyers.

Since April 1988 the tenants had decided to pay R88 a month, a figure determined by the Rent Control Board.

Before then they were charged about R250 each for a bachelor flat.

Tenants said they have had to maintain the flats, repair lifts, hire plumbers, clean the building and fix the lights because the owner would not maintain the building since they started paying the lower rent.

Mr Mahomed Danger of Actstop said yesterday the affair showed that in this country justice was for people who could afford it.

He challenged the Johannesburg City Council not to take action against Dangi and other tenants who will be putting up tents in front of the building.
Evicted couple, kids spend night in tent

SOWETAN Reporter

ACTSTOP member Mr Ely Dingi, his wife Beatrice and their three children spent Monday night in a tent on the pavement outside a block of flats where they were evicted through a court order.

Angry tenants supported by Actstop placed placards on the tent demanding the re-imposition of rent control, affordable housing for all and the scrapping of the Separate Amenities Act.

Eighteen other tenants have been served with summonses to appear in court and lawyers acting for the landlord, a Mr Bloc Cohen, said all 51 tenants would eventually have to go because the building was to be refurbished and used for letting.

Tenants said they had been paying between R250 and R300 a month for a bachelor flat until April 1988.

They had decided to pay R88 a month because the building was under rent control.

Last month the landlord refused to accept their money.

Yesterday the caretaker of the building, Mr. Leslie Kuppen, said the R88 monthly rentals added up to only R4 400 a month, which was not enough to maintain the building.
Conflict at Mamelodi: key inquest policeman in charge.

Pretoria Correspondent

A key figure in the inquest into the death of 12 Mamelodi residents in 1983 was in charge of the riot squad in the township on Sunday when police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at a rent meeting at the HM Piki Stadium.

Captain Hermanus Arnoldus de Roux, district support officer at Pretoria North, was last month described as "a liar" by the Pretoria North Magistrate's Court by Mr Morris Basalian, counsel for the families of the 1983 shootings.

Shooting

Captain de Roux had told the inquest that he shot dead a demonstrator with his R-1 semi-automatic rifle in Mamelodi on the day of the shooting. He said he shot another man to prevent him throwing an object at a passing police vehicle.

The presiding magistrate at the inquest, Mr J N Pretorius, said he was unable to make a finding and referred the evidence to the Attorney-General.

Mr Pretorius said that due to conflicting evidence given during the inquest and the time lapse, it was difficult to determine whether the deaths were brought about by any acts or an omission amounting to an offence on the part of any person.

Documents

The Attorney-General, Mr Don Brunette, said yesterday he had not yet received the magistrate's findings. The matter would be considered as soon as he had received the documents.

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Directorate said yesterday Captain de Roux had not been suspended since the Mamelodi shootings in 1983.

Police and organizers of Sunday's report-back meeting in Mamelodi differ on the crucial aspects which led to tear gas and rubber bullets being fired to disperse more than 16,000 residents and diplomats. — Sapa.
THE Tembisa Town Council on the East Rand has supported joint action between the council and local organisations to redress the township's socio-economic and political problems.

In a hard-hitting statement on Wednesday, Tembisa's mayor Mr Sh. More called for a meeting between the council and representatives of wide-ranging local organisations in an endeavour to develop a strategy for the problems.

"The council regrets the fact that black towns and cities up until now is an area which has not received the attention it deserves," said More.

"Some of these issues include lack of adequate services, housing, inappropriate rentals and service charges," said More.

It was therefore necessary that "we as organisations and individuals of Tembisa affected by the issues mentioned above, should sit together to discuss the strategies, address and possibly resolve these matters," - Sapa.
150 Polly Lodge tenants sit in at lawyer's offices

ABOUT 150 Polly Lodge tenants were among those who staged a sit-in at the offices of Johannesburg lawyer S.D. Fanaroff yesterday in protest against the eviction of Eli Dange and his family on Monday.

The lawyer, S.D. Fanaroff, represented Polly Lodge’s landlord in a court application to evict Dange.

Johannesburg’s deputy sheriff on Monday served an eviction order on Dange effectively moving him out of the Polly Street building.

He subsequently set up a tent on the pavement outside. 

Actstop executive member Daniel Sephala said the tenants were demanding an explanation from the attorney and the landlord for the eviction and impending eviction of other tenants.

“We will continue the sit-in until they meet us or seek a court order to evict us,” they said.

Fanaroff said he was surprised that the tenants were staging a sit-in in his offices.

He said the Supreme Court gave an order for the eviction and he had only submitted the facts in favour of the eviction.
Tembisa warns that conflict looms over cuts

By MONDULI MAKGANYA

COMMUNITY leaders in Tembisa have warned of a major confrontation if the township council carries out its threat to cut electricity and water supplies on Sunday in order to force residents to abandon the four-year-old rent boycott.

At a press conference in Johannesburg yesterday called in response to mayor Sam More’s threat, the Tembisa Residents’ Association said “if the town council proceeds with the its strategy of confrontation we will have no alternative but to fight to the bitter end to defend the interests of residents”.

The TRA also denied More’s claim that Eskom and the Rand Water Board had threatened to cut off the electricity supply to Tembisa. “The council is merely responding to pressure from their authorities that funds will be withdrawn if they do not act to stop the rent boycott”.

The Tembisa town clerk told The Weekly Mail that the council had no option but to cut the electricity “if people want to use the services then they must pay for them. You cannot just enjoy something for which have not paid,” he said.

TRA deputy president Amon Maane said the organisation was negotiating with Eskom and the Rand Water Board about the possibility of the township dealing directly with the two bodies. This was necessary because “although council workers never read meters we still get high bills at the end of the month”.

The threat by the council to cut essential services comes in the wake of signs from the Transvaal Provincial Administration that it is prepared to consider scrapping the R800-million rent arrears owed by black municipalities.

The TPA-appointed administrator of Tsakane, near Springs, has already reached such an agreement with the Tsakane Civic Association and the TPA is also involved in similar negotiations with the Mamelodi People’s Delegation.

TPA officials have also met representatives of the Tokozon Civic Association and indicated that the township’s debt could be scrapped if the association sets up a liaison committee with the council to work out an affordable rent scale.

Several meetings have also been held with the Soweto People’s Delegation.

The matter is also being considered at cabinet level.
Rent boycott bomb could explode into violence

Mr van der Walt declared that the possibility of a breakdown was near, but that the three town council administrators had not yet decided what course to take.

Mr van der Walt had said the council administered 300,000 accounts, which means that the council could not continue to administer the accounts.

The council had been running out of funds and had to consider moving to a different area.

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Shock housing subsidy cutback

By SOPHIE TEMA

THE government shock cutback on subsidies for first-time homebuyers has sent property developers into a panic – they will hold an urgent meeting tomorrow with Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hermus Kriel.

According to the new measures, black households with joint incomes of more than R2 000 will no longer qualify for the subsidy.

Representatives of the construction industry will meet Kriel to discuss the matter, because they argue that a lot of people in the middle- and higher-income bracket will no longer afford to buy houses – particularly blacks.

A spokesman for a major building firm said this was why some big property developers moved out of the building industry in the past 12 months, while others reduced their activities.

The spokesman said the government did away with subsidies for white first-time home buyers two years ago and, because of the growing demand of housing in the sub-economic sector, the measure was now affecting blacks.

Kriel confirmed the new limits for subsidies were introduced on July 2 and building societies, banks and developers were informed in a circular which set out the new requirements.
Aco policy on resale of stands

THE Alexandra Civic Organisation has presented Alexandra Town Council with its policy regarding the resale of old stands or yards to private landlords, an ACO statement said.

ACO said its policy is intended to resolve the conflict that surrounds the illegal resale of yards and old houses by Alexandra City Council to private landlords.

**Original**

The policy includes the following proposals:

* The stand will be offered for sale to the original owner or his/her descendant who is living on the stand.
* If there is no such person, the stand will be offered for sale to the person who has been living for the longest period on the stand.
* A stand or part of it cannot be sold unless the people living there have agreed to it.
* If some of the tenants oppose the sale, the council should try to divide the stand so that part of it can be sold.
* If part of the stand is sold, it should be done in such a way that existing occupants are not deprived of services such as water, access to a toilet, or electricity.

“It has been some time that the Alex community have been fighting this illicit sale. They won a Supreme Court order stating the sale was illegal.

**Refund**

“However, after the court order, the council continued to sell houses and did not refund those who had bought stands illegally until Aco clarified the effects of the court order to the council.

“We are still waiting for a response from the council,” said ACO.

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**rises in Lebowa’s**

S GaMashashane

The hardest hit were the surrounding villages where there had never been provision for water.
Moteong to continue boycott

A residents' meeting at Moteong Section in Tembisa yesterday resolved to continue with the rent boycott in spite of threats by the mayor, Solomon More, that water and electricity may be cut off.

The residents said if the council dared cut off power and water they would reconnect them.

The power and water cuts which Mr More said could be made yesterday if residents did not pay rent were not done.

Last week, local structures warned the council that cutting essential services may lead to violence.

The council has called a meeting with various committees on Saturday to discuss the lack of adequate facilities, services and houses, and inappropriate rentals and service charges — East Rand Bureau.
144 families may be kicked out of flats

By SY MAKARINGE

A TOTAL of 144 families living in two blocks of flats in central Johannesburg may soon find themselves on the streets after the owners of the buildings were granted a court order to evict the holder of a head lease.

Mr David Gorfil, co-director of Gorfil Brothers Investments, said he was granted the order by the Rand Supreme Court on June 19 to eject Mr Stanley Kuthuka, of Kubheka Investments, following difficulties in collecting rents.

The eviction of Kubheka from Argyle Court, at the corner of Wanderers and Smit streets, and Branksome Towers, in Wanderers Street, will result in 144 black families becoming homeless.

Gorfil, whose company also owns five other blocks of flats in central Johannesburg, said yesterday he was owed more than R300 000 in unpaid rent by tenants.

He said the decision followed several meetings his company held with executive members of Acistop to address tenants' grievances.

After the meetings his company embarked on an extensive maintenance programme but rent collection did not improve.

Mr Pressage Nkosi, general secretary of Acistop, said negotiations between Acistop and Gorfil Investments were still going on.

He said, however, he did not take the pending action lightly, adding:

"We'll cross the bridge when we get to it.""
TPA official called me a crook – porter

Pretoria Correspondent

A porter at the Ga-Rankuwa Hospital told the Parole Commission yesterday that she was called a "crook" by a Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) official who accused her of lying about her marital status in order to qualify for a housing loan.

Miss Kheswa (44) said she received a R35,000 housing loan through the TPA in 1998, which she used to build a house in Soshanguve. About four months after the house was completed she was told to report to H Swanepoel.

She said Mr Swanepoel called her a "crook" and told her she was not entitled to the loan as she was married. He then opened her personal file and discovered a copy of her divorce decree, granted in 1986, she said.

Miss Kheswa said she was then called into the office of another official, A J Boshoff, who repeated the accusation.

She said both men, who have been accused of being "racists", threatened to confiscate her house and have her arrested.

The commission is investigating allegations that 23 premature babies died as a result of an eight-day strike at the hospital in April this year, allegedly sparked by the TPA's refusal to suspend Mr Boshoff and Mr Swanepoel pending an inquiry into their conduct.

Miss Kheswa said she had not been forced into joining the strike, but had joined other protesting workers as a result of the accusations voiced by the two officials.

Prior to her taking the stand, a member of the hospital workers' committee, A Sibande, was accused of being a "troublemaker who nobody wanted in their department" by the legal representative for the TPA, J K Wessels.

Mr Sibande admitted his superiors, who included Mr Boshoff and Mr Swanepoel, viewed him as a "troublemaker". However, he said this was because he stood up for his rights.

Mr Wessels produced various letters from former chief medical superintendents at the hospital, warning Mr Sibande that if his conduct did not improve, certain disciplinary steps would have to be taken.

The inquiry continues.
Sit-in sequel to threats of eviction

ABOUT 180 men, women and children yesterday staged a peaceful sit-in in the downtown Johannesburg building occupied by attorney Stan Fanaroff acting on behalf of the owner of Polly Lodge.

The placard-carrying tenants, who face eviction from the block of flats, arrived at 9am, dancing the toyi-toyi.

After occupying the entire reception area, they requested a meeting.

Jokes by other occupants of 149 President Street such as “Take the drunks order” and (by a soccer-playing attorney) “I’d like to take you with me on Sunday, at least I’d have people watching my game,” were met with stony silence.

Police carrying tear gas canisters entered the building half an hour later, to be told by Actstop spokesman Mr George Sejaphala that the people would not leave before seeing Fanaroff.

As tension mounted, police re-entered the premises and ordered tenants to disperse within 10 minutes or be forcibly removed.

Tenants replied that Polly Lodge owner Maice Cohen had refused to see them, referring them to his lawyer.

Under these circumstances, they said they would rather be arrested than leave the building voluntarily.

As police reinforcements gathered at the back of the building, five tenants’ representatives were invited to discuss their grievances with the attorney.

An hour later spokesman Mr Titus Mkhazi told tenants: “Comrades, Mr Cohen has agreed to meet us on Monday.

Silent

“But the position of Ely Dingi, who has been living in a tent, is different and cannot be altered as it has been finalised by the court,” he said as the tenants silently filed out of the building.

Actstop argues that tenants occupied the building while it was rent-controlled and rents of R89 to R99 a month at the time should only have gone up by 10 percent a year after rent control fell away in 1987.

Instead, rents had tripled. While the owner was legally correct, he was morally wrong as the tenants had nowhere to go.

Following a series of court cases, the owner says he has given the tenants fair warning dating back about two years as he wanted to sell the property.

One of the conditions of sale was that it should be empty.”
KwaGuga rent arrears to be frozen

THE Witbank Town Council has announced plans to freeze rent arrears in KwaGuga township in an effort to break the four-month-old rent boycott, writes WALTER LUKHULENI.

Town clerk Mr Adam Engelbrecht said this was an attempt to avoid electricity cut-offs.

He said: “We implore residents to pay or our supplier will cut our power at the end of July.”

Negotiations with residents have been held twice already, but no conclusive agreement was reached as the residents were insisting that the rent arrears be written off.

Responding to the residents’ demand, Engelbrecht said: “Unfortunately the rent arrears cannot be written off without the approval of both the council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration’s resolutions.”
Plan to freeze rent arrears

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration is to curtail bridging finance to local authorities from the end of this month and is also considering freezing rent and service arrears in an attempt to encourage residents to pay current charges.

If it goes ahead with this plan, the TPA must inherit the black local authorities' debt of about R730 million, according to United Municipalities of South Africa leader Mr Tom Boya.

Reacting to the TPA's 'clean-slate' plans, Boya said yesterday such a move, while welcome, would leave councils with no means of meeting debt.

"If they go ahead with this plan, they must pay our debts," he said.

The estimated R730 million owed by Transvaal councils was due not only to the TPA - which would write off its share in terms of the plan - but also to private financial institutions and companies, Boya said.

Five East Rand townships alone owe R123 million to financial institutions after money was borrowed to finance an electricity master plan for the areas, he said.

Arrears

The arrears plan is apparently to be discussed at Cabinet level.

A spokesman for the TPA said yesterday many factors had to be considered before a decision could be taken.

Boya also predicted "chaos" in black Transvaal townships next month if the TPA carried out its threat to cut bridging finance to councils, who use the money to provide essential services such as water, electricity and refuse removal.

"Sowetan Correspondent"
Police invited to talks

THE Mamelodi Civic Association has responded to the police message of "let's talk" by inviting them to a meeting.

An MCA spokesman, Mr. Pasty Malefo, said the police, the Security Police and the South African Defence Force will be invited along with the Mamelodi Town Council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration to a meeting.

At the meeting a programme of action over rent issues will be discussed.

Malefo, however, said the MCA would not discuss the police action during last Sunday's meeting, which left 230 people injured, with the police as a final decision would be taken today on whether a civil action will be taken against Law and Order Minister Mr. Adri van der Walt.

He said the MCA announced the police message but thought it strange it was conveyed through the Press and not directly to the MCA.
About 1,200 low cost houses, which will be sold to residents for R21,000 each, will be built by the South African Housing Trust in Tsakane soon, said Jim Vining, chairman of Tsakane Administrators.

Mr Vining said although Tsakane had about 3,000 squatter families, the new houses were not meant for them, although they could also buy the houses.

He said the squatters would be provided with houses under a different housing scheme which would provide low cost housing at a cost of R7,000 a house.

Mr Vining said about 120 squatters on the land where the houses were to be built were moved peacefully to another area at the weekend.
Boksburg suburb in housing dilemma

By Anna Stuff

According to Mrs. Peeler, a colour was not available, and it was not possible to order one. Mrs. Peeler's brother had been working for the past six months in England, and they had to pay for his rent and other expenses. She said if in England, they would have been able to afford a colour. However, they were still struggling to afford the rent and other expenses. She had to ask the landlord for a payment plan, but he was not willing to do so. She had to pay the rent on time, but she was still struggling to afford the rent.
Officials quit as rent protests spread in E Tvl

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

There is growing turmoil in black townships in the eastern Transvaal as rent boycotts spread and more councillors resign.

The town clerk of Middelburg's Mhluza township, Lebile bonolo Makae, confirmed that a number of councillors had resigned during the past week. However he was not able to give any details before tomorrow's council meeting.

Last month three new Mhluza councillors were elected in by-elections which attracted less than 5 percent of registered voters in each ward.

Mr Makae said that unrest in the township had resulted in several projects being halted because contractors felt it was unsafe to be in the area.

The projects included the building of roads, the upgrading of a sewage outfall and the installation of services at new extensions.

A spokesman for Secunda's Emahlenle township said a rent boycott had started three weeks ago. Two of the council's nine councillors resigned earlier this year.

No electricity

Witbank's huge kwaZulu township (population 119,000) is now being run by three Transvaal Provincial Administration-appointed administrators after the resignation of most of the township's councillors in April.

There has been a rent boycott in kwaGuza and the nearby coloured township of Schoongezicht since earlier this year.

Schoongezicht's 2,500 residents have been without electricity since April 27 when the Witbank Town Council cut the supply after substations were tampered with.

In Ermelo's Wesselton township residents have been boycotting rentals since late last year. Town clerk Charles Maseko said there had been a slight pick-up in payments since last week's announcement that arrears were to be frozen.

Four of Wesselton's councillors had resigned in the past few months.
D-day looms for township rent crisis

By Claire Robertson, Pretoria Bureau

Crucial negotiations on the rent crisis in black townships are in progress as the deadline for the Transvaal Provincial Administration's bridging finance "austerity measures" nears.

In two weeks, the TPA will implement its R16 million-a-month bridging finance package to black local authorities in an effort to make the available funds last the year.

The budgeted sum of R26 million for the 1990/91 fiscal year has been eroded by payments of up to R7.5 million a month in the first half of the year.

Councils which do not manage to negotiate a resumption of rent and services payments in the next month may have essential services cut off.

"The timing is critical," Transvaal MEC for local government Olaus van Zyl said yesterday. The cutting-off of services "may be unavoidable in some areas," Mr van Zyl said.

**Encouraged**

Province had appealed to the Government for additional funds for the past "two or three months" but he doubted these would be available.

He was, however, encouraged by the negotiations between residents' organisations — local people's delegations and civic associations — and councils taking place in about 30 townships.

In at least 10 townships, negotiations have been successful in halting boycotts. "I am still confident we will be able to reach an amicable solution," he said.

Province had also contacted bulk suppliers of services in an attempt to minimise the effect on essential services such as water, and sewage and refuse removal, which, if stopped, would present a health hazard.

"The tragic thing is that cutting off services may affect people who have paid and it could affect areas such as health clinics that are essential," said Mr van Zyl.

In some cases the bulk supplier was the adjoining white town or city, many of which realised "that if it goes bad there (in black townships) it will affect them, too," Mr van Zyl said.

"In general, the funding situation hasn't improved, and strictly speaking there won't be additional funds. But the aim is not to curtail funds, and not even to stop the boycott, but to find the problems in local authorities and thus to stop the boycott."
‘Indaba’ to defuse tension

By Stan Hlophe

The Tembisa Town Council has invited interested bodies to an "indaba" at the local council chambers on Saturday in a bid to defuse tensions in the area.

Among those invited are the civic association, traders, educators, and members of youth organisations.

The meeting will address lack of housing, inadequate facilities and services, inappropriate rentals and service charges, and "insensitive town planning".

A rent and services boycott has been staged since April.

The mayor, Solomon More, has been informed that if the council was unable to pay its debts by the end of this week, Eskom would be forced to cut off electricity to the township.

The council is owed R17.5 million for electricity and sewage and refuse removal. Rent payments have dropped from a monthly average of R4 million to R1 million during June.

Mr More said the council had acknowledged political forces in an effort to address the problems affecting the community.

"It is therefore in this spirit that we as organisations and individuals of Tembisa affected by the issues should sit together to discuss strategies to resolve them. "In this spirit even the most opposing political ideologies should heed reason and co-operate," Mr More said.
Flat dwellers set for eviction after deadlock in talks

By Marguerite Meody

Residents of Argyle Court in Wanderers Street, Johannesburg, are likely to be evicted before the weekend after no agreement was reached at a meeting on Tuesday between residents and the owners of the building.

Residents have vowed to spend the night on the pavement if evicted.

The meeting between Gorfil Brothers Investments, the owners of seven buildings in Johannesburg, and a delegation of residents' representatives "broke up in disarray", according to David Gorfil.

"Since no settlement could be reached, I have no alternative but to put them out," the owner of Argyle Court, Claridges Court, Protea Mansions, Branksome Towers, Stanhope Mansions, Margate Court and Manhattan Court said yesterday.

Residents of Argyle Court say the owners' threats to evict them had been prompted by a dispute over rentals, which they and tenants of other buildings had not paid for several months in protest against poor living conditions.

"We would be prepared to pay a part of our rent arrears, which have been paid into a private account, if we received an undertaking that conditions at the buildings would improve. However, no such undertaking was given last night," Actstop general secretary Cis Coovadia told The Star.

Mr Gorfil told The Star he had kept his part of an agreement reached between him and residents in February, in terms of which he had undertaken to improve living conditions at the buildings in exchange for a 10 percent rent increase.

"However, residents have not paid rent since then, and by the end of this month arrears at Argyle Court will amount to over R60 000."
Council's offer on arrears rejected

The Witbank Interim Civic Association has rejected the kwaGuqa town council's offer of a freeze on rent arrears and a R100 flat rate for rent and services for each household.

The association demanded that in future the TPA and the kwaGuqa town council should make decisions in consultation with the "popularly elected leaders of the people".

The association called for the following flat rates for rent and services:

- Squatters on improved sites: R5, pensioners, no charge
- Houses with electricity: R30, and houses without: R10

Highveld Bureau.
TOWNSHIPS HAVE NO WATER, POWER

TWO East Rand townships had neither electricity nor water supplies yesterday, according to a Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) spokesman.

In a statement, the TPA said a high-voltage cable at the electricity supply sub-station burned out on Tuesday probably because of an "overload" at the weekend.

Funds to repair the damage, estimated at about R450,000 and affecting 2,575 houses, were not immediately available because of the five-month-old rent boycott, the TPA said.

The TPA said Tokoza and Katlehong civic leaders yesterday confirmed that township residents had no water following the damage.

Katllehong Civic Association official Ken Mosta said that since Tuesday people had been "searching for water.

A civic leader said the people of Tokoza would meet the TPA next week in a bid to resolve the boycott.
'Indaba' to defuse tension

By Shan Hlophé

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"It is therefore in this spirit that we as organisations and individuals of Tembisa affected by the issues should sit together to discuss strategies to resolve them.

"In this spirit even the most opposing political ideologies should heed reason and co-operate," Mr More said.
WR call for rents boycott

By MATSHUBE-MFOLOE

THE Bekkersdal Environmental Awareness Campaign has called for an indefinite rents boycott in the West Rand township until the local town committee and the Transvaal Provincial Administration respond to the community's demands.

A spokesman for the BEAC, Mr Vuyisile Ndabeni, said the protest was called because of the TPA's and the town committee's delay in responding to the community's grievances.

He warned that the boycott would continue "until our grievances and demands are addressed".

Demands which were brought to the attention of the TPA and the local authorities include:

* The reduction of rents for shack dwellers in units to a flat rate of R35 from August 1;
* No shack dwellers should pay rents to registered tenants during the rent boycott;
* The rents boycott includes the homeless communities of Speok Town, Silver City and X areas.

A community meeting has been planned for July 30 when the BEAC will evaluate the effect of the boycott.
We'll talk, but that's no invite, says the SAP

THE South African Police has denied it invited the Mamelodi Civic Association to a meeting following police action at the H M Pige stadium, which left about 250 people injured a fortnight ago.

Police liaison officer Colonel Steve van Rooyen said yesterday police were prepared to discuss the issue with residents, but that this did not mean they were issuing an invitation.

An invitation from police to the Mamelodi Civic Association was definitely not offered, he said.

Mamelodi Civic Association chairman Mosi Chikane said although they were prepared to meet the police, they were not going to discuss events at the stadium because the matter was now in the hands of their legal advisers.

He said his association had planned a meeting with the Transvaal Provincial Administration, and if the police were interested in discussions, they should attend the planned meeting.

More than 250 people were injured in a stampede after teargas was fired. Police claimed the meeting was illegal, while the organisers claimed it was legal because they had a permit — Sapa
SYDNEY HILIZA

THE Alexandra Civic Association will hold a mass meeting at the local stadium on August 4.

The ACA will reaffirm its existence and explain its policy on property owners and tenants, the general secretary, Mr Sydney Hiliza, said yesterday.

Hiliza said among issues on the agenda will be problems resulting from the sale of old stands to landlords.

"The issue is re-emerging because the Alexandra Civic Organisation announced its contradictory policy on the resale of stands," Hiliza said.

**Stands**

"While ACO is accusing the town council of selling stands illegally, the criteria used by the council is almost the same as the ACO's."

"Except for social problems created by the Government, conflict problems in the area have been caused by organisational differences."

"This area will be addressed at the meeting, with the hope that people will break the barriers of division existing in the township," Hiliza said.

Hiliza squashed rumours that the ACA had died four years ago.

He said it was the ACA which made it possible for the "bus people" to get homes after a decade of misery.

By DON SEOKANE
Rent pamphlets aren’t ours, says Witbank Civic

By TSHOKOLO MOLAKENG

THE Witbank Interim Civic Association has disassociated itself from pamphlets claiming that it agreed to new rates, which were distributed in townships last week by the town council.

The association’s publicity secretary, Domini Mdluli, said “the pamphlets have not only antagonised us, but have angered the whole community.”

In the pamphlets, dated July 17 and distributed on July 10, the council stated that Hlanhlanhla squatters should pay R30 and Vosman squatters should pay R15 rent a month, registered pensioners should pay R30 rent, all electrified house owners pay R25, and electrified house occupants should pay R100.

Mdluli said the council had acted arbitrarily. He added that they had held a meeting with the council last month. “They asked us whether they could issue the pamphlets, but we told them that we had to consult with our constituents.”

The association’s proposed standard rates state that registered pensioners should pay “absolutely nothing” and R25 for squatters in all areas. Mdluli added that they wanted electrified homeowners to pay R30 and R10 for unelectrified houses.

Although the civic body wanted the Witbank councilors to resign, Mdluli said the association demanded that the local authorities make decisions “in consultation with the leaders of the people.”

The town council could not be reached for comment.
Deadline set for end of rent boycott

Political Staff and Sapa

Black local communities in the Transvaal have been given a month in which to end their rent boycotts.

The deadline for the communities to resume rent payments has been set nationally at August 31.

The Government is looking urgently at the problem of financing services.

A statement from the office of the President announced last night that communities which had not paid rent and service charges would have to “take purposeful steps” to resume payment to ensure that their councils would be in a financial position to continue to provide such services.

President de Klerk expressed this view after discussions in Pretoria yesterday with the administrators of the four provinces, MECs and senior officials. He was assisted by Cabinet colleagues Barend du Plessis, Adriaan Vlok, Amie Venter and Heman Kriel.

The statement said that any additional bridging finance which might be necessary would have to be found from sources other than those of communities which were meeting their obligations.
Talks on boycott

By MONK NKOMO

The Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organisation will meet the local town council tonight to discuss crucial issues, including the four-month-old rents boycott in the township.

A spokesman for Asro said another issue likely to be discussed will be the reluctance by councillors to heed the call to resign before the rent problem could be resolved.

Asro had indicated that a flat rate for essential services could be determined only if councillors resigned before such a move was taken.

Tonight's meeting will be chaired by the regional director of the Transvaal Provincial Administration and will be held at the TPA's conference room in Pretoria from 6pm.

Also on the agenda will be the council's recent decision to temporarily ban political and civic organisations from using its facilities.
Committee seeks boycott solutions

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Soweto City Council and the Soweto People's Delegation have set up a joint technical committee to make proposals on how to resolve five demands pertinent to ending the rent boycott.

The creation of the committee follows a meeting of the three parties in Johannesburg on Friday.

A joint statement from the parties said the technical committee was constituted with five terms of reference:

☐ The writing off of arrears in respect of municipal charges and rents,

☐ The upgrading of municipal services in Soweto,

☐ Affordable tariffs for municipal services,

☐ Transfer of rented housing stock, and

☐ A common fiscal base for the cities of Soweto and Johannesburg.

The committee will meet tomorrow and

EDYTH SULDRING

has been asked to report back to a meeting of the parties concerned on August 5, the statement said.

At this report back meeting the committee must come up with firm proposals on how each of the issues could be resolved and lines of further action, if required.

As a matter of priority the committee must urgently formulate proposals on the writing off of arrears, the statement says.

The committee is allowed to co-opt the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the Johannesburg City Council and any other local government body that it believes should be consulted or involved in addressing these issues, the statement said.

Comment: Page 4
Call to hostel dwellers

THE ANC, Cosatu and UDM alliance has called on all hostel residents to form committees to unite hostel dwellers.

A joint statement from the three said there were people who went to hostels to recruit people to fight other oppressed people by claiming that Zulu people were being attacked and that the ANC, Cosatu and UDM wanted to kill the Zulu people.

By DON SEOKANE

"Agents of apartheid offer money to people without jobs to get them to fight other oppressed people. We call on you to reject these people as they want to spread the Natal war throughout South Africa.

Apartheid

"This is why these people created bantustans and hostels to keep black people divided." Apartheid has forced us to live in hostels without our families, to share a room with many other people without privacy and to live in poverty with no proper houses and low wages," the organisations said.

The organisations also urged hostel residents to work with civic organisations to build understanding between hostel and township residents.

15/90
End of rent crisis?

From MONO BADELA

JOHANNESBURG. — THE four-year-old Soweto rent crisis may be resolved this month. This emerged after meetings between the Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD) and the Soweto City Council.

Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, a spokesperson for the seven-member SPD, in an interview this week said three key organisations had agreed to form a technical committee in an effort to resolve the rent boycott.

Other members of the SPD include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Rev Frank Chikane of the SACC, the Rev Lehmangetsho Sethu, Mrs Albertina Sisulu and Mrs Allen Khuzwayo.

Transvaal Administrator Mr Dane Hough, his executive, the Soweto City Council and the SPD agreed to form the committee after a closed meeting last Friday.

Ramaphosa said the terms of reference for the technical committee were:
- The writing off of arrears,
- The transfer of ownership of council houses to long-term residents,
- The upgrading of services, and
- A common financial base for Johannesburg and Soweto.

“We are hopeful a solution will be found,” said Ramaphosa.

Arrears

He said the discussions between the three bodies were “cordial” and that the SPD presented the residents’ viewpoint directly.

“We emphasised that the rent arrears must be written off. At no point did we agree that arrears should be paid by residents. We also demanded that the town council system be done away with,” Ramaphosa added.

In the meantime the rent boycott would continue “until all our demands have been met.”

Soweto residents owe about R570 million in rent arrears.

Ramaphosa said, “Our demand is for a common, single financial base between Johannesburg and Soweto.

“Millions of Soweto residents earn their wages and salaries in Johannesburg and spend about 90 percent of their income there,” Ramaphosa said.
Katlehong introduces new rates

Sowetan Reporter
THE Katlehong City Council has introduced new temporary flat rates payable from next month.

The East Rand township residents in electrified houses will pay a flat rate of R50 a month while those in un-electrified houses will pay R30 a month.

Shopkeepers will pay R130 a month.

A council spokesman said the new rates will provide funds for the purchase of bulk services such as water, electricity, sewage and solid waste removal staff.
Wattville plans protest march

WATTVILLE residents are to march on the local municipal offices tomorrow to protest against attempts by the council to meddle in the development of the newly declared Tamboville squatter camp, south of the township.

A spokesman for Wattville Concerned Residents' Committee said that, in an historic decision, his committee and the Benoni Town Council had agreed to develop Tamboville for informal housing without the involvement of the Wattville Town Council.

"The Wattville Town Council now wishes to sabotage this process by spreading slanderous rumours about WCRC. It is also issuing their supporters with waiting list numbers for plots in Tamboville despite the fact that the land is owned and controlled by the Benoni Town Council," he said.

The march will start at Tamboville and proceed to the Wattville administration offices.
UDF meets Kriel

By DON SEOKANE

The national executive committee of the UDF has decided to meet the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr. Hernus Kriel, to discuss the organisation's land-protest campaign and to highlight the national housing crisis.

Mr. Paul Mashatile, the general secretary of the UDF's southern Transvaal region, yesterday said a date for the meeting has not yet been finalised.

However, he said, a decision has been taken by the committee at a special meeting to prepare for the start of the campaign.

Mashatile said the meeting was not intended to stop the campaign unless the Minister adequately addressed the objectives of the campaign.

He said: "The aim of the protest action is to move homeless people, whose shacks have been destroyed and have become homeless in the country of their birth, in areas where land is unused in residential areas."

"We have commissioned our civic organisations to identify unused land so that the campaign can go ahead as planned." he said.

Mr. John Mavuso, the MEC for housing and community development, said he deplored the fact that "irresponsible calls" were being made to people to squat on any open land.

"It is the priority of the TPA to cater for the needs of homeless people and to provide serviced stands for informal housing, which is upgradable, with assistance of the town councils concerned," he said.
Council to act over rents

THE Atteridgeville Council has
resolved to take drastic action against
residents in an effort to break the rents
boycott which began on April 1
Acting town clerk Mr Dean Mouton
said yesterday the council would soon
meet with the Transvaal Provincial Ad-
ministration to discuss the action they
contemplated taking against residents.

Mouton said the council had also
resolved to either stop rendering certain
essential services or would hand over
accounts of rent defaulters to their law-
yers to force residents to pay.

Should residents decide to start
paying rent now, the council would
consider the freezing of certain arrears.

He said the council’s meeting with
the Atteridgeville Saulville Residents
Organisation two weeks ago to discuss
the boycott ended in deadlock because
Asro wanted the council to allow poli-
tical and civic organisations to use coun-
try facilities.

By MONK NKOMO

The ban was implemented by the
council two months ago.

Mouton said the council reiterated
their stance that facilities would remain
closed to these organisations until the
boycott was resolved.

Mandate

A spokesman for Asro said they
needed facilities such as the Super
Stadium to report back and get a
mandate from residents on decisions
they may reach with the council.

Mouton added that although the
council did not have funds, they had
approved a 20 percent increase of coun-
cillors’ allowances retrospective from
January this year.

The allowances are expected to be
paid by the TPA through its bridging
finances on salaries and allowances.
Evaton residents plan demo march

A CIVIC association in the Vaal Triangle area, which has seen a number of incidents of political violence in recent weeks will, together with two ANC-aligned organisations, stage a protest march on Saturday.

A spokesman for the Evaton branch of the Vaal Civic Association said the Congress of SA Students and the SA Youth Congress would also take part.

The marchers will present a memorandum of residents' grievances to representatives of the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Evaton Town Council.

Vaal Civic Association spokesman Mr Sihembili Radebe said residents wanted to negotiate with the TPA about its alleged threats to cut water and electricity supplies to compensate for unpaid rents.

Radebe said the action was not directed at Inkatha members on the town council.

The march starts at the Zone 7 soccer stadium and ends at the Evaton town council offices. - Sapa.
Health services at risk

If the rent boycott in Tokoza, Alberton, continues, health services provided by the Alberton municipality could be cut off, according to Gert Muller, chairman of the Tokoza Administrators.

Mr Muller said Tokoza depended on the municipality for the provision of health facilities at clinics. "If we don't pay them for the services, they are likely to stop providing health facilities to our residents."

The cutting-off of health facilities would be tragic, especially because the new Tokoza clinic, built at a cost of about R400 000, would be completed within the next three months, he added.

If the TPA halted bridging finance at the end of the month, electricity supply provided by the municipality could also be cut off. — East Rand Bureau.
The Mamelodi Council has issued a stern warning to local residents to pay their monthly rents and service charges or be prepared to face "unpleasant consequences."

The warning was made by local mayor Mr Simon "Drie" Mokone at a Press briefing yesterday.

He said as his council was faced with a responsibility of paying for essential services, rent defaulters were inconveniencing other residents who paid their dues.

Mokone said the council announced last month the possibility of freezing some rent arrears on condition residents paid their current accounts.

This was after the Transvaal Provincial Administration promised to support such a decision by the council provided residents paid their current accounts "punctually and faithfully."

The council has also undertaken to suspend any action such as the switching off of lights and the handing over of defaulters' cases to lawyers against people who are in arrears, pending the decision by the higher authorities.

However, a wrong impression has been created among residents that rent arrears had been scrapped.

**Decision**

Some went as far as claiming that rent and services would no longer be paid for, Mokone said.

He added that the council would be left with no option but to revert to its earlier method of obtaining money from those in arrears to enable it to pay suppliers of vital services such as water, electricity and sewerage.

The decision followed the TPA announcement that no bridging finance would be available as from the end of this month and its denial on Friday that it had frozen arrears in Mamelodi, he said.

Meanwhile, the council has made a piece of land available for the temporary resettlement of squatters in Mamelodi.

The council has already set aside 750 sites for housing squatters. About 200 sites will be ready for occupation within a week.
Rent arrears reprieve for Soweto residents

JOHANNESBURG - The Transvaal Provincial Administration, Soweto People's Delegation and the Greater Soweto Councils have agreed in principle to write off R516 million in rent and services arrears and to introduce a flat rate of R23 per household for rent only. This follows a 15-hour meeting yesterday — the sixth since July — between the three bodies at the administration's Johannesburg regional offices.

The parties agreed to introduce a flat rate of R23 per household for rent for September only. From October 1, an interim service charge of R23, plus electricity on metered consumption at R23 per unit, subject to discounts, will be applicable. This will apply until new affordable tariffs have been established in consultation with a joint technical committee appointed by the principal bodies.

The tentative agreement would be referred to various parties' constituencies for ratification and another meeting has been scheduled for September 24 for the formal agreement.

In another development, the Conservative Party-controlled town council of Carolina in the Eastern Transvaal has restored power and water supplies to Sbolela after the TPA decided to pay the black township's outstanding bill of R23 000.

Sbolela had been without water and electricity since Tuesday after the town council cut the services, declaring the move a financial decision that had nothing to do with politics.

Today is D-Day for up to 50 rent boycotting townships throughout the Transvaal where millions of residents now risk losing their electricity and in some cases water and sewerage systems disconnected.

In July the government announced it would stop bridging finance to boycotting townships from today.

The rent boycott crisis spotlight moves to Witbank where the white town council's bulk services account with Kwagga township (population 115 000) falls due today.

Yesterday a spokesman for the Witbank town council said no action would be taken against Kwagga before Monday. He said the council was not considering cutting the township's water supply at this stage. Kwagga residents have been boycotting rents and services since March.

Earlier this year the Witbank town council switched off the power supply to Schoongezicht coloured township for three months after ratepayers stopped payments. The Argus Correspondent and Sapa
The ANC is to encourage Soweto residents to begin paying their electricity bills.

ANC legal & constitutional affairs director Zola Skweyza says "We hope to be able to convince people to pay for electricity very soon."

An ANC-sponsored consultative conference will be held next month to discuss local government issues and, organisers hope, to break the political impasse which has seen Soweto accumulate a R300m debt, of which electricity consumption is a major part.

The Soweto People's Delegation claims electricity bills are disproportionately higher than Johannesburg's Planact, a private body which advises the delegation, attributes higher bills to Soweto's weak industrial base, which is a direct consequence of the Group Areas Act and other apartheid laws.

The weight of infrastructural funding rests on consumers rather than large companies which buy in bulk and lower the average unit price.

In March Soweto City Council — which distributes the power — imposed a flat rate of R50 plus R22.50 for service charges on most of Soweto's 80,000 households. Residents are, however, refusing to pay.

Residents also claim the metering is inaccurate. The delegation says the meters — in mini-substations each serving several houses — often give faulty readings. This is because vandals have tampered with some meters. "If we are charged the right amount we'll..."
Meeting offers promise of end to rent boycott

Staff Reporters

A meeting yesterday between the Transvaal Provincial Administration and two Soweto delegations could signal an end to the four-year rent boycott in Soweto.

Cyril Ramaphosa of the Soweto People's Delegation said he was optimistic that if his organisation's demands were met the boycott could be called off.

Soweto City Council chairman Mmutuna Tshabalala said the council was hopeful that an agreement would soon be reached.

The TPA's MEC for housing, Gauus van Zyl, said the three parties had made progress.

He was agreed that Diepmeadow and Dobsonville councils would be included in the negotiations which would resume on Tuesday.

The meeting will focus on:

- Writing-off an outstanding amount of R570-million
- Upgrading municipal services
- Affordable tariffs for services
- The transfer of rented houses.
- A common fiscal tax base for Soweto and Johannesburg.

According to the TPA, of the R428-million budgeted for 1990/1, only R39-million is left.

It has launched a massive advertising campaign. In a series of four advertisements in The Star today, the TPA sends this message: "It's no bluff, it's no threat. It's no joke. There is no more money. There can be no more services."
Campaign sparks new rent wrangle

BY SANDILE MEMELA

Talks this week between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD) aimed at ending the four-year-old rent boycott may spark a renewal of the issue.

In a newspaper advertising campaign, the TPA has given Soweto residents until the end of August “to decide what should happen with rent and services”.

At the same time, hundreds of Dobsonville rent-defaulters were served with eviction notices for rent arrears, site and service charges.

The local advice office and Azapo branch have advised residents to ignore the notices.

The advertisement in City Press today reads, “It’s no bluff, it’s no threat, it’s no joke. There is no more money. There can be no more services.

“Whoever you are, wherever you live, if you want something, you pay for it. Or you don’t get it. Simple as that.”

Azapo spokesman Molomotsi Mavi cautioned this could result in violence among residents if any were evicted.

A key meeting this week between the TPA and the SPD will, for the first time, include representatives from Dobsonville and Diepmeadow.

The meeting will focus on the upgrading of municipal services, affordable tariffs; the transfer of rental houses to the people and a common fiscal tax base for Soweto and Johannesburg.
SOWETO's four-year rent boycott could be lifted next week if the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) accedes to demands made by the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD). SPD spokesman Cyril Ramaphosa said yesterday.

Ramaphosa said he was confident agreement would be reached between the TPA, SPD and Soweto, Dobsonville and Diepsloot councils at a meeting next Tuesday.

The TPA, SPD and Soweto council met in Johannesburg yesterday to discuss a joint technical committee's recommendations regarding the boycott and writing-off of arrears, upgrading of and affordable municipal services, transfer of rented housing stock and a common fiscal base for Soweto and Johannesburg.

The discussions were postponed until Tuesday so that Dobsonville and Diepsloot councils could be included.

Local government MEC Olaus van Zyl said the three parties had agreed it was necessary to involve the other two councils as many items under discussion affected the greater Soweto area.

Soweto management committee chairman Payne Tshabalala said the Soweto council could not take decisions affecting the greater Soweto area.
Boost for builders

By SOPHIE TEMB

An organisation will be launched this month to address the development of small-building contractors as part of the private sector's commitment to alleviating the housing crisis.

The new Foundation for Entrepreneurial Skills Training (Fest) will be based in Midrand.

Fest director Dr Gordan Sibiya said the organisation will merge with the IBM Small Builders' Bridging Finance Loan Scheme, which will enhance Fest's potential to make a major impact on the development of this vital sector of the economy.

"The merger of the two organisations will ensure that the small builder plays a major role in the socio-economic development of southern Africa," he said.

"A national training course delivery network is being developed by interfacing with other organisations countrywide.

"During the various training phases, materials and programme support are offered free of charge to regional development corporations and agencies, which will be managed on a franchise basis.

"The intention is to extend the training programme to small builders throughout southern Africa.

"A four-tier programme has been established to cater for different levels of need, from providing the illiterate with functional literacy and numerical skills to imparting management skills necessary to handle multi-unit building contracts."
TALKS aimed at breaking the stalemate in the five-year-old rent boycott in Soweto will go ahead as planned today in Johannesburg, according to the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The crisis, which has cost millions of rand in unpaid rents and service charges, has defied unilateral solutions by the authorities.

The talks, which were postponed last Thursday, focus on the writing off of arrears, upgrading of municipal services, tariffs and the need for a common fiscal base for Soweto and Johannesburg.

Tomorrow the Deerpark and Dobsonville councils will join the Soweto Council, the TPA and the Soweto People's Delegation in the discussions.

In a recent threat, the TPA said it would halt bridging finance to the councils to force them to take steps to resolve the crisis - Sapa
Rent ad blitz
'not a threat'

THEO RAWANA

The TPA had embarked on a R1.6m advertising campaign in an attempt to break the Transvaal rent boycott, but not to threaten residents, local government MEC Olus van Zyl said yesterday.

The administration placed advertisements over the weekend and yesterday warning township residents to pay up or there would be no services after August 31.

Rent and service charge payments to Transvaal councils are said to be about R600m in arrears.

The TPA, Soweto City Council and the Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD) meet today in Johannesburg to resume talks on the rent issue.

As asked what the TPA’s reaction would be if the advertising campaign failed to bring results, Van Zyl said: "The information campaign should not be seen in isolation. It is part of an agreement that communication with the people would be conducted at local level through several channels, including notices and accounts.

He added: "The campaign is not a threat to the people but an attempt to break the boycott before the end of that period."  

TPA spokesman Gert de Jager said Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD) member Cyril Ramaphosa had been told that the campaign would start last week.

The newspaper adverts would be followed by a TV, radio and “outdoor” campaign. The total cost of the drive would be R1.6m.
Alberton delays township cut-off

The Alberton Town Council has promised not to cut health services to the nearby Thokoza township until its meeting on August 29.  

The council's management committee met yesterday to discuss the future of health services for Thokoza in the light of the rent boycott in the township.  

But Town Clerk A S de Beer said yesterday the committee's resolution on the issue would not be made public until the full council meeting on August 29.  

"Health services will not be cut until the management committee has reported to the council," he said.

THEO RAWANA

It was reported earlier this week that health services provided by the Alberton municipality could be cut if the boycott continued — a move that would affect between 150 000 and 250 000 people.

Thokoza administrator Gert Muller was reported as saying he had been informed by Alberton that the services would be suspended if Thokoza did not pay.

Saying the Thokoza council had no source of income due to the boycott, Muller said Alberton was sympathetic and had indicated it might seek funds elsewhere to deliver the necessary health services.
Tamboville ready soon
By Abel Machelane,
East Rand Bureau

The surveying of 700 sites at Tamboville, which will be home for about 4,000 Wattville home-seekers, will soon be completed, said Benoni town clerk T Conradie.

He said plans were afoot for the installation of infrastructure in the area. Once the infrastructure had been laid, about 2,000 families would move into the area within the following four months. The families who will occupy the land have refused to do so until they have been properly serviced.

Mr Conradie said the question of how the home-seekers would pay for their homes was still to be decided. The aim was to make the sites affordable to the ordinary home-seeker.

The land was made available with the help of the Benoni Town Council.

A joint interim committee consisting of the Benoni Town Council and the Wattville Concerned Residents Committee are responsible for the joint running of Tamboville.
Don’t replace mayor, residents

THE Alexandra Civic Association yesterday called on the authorities not to replace the township’s mayor, who has resigned, and to disband the council.

It said the council should be replaced with an administrator acceptable to the community.

Mr Moses Mayekiso, president of ACA, said an administrator must not be imposed on the people but discussions should be started with the community over who should be responsible for administration in the township.

Mayekiso said they welcomed Mrs Jackie Poo’s resignation from the unpopular bankrupt council and her decision to join ACA as a bold move.

Alexandra Council’s acting town clerk Mr Willy Khumalo said: “A meeting will be held today by councillors to elect a new mayor. The council was not aware that Mrs Poo had joined the ACA.

“The call for councillors to resign is nothing new and it depends on the councillors: whether they adhere to the call or not.”

Poo resigned from the council after her house was petrol-bombed six times since February this year.

A statement released by the council said her deteriorating health and family members had forced her to resign.
NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Collect 8000 at 111 999

Transnet AA member's travel service

To be called on the following numbers:
The Automobile Association in association
From 1:3000 on Saturday 18 August 1990

Cause of Township Carnage

Verwoerd's ghastly legacy

Above: a hospital inmate makes his bed in a prison cell.

The Passive Race

By Sebastian Piekarski

The Times

WHEN TO FOOT THE STRIKE

By MAKARINGE

The Times

By Sebastian Piekarski
I'm ashamed says Tom Boya

The president of the United Municipalities of South Africa and mayor of Daveyton, Mr Tom Boya, yesterday appealed for an end to the violence sweeping parts of the country.

"Today I feel very ashamed of the black-on-black violence which has gripped the East Rand and parts of Soweto. It is uncalled for, it is unnecessary and needs to be eradicated quickly," Boya said.

He said past policies of the Government had contributed to the violence.

"Our people are still divided into ethnic groups wherever they are being accommodated. Such policies should be done away with immediately.

"The hostel units should immediately be changed into family units so as to address the problem of housing and the millions of squatters who are homeless.

"The Church should be for justice, compassion and even-handedness. Much tolerance is needed to allow for differences."

"We should not allow ourselves to be used against each other," Boya said.

He said violence was immoral because it thrived on hatred rather than love. It destroyed communities and made brotherhood impossible.

Sapa.
SOWETO church leaders said it was not impossible for the Government to stop the recent township violence and called on police to disarm all people involved in the conflict.

The General Secretary of the SACC, the Rev Frank Chikane, said an urgent meeting would be requested with Mr. Adriaan Viljoen.

The church would recommend that hostels be converted to family units. - Sapa
Women besiege mayor's office over hostel dwellers

MORE than 300 angry women yesterday occupied the office of Soweto mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi until late last night demanding that all hostel dwellers in the township be evacuated and the hostels closed down.

The women will this morning continue the meeting with Mkhwanazi, which started yesterday, to urge the council to vacate the hostels immediately.

Mr Mkhwanazi said the council would first have to consult with State President Mr FW de Klerk to arrange alternative accommodation for the hostel residents.

The women also demanded that the peacekeeping forces in Soweto should not take action against youths who they said were defending residents against attacks by the hostel dwellers.

A section of the women who occupied the office of Soweto mayor Mr Sam Mkhwanazi until late last night demanding that hostel dwellers be evacuated. Pic: VELI NHLAPO
Hostel will be family units

THE Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council plans to assist in converting Meadowlands Hostel at a cost of R28 million over three years into family dwelling units housing 20,000 people.

About R3 million of the total amount, which excludes escalation, was expected to be recommended at yesterday’s CWRSC meeting for phase one of the project.

Units varying in size from 46 to 85 square metres will consist of three or four rooms each, it was revealed in a report to be presented today.

The CWRSC also plans to streamline levy collection by installing an on-line computerised system at an estimated cost of more than R2 million.

Justifying the expense, acting chief executive Naakets Botha said in a report which was to be presented to the CWRSC yesterday that the current batch-oriented system resulted in lengthy and costly month-end runs, slow and clumsy data capture and verification procedures.

A progress report tabled at yesterday’s meeting revealed 2,354 projects were in hand, the total amount budgeted for 1993 was R991 million and funds actually voted for approved projects amounted to R373 million, of which R211 million had been spent to date.

Correspondent
Impasse over rent crisis may end today

23/8/90

By SY MAKARINGE

The Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Soweto People's Delegation and the three Greater Soweto councils meet again today in a bid to end the four-year-old Soweto rent boycott.

A technical committee, appointed after last week's meeting, is expected to table its recommendations before the start of the talks at TPA's offices at Jubilee Centre, Johannesburg.

All three parties are expected to make major announcements at the end of the meeting amid expectations that an amicable and satisfactory settlement will finally be reached today to end the impasse.

The TPA is expected to announce the writing off of a major portion of the arrears - possibly R400 million - in what could have significant implications on all local authorities falling under its jurisdiction.

Sources said the TPA would be prepared to write off the rent arrears provided the SPD made an undertaking that residents would resume paying for essential services.

The Diepkloof and Dobsonville councils, which did not take part in earlier meetings with the TPA and the SPD, have been included in the talks.

The three parties are also expected to make a decision on a new flat rate for services and the transfer of housing stock to registered tenants.

It is not clear at this stage if the parties will reach a decision on the creation of a single tax base for Soweto and Johannesburg, a demand put forward by the SPD.
may spark more rage

Electrify switch-off

Soweto Monday
Deadlock

A HIGH-LEVEL meeting aimed at finding a solution to the Soweto rent boycott ended in deadlock yesterday after a fierce clash between the Transvaal Provincial Administration and the Soweto People's Delegation. The meeting was postponed to next Tuesday after the SPD objected to an advertisement placed by the TPA in several newspapers in which it implied that residents were being intimidated by certain leaders to boycott paying rent.

The SPD took exception to the advert which, among other things, asked the question "(Of) course, how is the silent majority going to allow a small minority to ram the rent and services boycott down their throats with a "knobkerrie"?"

It felt this could be construed as referring to them (..)

The TPA is spending more than R1,8 million on an advertising campaign in a bid to break the boycott following an announcement a few weeks ago that it had run out of bridging finance.

The adverts warned that essential services would be cut if the residents did not start paying.

In a statement "last night, Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC for the Transvaal, said the advertisement on intimidation did not relate to the SPD, but "to intimidators and whoever their leaders might be". He said it related to the general situation which had emerged in many towns in the Transvaal since March this year. In addition to pressure and threats to ordinary residents, many councillors had also been intimidated. "The TPA remains strongly committed to finding a satisfactory way to end the boycott and solve the financial and other problems of Greater Soweto in the interests of all its people and in full co-operation with the four other principal parties involved in the present negotiations," Van Zyl said.
Inside the dismal hostels of death

Who are the hostel inmates, the men who live in these low brick bungalows with concrete banks for beds?

They are migrant labourers from various homelands who come to the city to find work and they live in the hostels because accommodation is scarce. Many have lived there since the days of influx control.

They cannot bring their wives and children with them.

The bungalows at the Deploidal hostel are dirty and cold. Heaps of rubbish litter the floor. There are no heating systems.

Rows of concrete banks pass for beds and personal belongings tucked under them or hung on walls.

There is no electricity. Cooking is done in dark corners with candles, and paraffin is used for light.

Cracked

There is no hot water. There are no trees. There is no privacy at all.

There are no communal ablution facilities comprising a washing place and toilets.

There are no communal ablution facilities comprising a washing place and toilets.

Floors are bare, walls cracked and windows broken.

Life at the hostel is one of boredom and monotony. Recreation facilities are nonexistent. For many, drinking alcohol is their only form of consolation, and various addictions are common.

There are the conditions which are conducive to violence.

The Central Westerwolds Regional Council (CWRC) has pledged more than R2 million to convert the hostels into family units, but this will not solve the problem.

A man named Maesa, who hails from Greytown, said that his hostel unit had never been repaired.

"I am not going to leave until they fix it," he said. "I have nowhere else to go."
THE Administrator of the Transvaal has promised to respond to a demand by Soweto women to convert hostel into family units. Soweto town clerk Mr. Piet Goers said yesterday that the Administrator will soon make an announcement regarding a demand by Soweto women for the evacuation of hostels dwellers.

The women, who are demanding that hostel dwellers be evacuated from all camps in the township immediately, have threatened to continue their occupation of the Soweto Council chambers until the demand was met. They moved into the chambers on Monday afternoon and only left after an "emergency meeting with senior officials". Goers, however, said the evacuation could not be done overnight.

"We have instead asked for the re-inforcement of the civil defence force in an attempt to restore peace in the township," A spokesman for the women's delegation said they would not release a statement until the Administrator had given them a "firm indication that our demand will be met".

A meeting was held on Monday night between the women's delegation, SADF and SAP officials, the Soweto town clerk and the Administrator.

No response could be obtained from the Administrator's office at the time of going to press.
Soweto rent boycott — TPA defends its press campaign

The Transvaal Provincial Administration last night defended recent newspaper advertisements calling on Soweto residents to end a five-year rent and service charges boycott, which it placed after talks with the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) broke down.

An advertisement at the centre of the dispute appeared on Tuesday and showed a full-page black-and-white photograph of three armed and unidentifiable people carrying a "brick and what looked like two panga raised above their heads."

It was headlined "It was said with the boycott, what did they need those sticks and stones for?"

The SPD said the advertisement identified the leadership as intimidators running the Soweto People's Delegation or its leaders, nor to any organisation which did not practise or support intimidation."

Olaus van Zyl, MEC for local government, denied the claim in a press statement. "The advertisement related to intimators and whoever their leaders might be," Mr van Zyl said. "It did not relate to the Soweto People's Delegation or organisation which did not practise or support intimidation."

He confirmed that the SPD had requested a meeting yesterday be adjourned to Tuesday. This meeting will take place four days before the TPA has said it will stop paying Eskom for electricity, and Johannesburg City Council for water.
Mamelodi victims to sue ministers

THE Mamelodi Civic Association (MCA) yesterday announced that lawyers acting for victims of the bloody confrontation between residents and police last month would serve papers against the ministers of police and defence next week.

On July 8, more than 200 people were injured when police fired tear gas and assaulted residents at a mass meeting held at the local stadium.

A few days later, the community of Mamelodi staged a successful stayaway to protest against police conduct.

MCA publicity secretary Pesty Malefo told The Weekly Mail that the statements would bear testimony of the actions of the police.

"The statements to be submitted to both Ministers will prove that the meeting was peaceful and that the people had gathered at the stadium to discuss community related problems," he said.

He said that negotiations were continuing between the Mamelodi People's Delegation, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and local town councillors.

At a meeting before the bloody confrontation last month, both parties had agreed that rent arrears would be frozen if the residents agreed to pay rent.

However, Malefo said the council had instead attached resident's properties, threatened legal action and discontinued services such as electricity.

He said the delegation would only re-enter negotiations with the council once the recommendation had been made, a date set for the freeze and victimisation stopped.
Service cut-offs in doubt

By Therese Anders

Eskom and the Rand Water Board have announced they will not immediately be suspending electricity and water supplies.

The announcement comes four days before the nationwide rent boycott crisis is due to come to a head.

However, The Star has been told that some black local authorities have been warned that supplies will be stopped on Friday for non-payment of accounts.

- Witbank Town Council has given notification to KwaNqwa of an electricity cut on August 31 for non-payment.

- Ermelo's Conservative Party town council says Wesselton township's water supply would be suspended by September 15.

- Benoni's town clerk said that despite payment problems with Daveyton and Wattville, "we won't be cutting them off. That's not Benoni's style".
CP cuts township services

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

Carolina mayor Dr Sarel Bloem said the decision to switch off had been a question of economics, not politics.

Last night the ANC condemned the action, saying it was a violation of an agreement between the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the ANC and civic associations.

Sebokeng and Boipatong have been granted yet another reprieve before their electricity supply is cut off.

The big switch-off of services to black townships has begun, with Carolina’s Conservative Party council cutting water, water-borne sewage and electricity to Silobela yesterday.

The situation in Silobela, where residents claim there has never been a rent boycott, was described by residents last night as extremely tense.
Rent talks helping to iron out problems, says TPA

THEO RAWANA

had branded them as "intimidators". They demanded the TPA withdraw its statement and apologise to the people of Soweto.

Transvaal MEC for local government, Glaas van Zyl, had earlier explained that the advertisement did not relate to the SPD, but to the situation in the whole of the Transvaal.

Consensus

The TPA said yesterday that "certain aspects of today's discussions have been referred back for consideration by the Joint Technical Committee tomorrow, August 29.

"They are to report back to the principal bodies on Thursday, August 30, when it is hoped that consensus will be achieved in the interest of the people of Greater Soweto.

Issues being negotiated are:
- The writing off of municipal charges and rent arrears;
- The upgrading of municipal services;
- Affordable tariffs for municipal services;
- The transfer of the rental housing stock to tenants; and
- A common fiscal base for Greater Soweto and Johannesburg.

The talks will be resumed a day before the TPA's deadline for the curtailment of bridging finance for black councils.

The TPA had warned recently that the boycott, which had seen Transvaal black councils collectively owing R871m by June 30, had dried up financial resources.

It said bridging finance to councils would be curtailed by the end of this month.

Govt-ANC peace team has started its work — Viljoen

Extortionist plann a 'deadly treasure
Progress in boycott talks

JOHANNESBURG. - Substantial progress was reported at talks yesterday between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) on ending the five-year rent and service charges boycott in Soweto, according to the TPA.

Discussions, which include the city councils of Soweto, Diepmeadow and Dobsonville, will resume tomorrow — a day before the TPA has said it will cut off Soweto's water and electricity supply if agreement is not reached.

Mr Fanie Ferreira, Transvaal MEC, indicated the TPA was cautiously optimistic an agreement would be reached tomorrow. Yesterday's talks were held "in a cordial and constructive atmosphere", he said.

Discussions broke down on Thursday last week after the SPD had protested about an advertising campaign by the TPA in which it was alleged Soweto residents were not paying their rent because of intimidation. — Sapa
Move on hostels begins

COMMUNITY organisations in KwaThema, as well as the local town council and representatives of Inkatha, agreed at a meeting on Wednesday that the "hostels" in the town should be phased out.

The meeting was held to reassure residents of the East Rand Township that something was being done about the hostel system which became the centre of controversy after this week's clashes involving hostel dwellers.

The community organisations involved included the KwaThema Civic Association, the KwaThema Youth Organisation and the local chamber of commerce.

Further discussions on alternative accommodation for the nearly 7,000 hostel population of KwaThema were held later yesterday and involved the Springs Chamber of Commerce.

Meanwhile, the house of the former East Rand secretary of Inkatha, Mr Steve Mphutha, was burnt down on Wednesday night. - Sapa.
More than 200,000 live in hostels in PWV

They live either in vast complexes such as Diepmeadow's two, which together sleep 20,000, or in a single 80-bed dormitory such as that at Impumelilo near Devon on the Rand. Of the 20 townships canvassed in an attempt to gauge the extent of the hostel system, only the municipalities of Botha's Hill near Delmas, Tankwa near Brakpan and Evaton near Vanderbijlpark do not run hostels, though an Evaton spokesman said "We use Sebokeng's." The hostel violence, which has claimed more than 400 lives recently, has renewed calls for an end to the "single-sex" housing system, a legacy of the migrant labour system.

The Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council this week approved a plan to convert the huge Meadowlands complex from a dwelling for 23,000 single men into family flats housing 20,000 people.

But Reef township officials, asked about similar plans, stressed that hostels "fulfilled a real need."

*Inside the dismal hostels of death* — Page 21
Serviced sites ready soon, says Mavuso

Unisa yesterday.

The land is part of a number of PWV areas identified by an urbanisation task force two years ago The areas are largely for expanding and linking existing townships.

The other areas were still the subject of detailed geological investigations "to confirm the urbanisation potential of probable areas", a process which could take longer than a year and cost "several hundred thousand rands", he said.

As to further development, Mr Mavuso said that "in the short term at least, most black urban development may be expected to take place on the East Rand"
CP action brings violence warning

Chaos as lights and water cut

By Therese Anders, Stan Hlophe and Sapa

There was chaos in the eastern Transvaal township of Silobela yesterday, after the cutting of water, sewerage and electricity services on Tuesday by Carolina's Conservative Party council.

And, as more black towns were threatened with services being cut off within days, there were signs that the issue of arrears payments is rapidly blowing up into a major political confrontation between the black political organisations on the one side and white local authorities and the Government on the other.

Consumer boycotts are already being threatened as retaliatory steps if the authorities should continue with threatened services cuts.

In Silobela, perishable food in shops began to rot yesterday, as did the contents of most home refrigerators. Most of the 10 000 residents had to collect supplies of water from a small polluted stream.

Locals avoided the council tanker providing water during the day — at 2c a litre — because they alleged it was the same one used to collect night-soil buckets.

On Tuesday, Carolina mayor Dr Sarel Bloem said the services had been suspended because Silobela owed the Carolina municipality R25 000 for July and their August account was almost due.

A Transvaal Provincial Administration spokesman in Pretoria confirmed that many Silobela residents were paying their accounts, but said that, according to the TPA's formula, Silobela had been designated a boycotting township.

The TPA's head office in Pretoria was yesterday in a statement that the Carolina Town Council had acted without its permission.

"Serious mistake"
"The TPA, however, has no jurisdiction over an autonomous local authority."

Jani bomb was 'a bid
Not a drop... Silobela housewife Pauline Mgcobane kept trying her tap, council might have changed its mind and re-connected the township's.
Consumer boycotts are already being threatened as retaliatory steps if the authorities should continue with threatened service cuts. In Sillobela, perishable food in shops began to rot yesterday, as did the contents of home refrigerators. Most of the 10,000 residents had to collect supplies of water from a small polluted stream.

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A Transvaal Provincial Administration spokesman in Nelspruit confirmed that many Sillobela residents were paying their accounts, but said that, according to the TPA's formula, Sillobela had been designated a boycotting township.

The TPA's head office in Pretoria said yesterday in a statement that the Carolina Town Council had acted without its permission.

'Serious mistake'

"The TPA, however, has no jurisdiction over an autonomous local authority."

Last night the ANC issued a strongly worded warning to Carolina's CP-led council.

ANC eastern Transvaal region secretary Joe Nkuna said, "We condemn the action of the CP town council. They are making a serious mistake because we are considering serious action to protect our people if the situation doesn't change immediately."

Hardly 48 hours after the Carolina council cut services to Sillobela, Balfast's CP-controlled town council has given the residents of Syathuthuka an ultimatum to pay up or be cut off on September 4.

Town clerk Mr P. Strydom said the council was not in the financial position to pay Syathuthuka's account to Eskom.

Good progress was made at talks between the TPA and the Soweto People's Delegation on ending the rent and service-charge boycott in Soweto, the TPA said.

Discussions, in which the councils of Soweto, Diepsloot and Dobsonville are also taking part, will resume today.

According to the TPA's Piet Wilken, the TPA has run out of funds and unless some revenue is forthcoming by the end of August, they would have to cut the services.

Civic Association spokesman said that the TPA that, if it carried on its threats, it would have to bear the blame for the full-scale violence which would erupt.

This warning was echoed by Umzimkhulu and Mfuleni municipalities of South African president Tom Boya, who appealed to President de Klerk to intervene.

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Not a drop ..., Sillobela housewife Pauline Mngobane kept trying her top council might have changed its mind and re-connected the township.

"Jani bomb was ‘a bid to ruin TerreBlanche’"

By Cathy Stagg and Craig Kotze

One of two rightwingers allegedly responsible for the bomb blast last year outside former Sunday Times columnist Jani Allan's Sandton home has been charged in the Rand Supreme Court.

Fanie Goosen (29) of Vereeniging appeared briefly yesterday in connection with the blast and the murder and robbery of a taxi driver, Potoko Franzon Makgalemele, who was first stabbed then shot.

Mr Goosen will remain in custody until his case resumes on September 11. The second man, Cornelius Johannes Lottering (34), is being sought by police in the far Northern Transvaal.

Described as one of South Africa's most wanted men and an alleged member of the self-styled extremist right-wing "Order of Death", Mr Lottering escaped from police custody in Johannesburg along with Mr Goosen and other prisoners in March. Mr Goosen was re-arrested on the farm Swartwater near the Botswana border.

Police are following up information that Mr Lottering is hiding out on farms in the Pietersburg and the Ellisras areas.

According to the charge sheet the two men, two counts of murder, two counts of robbery, two counts of malicious damage to property, attempted intimidation and the unlawful possession of a firearm.

The two men are said to have "illegally caused an explosion" on July 14 last year against the wall of a block of flats named "The Birches" in Sandton.

Ms Allan, who has subsequently moved to London, was a resident.

The explosion was said to have been an attempt to threaten or force her to generate news reports which would contribute to rumouring the expected nomination of AWB leader Eugene TerreBlanche as a candidate for the September 1989 general elections.

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Arrests 'a cheek', ANC

Staff Reporter

The ANC yesterday described as "a bunch of cheek" the arrests and charging of three senior Cosatu officials, after they complained to the police that an alleged police spy had been caught red-handed.

ANC publicity chief Pallo Jordan was responding to the arrest of Cosatu general secretary Jay Naidoo, re-arrested on the farm Swartwater near the Botswana border.

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Arrests 'a cheek', ANC

Staff Reporter

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Rents crisis talks

By DON SEOKANE

THE Soweto People's Delegation and Transvaal Provincial Administration today continue crucial talks on the rent boycott, while Silobela township in the eastern Transvaal has already had its services cut off.

Water and electricity in the township are provided by the Carolina Town Council. An official of the Conservative Party-controlled council said it could no longer carry the arrears, in excess of...
Crucial rents talks today

An official, Mr. Pet. Wilkins, said some white local authorities who are supplying black town councils with electricity had indicated they might discontinue power supplies to the townships if the boycott was not resolved by August 31.

"There are a quite a number of town councils which do not receive their power supplies directly from Eskom. It is a worldwide phenomenon that if people do not pay for the service rendered to them, then they cannot expect to receive anything," he said.

He said the TPA would soon not be able to provide bridging finance to townships affected by rent services boycotts "simply because there is no money."

Wilkins said 82 local authorities were affected by the boycott and of the R313-million budgeted for this year only R99-million was left to finance the councils.

Today's talks between the TPA and SPD continue from Tuesday when TPA officials and local council representatives gathered for a second day of negotiations.

More than 20 officials, mainly of the SPD, have been narrowed and there was a possibility that an agreement could be reached today.

The talks involve the Soweto, Deneboom and Dobsonville municipalities, the TPA and the SPD.

SPD representatives include Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa, Mrs. Albertina Sisulu and the Rev. Frank Chikane.
Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) spokesman Magdi du Toit said on Tuesday that Transvaal townships' services were supplied by 34 white municipalities.

The TPA spokesman said yesterday that the Bronkhorstspruit municipality had cut power to consumers in Zithubeni two weeks ago, but this was denied by the council which said Eskom supplied the township directly.

Van der Merwe said many municipalities not controlled by the CP would have to consider steps similar to those taken by Carolina and Belfast. His own municipality of Alberton would probably be forced into ending services by the end of next week if a solution was not found, he said.

United Municipalities of SA (Unusa) president Tom Boya said he was confident President F W de Klerk would be sympathetic towards an appeal that black local authorities be given three months' grace in which to meet their outstanding rent and service bills.

Urban Councils' Association of SA (Ucasu) president Philip Nhlapo said Klerk had said bridging finance would be terminated at the end of August.

"The TPA naturally regrets that services have been cut to these townships, but the white councils are autonomous and can do as they please," he said.

The R313m the administration had set aside for bridging finance had dried up and only R89m was left.

Spokesman in the President's Office Casper Venter said last night he could not say whether the bridging finance issue had been discussed by the Cabinet in its meeting yesterday. After the meeting, a government spokesman said he did not foresee any statement being released last night.

Eskom spokesman Laetitia van Staden said Eskom had not cut off electricity supplies to any council.
Services to townships will be cut

Govt takes a hard line on rent boycotts

PRETORIA — Services, including electricity, would soon be cut to townships where residents refused to pay their bills, Provincial Planning Minister Hermus Kriel said yesterday.

This move is an attempt by government to force residents to start paying, as local authority finance has run dry.

"The fact is that government simply does not have funds to continue providing bridging finance and that the onus to pay for these services rests with the consumers themselves," Kriel said.

However, electricity and water supplies to the eastern Transvaal township of Silobela near Carolina were reconnected yesterday, after provincial authorities undertook to pay the R22 295 account, Carolina's Mayor Sarel Bloem said last night.

He said he received a fax from the Transvaal Provincial Administration at about 5pm and immediately ordered the reconnection of services which had been cut for the past two days.

"I predicted the payment of the June account would provide only temporary relief to the residents, as the August account was almost due," Kriel said.

Kriel said the decision to cut services was taken after lengthy consultations with the leaders of communities involved, and after repeated reminders of the consequences of non-payment.

He said the decision to discontinue the services was up to the bodies which supplied the services, such as Escom.

Kriel said he hoped this move would not exacerbate violence in Reef townships.

The cutting of services would not be implemented in "one shot" but would be done in phases.

Government would ensure that essential services would not be affected.

Section 20 of the Health Act states that local authorities must take reasonable steps to render services that prevent communicable diseases and promote health.

The Act also states that local authorities must provide occupied dwellings with a proper and sufficient supply of pond water at a reasonable distance.

Kriel said government had made available R62m in bridging finance for black local authorities to balance their books. Of the R420m allocated in the Transvaal, only R19m was left to last until March.

The provinces would decide to which local authorities the remaining money would go. He said those townships which had been paying their bills would have a right to be assisted.

Electricity would be the first service to be cut off, but hospitals and sewerage would not be affected. Refuge, removal would be the next service to go, while water supplies would be reduced or cut off at certain time of the day, he said.

A distinction would be made between people with bona fide financial problems, and those who were "simply exploiting the non-payment issue." The government wishes to emphasise that the responsibility for this unfortunate situation rests entirely with those who are behind the boycotts," he said.

"Eskom's management board held an ur-

Boycotts

Front Page 1

Tom Boya predicted widespread township chaos if electricity and water supplies were restricted.

He said Kriel's announcement was likely to jeopardise negotiations on future local government structures.

"This is very sad. There will be so much anger if these townships are blacked out," Umsha councillors were putting their hopes on intervention by President F.W. de Klerk, Boya said.

Kriel said a decision would be taken on Soweto's services after the conclusion of talks between the Soweto People's Delegation, the TPA and the Soweto City Council.
We won’t pay, say angry residents

By Louise Burgers

Residents of Ennerdale, south of Johannesburg, are threatening to boycott all accounts sent out by the local authority if their grievances about high and faulty accounts for water and lights are not addressed.

Yesterday residents clashed repeatedly with a large contingent of police when they demonstrated outside the civic centre and attempted to march on the local police station.

Residents also embarked on a work stayaway after police took action against marchers late on Wednesday.

Eyewitnesses said police used birdshot, rubber bullets and teargas to disperse crowds.

SAP liaison officer, Captain Pieter van Deventer, confirmed that police baton-charged and teargassed residents, but denied birdshot and rubber bullets were used. Four people were arrested.

A member of the Ennerdale Civic Association, Howard Sauls, said police used birdshot against residents again yesterday, injuring one man.

Bleeding

Mr. Sauls said: “I was standing two metres away from the man who was hit. A crowd had gathered at the entrance to the town. Police told the people to disperse.

“Teargas was fired and then I heard a shot and a man screamed. He was bleeding from his left side.”

Ennerdale residents say they have been fighting a nine-year battle to stop accounts from rising steeply every year. Angry residents claim the council is overcharging for water and electricity.

An average family of four or five pays between R300 and R500 for electricity and water each month — an exorbitant amount, residents believe.

Earlier at a meeting attended by about 100 people, the Ennerdale Civic Association called for the resignation of the management committee and the sensitive handling of faulty accounts. Residents threatened to boycott all accounts sent out by the local authority until the situation was settled.
On the march... A teargas cannister is shot over the heads of a crowd of marchers in Ennerdale yesterday after they were ordered by police to disperse.

© Picture by Ken Oosterbroek.
Soweto rent boycott to end

Staff Reporters

Soweto’s four-year rent and services boycott is set to end on September 24 after an agreement in principle last night between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the Soweto People’s Delegation (SPD) and the Greater Soweto councils to write off R315 million in arrears.

After a 15-hour meeting it was decided that township residents will pay a uniform tariff of R55 for September and from October an interim service charge of R23 a household plus electricity on metered consumption of 12 cents a unit.

This rate will apply until new affordable tariffs have been established in consultation with a joint technical committee appointed by the principal bodies.

The Soweto agreement comes in the wake of the announcement by Soweto Minister Herman Kriel that the Government would cut bridging finance today.

This could see the termination of electricity and possibly water and sewerage services to at least 50 rent-boycotting townships throughout the Transvaal.

Mr Kriel said at a press conference in Pretoria that the Government had simply run out of money.

“This is not a political decision but a financial one,” he said, adding he hoped this would not lead to renewed township violence. He said electricity would first be cut, followed by refuse removal. Water would only be cut off at certain times of the day but essential services such as hospitals would not be affected.

Vulnerable

The towns most vulnerable to power cuts — having received the largest bridging finance payments last year — include Alexandra, north of Johannesburg (R10.7 million), Dubezweni (R8.4 million), Leboka (R12 million), Daveyton (R7.4 million), Tokoz (R4 million) and Atteridgeville (R9 million).

Most of these needy townships also showed a massive budget deficit for the 1989/90 financial year.

Mr Kriel said R5.1 million was budgeted for bridging finances in the Transvaal during the present financial year ending in March 1990. Only R9 million remained.

Esteemed management was meeting this morning to decide what action to take on power cuts.

Carolina’s Conservative Party-controlled council yesterday restored electricity and water to Soweto township.

The council bowed to pressure from the TPA and Lawyers for Human Rights, which threatened to bring urgent Supreme Court interdicts against the local authority.

Last night residents reported that their services had been restored at 6pm.

Belfast Town Council, which threatened to cut off services on Tuesday, has extended its deadline.

The Soweto agreement will be referred to various parties’ constituencies for ratifications and another meeting has been scheduled for September 24 for the formal agreement.
Court move plan to oust town council

THE Atteridgeville-Sauls River Residents Organisation has resolved to turn to the Pretoria Supreme Court to have the local-town council dissolved because of alleged incompetency.

A spokesman for Aso said that this decision was taken because the TPA was reluctant to act against the council in terms of recommenda-

tions by a commission of inquiry that the Administrator could not take action against the council in terms of the provisions of Section 29 of the Black Local Authorities’ Act.

Mr Willie Kriel, chairman of the TPA-appointed inquiry which investigated corruption and irregularities in the council last year, recommended that action be taken against the council early this year.

Kriel also found that it would serve no purpose to provide the council with bridging funds because there was no proper budget control and the bookkeeping system was inefficient.

He also established that the council had not submitted financial statements since 1986.

A spokesman for Aso said their lawyers were preparing an application which would be filed in the Supreme Court soon to dissolve the council.

“Residents unanimously decided to call for the resignation of councillors and the stopping of rent payment following recommendations of the inquiry which, ironically, was appointed by the TPA,” the Aso spokesman said.

He accused the TPA of supporting the council and being reluctant to implement recommendations made by Kriel.

“We no longer have faith in the TPA. That is why we have turned to the court of law.”

Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC for the Transvaal, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

A TPA spokesman, Mr Gert De Jager, said none of the senior officials were available for comment.

Kriel, in his general conclusions, remarked that the public had lost faith in the council because of its poor financial position and the increase of service charges which the council viewed as the solution to the problem.

He also highlighted the misuse of council vehicles by councillors for personal use as well as the “fruitless expenditure” on expensive security equipment and the thousands of rands used for the laying out of a garden at the council offices.

New doctors’ association to fight for a better deal

A NEW association to address the problems of young doctors - especially “unacceptable” working conditions and poor pay - has been established by the Junior Doctors’ Association of South Africa.

The Junior Doctors’ Association of South Africa, one of 40 special interest groups of Masa, will represent student-interns (final-year medical students), interns (house doctors) and other doctors up to two years after qualification.

“One of the most pressing issues to be addressed will be “unacceptable working conditions and inadequate remuneration”.

FACTFILE - by Norris McWhirter

SOUTHERN Africa Black Mr James Ngcza said that he supports a possible boycott agreed by passengers and the NAACB of negative behaviour from the taxi association.

He was reacting to a statement by the South Africa National Taxi Owners and Concessionaires Business and Consumer Protection Corporation (SABC) which accused taxis of being unhygienic.

The SABC, an association of taxi drivers, said on Tuesday that it would stop running in solidarity with the taxi operators.

“Of course, what? Stop being abusive and predatory,” he said.

For its part, SABC had the backing of the taxi drivers who are not interested in the boycott idea, he said.
THE Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr. Hernus Kriel, yesterday announced that essential services, including electricity and water, would be cut or reduced in certain black townships where rent was not being paid.

He said the Government had finally run out of bridging funds. At a Press conference at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, Kriel said it was regrettable that such a step had to be taken.

The Government had on numerous occasions warned residents in the affected areas that such steps would be taken if they did not pay for services. Kriel said:

"I hope this decision will not lead to violence in those affected townships."

Arrears

Arrears on rent and service charges in the Transvaal totalled R8.5 million at the end of July.

An amount of R428 million was budgeted for bridging finances in the Transvaal during the present financial year ending in March next year. "Of this amount only R99 million remains," Kriel said.

He said electricity would be cut and water reduced or cut during certain periods in certain townships throughout the country with immediate effect.

However, the cuts depended entirely on the suppliers of these services in certain instances.

Emergency units such as hospitals in black townships would not be affected by the cuts, said Kriel, who added that they would not jeopardise the lives of people.

Action would not be taken against areas such as Soweto because that council was presently engaged in negotiations with the Transvaal Provincial Administration to end the rent boycott.

"Action against that council will depend on the outcome of these talks," Kriel said.

He added that the Government was prepared to discuss the rent crisis with interested groups from the black and white sectors.

Government was forced to stop providing bridging funds to black town councils from today because residents were not paying for services.

Kriel appealed to black communities to pay for services and said the decision to stop providing bridging funds was not political.

The Government was prepared to discuss the rent crisis with interested groups from the black and white sectors.

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unrest
Soweto agrees to pay its rent - but power cuts loom

By ELSABE WESSELS and SAMANTHA WEINBERG

An agreement was reached last night to end the five-year rent boycott in Soweto, the government remained poised to cut power in over 50 Transvaal townships and many more nationwide.

Last night the Soweto People's Delegation and the Transvaal Provincial Administration reached agreement in principle on measures to end the rent and service charge boycott in greater Soweto and to initiate a programme of "far-reaching structural change".

A meeting has been scheduled for September 24 at which a formal agreement will be signed.

Both parties accepted the principles that services should be paid for, with "due regard to affordability". It was also agreed that the rents from the boycott-a Namibian at R54 per month-would be written off.

The main points of the agreement include:

- Uniform tariffs should apply in Soweto, Delmas and Dobsonville.
- The fees for September at a daily rate of R35 per "residential unit" would be charged.
- From October 1990, all new affordable tariffs have been worked out, an interim service charge of R30 per month plus electricity costs.

A Greater Soweto Peoples Fund is to be established next year, financed by special levy — to which residents will contribute R3 for "community development and assistance". This fund will be administered by an independent board of trustees.

The principal bodies involved in the talks, the TPA, the three Soweto Councils and the Soweto People's Delegation, are to establish a Metropolitan Chamber. The main purpose of the chamber is to investigate the setting up of "regional, non-racial and democratic policy approaches" for longer-term implementation.

The Johannesburg City Council is to be invited to join this body as a sixth member. The chamber will appoint a joint technical committee to investigate a number of issues.

Meanwhile, Planning Minister Henk Kriel announced plans to cut electricity to hundreds of townships.

Kriel's announcement that the government would execute a "phase" plan to cut off electricity to black townships other than Soweto could leave millions of black families without any heat or light resources. Refuse removal and water supplies could be the next steps aimed at getting residents to suspend the boycott.

Kriel, who yesterday announced that the local rental arrears was about R2-billion, said in the action by the government only dealt with current payment. "We don't even want to think about arrears."

Although the government's position comes into effect immediately, the actual timetable of when services are to be cut has yet to be decided, Kriel said. The 55 Transvaal townships are expected to be hardest.

Yesterday's announcement came in the wake of a nationwide media campaign by the government warning residents that if they did not pay, their "comforts" would be removed.

At a press conference at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, Kriel took a hard line on the continued organised refusal of township residents to pay rent and service charges.

He pointed out that government was not taking issue with rent arrears but warned users to resume paying in order to prevent services being cut off.

The announcement means in effect that provincial authorities, who provide funding to the black local authorities, who then pay Eskom and the Water Board, will receive no further finance from central government for services bills.

The government, which is not directly responsible for the delivery of services such as electricity and water, has passed the buck to black local authorities, Eskom and the Water Board.

Kriel said the R332-million budgeted for the TPA for black local authorities this year, only R99-million remained. With that black local authorities would not be able to foot their bulk services bills, he said.

Asked when the punitive action would come into effect, Kriel said, "It's up to Eskom and the Water Board. They will have to take the decision to commence." He said the government's decision to introduce punitive measures in the rent boycott battle was "an all-out war against the government's decision to introduce punitive measures in the rent boycott battle".

"The government has decided that it will not continue to provide bridging finances for the provision of services to communities and local authorities where residents had failed to pay for these services over a period of time," he said.

"The practical effect of this decision is that the suppliers of such services will have no choice but to discontinue their services to certain communities, especially those with a poor record of payment," Kriel said.

"A distinction will be made, as far as possible, between persons with bona fide financial problems, and those who are simply exploiting the non-payment issue," he said.

"The decision, which, according to Kriel's statement, was taken in consultation with "elected black community representatives", could spark a new war between popularly elected council associations and discredited government aligned black local authorities.

By ceasing "bridging finance" for the provision of services, the government has effectively evoked the responsibility of dealing with the roots of poverty and local government level and to turn to a means such as Eskom.

Asked whether the drastic measure was not premature considering the political history of the rent boycott which evolved as a method of resistance to apartheid government, Kriel at first denied that the boycott had any bearing on national politics, although he did accuse the organisers of the boycott of taking "political advantage".

When probed, Kriel conceded that the restructuring of local government would be on the agenda for the proposed constitutional negotiations. He insisted however, that the present system had to be kept "intact" until such time as a new constitutional had been organised.

Kriel said, "The residents had no moral right to stop paying for services, even though he rejected the legitimacy of the authorities.

"If you want services, you must pay," he said. He added that as soon as consumers started to pay, authorities would be able to pay resumption of services bills. "We want to make an appeal to users of bulk services — please start paying," he said.

Asked to comment on the curtailment of water, sewage and electricity services on Tuesday to the eastern Transvaal township of Soweto by the Conservative Party Council, Kriel gave an abrupt reply: "If people don't pay you have to take action," he said.
UDF, govt discuss power cuts

Senior government officials will meet a UDF delegation in Pretoria today to discuss government's announcement that it is to cut off services to boycotting townships. Planning and Provincial Affairs deputy minister Andre Fouse yesterday confirmed he and Transvaal MEC for Local Government, Olaus van Zyl, would meet the UDF group, expected to include general secretary Popo Molefe, national treasurer Ashar Cachalia and national press officer Titus Mofolo.

The meeting follows a UDF request for talks with Planning and Provincial Affairs minister Bernus Kriel, who is overseas.

Cachalia said in a statement on Friday, the UDF was concerned Kriel's announcement to stop services would generate widespread anger and have an inflammatory effect on the volatile townships.

His announcement also contradicted government's declared position to negotiate the resolution of conflicts as happened with the negotiated end to the rent boycott in greater Soweto last week.

Cachalia said Kriel ignored the reasons for the boycott in the first place which were the rejection of black local authorities and unfair service charges communities had been expected to pay.

Cachalia said yesterday the delegation wanted to play a constructive role between the boycotting townships and government.

This followed the resolution of boycotts in 18 Eastern Transvaal townships on Friday after a month of negotiations between...

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Power cuts

the TPA, the town councils and the Eastern Transvaal Civic Association.

Residents would start paying rent and service charges not later than September 17 while service arrears will be frozen and rent arrears written off.

Eskom Communications manager Johan du Plessis said yesterday there were only 40 black local authorities out of the 291 it supplied directly or indirectly which were in arrears with payments.

While Du Plessis declined to name the townships for business reasons, he said two in the Transvaal were part of the 16 Eastern Transvaal townships that had agreed to end the boycott and they therefore no longer posed a problem.

Regarding the other two townships which were in the Free State, Du Plessis said he believed boycotts could be settled through negotiations.

TPA deputy director general (community development) Len Dekker said yesterday the TPA would have to assess the progress made to end boycotts in the Transvaal townships today and certain decisions might have to be taken. He said 51 townships had not been paying.

Those leaders who had encouraged the boycott now had to prove that they could stop the boycotts, Dekker said.

The tentative agreement between the TPA, the Soweto People's Delegation and the three Greater Soweto councils could, if replicated around the country, mean "tremendous progress", SPD leader Cyril Ramaphosa said at the weekend.

He described the agreement, which still had to be approved by residents at report-back meetings over the next few weeks, as a major economic, social and political advance.
FW orders urgent probe of police action

23 die in new violence

JOHANNESBURG. — Fighting flared in strife-torn East Rand townships at the weekend, killing 23 people and shattering a tenuous peace enforced by emergency rule as the conduct of the police came under the spotlight.

In two developments at the weekend, President FW de Klerk announced an urgent probe into alleged police complicity in the recent violence. This follows last week’s meeting between Mr De Klerk and a deputation of senior churchmen, which included Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the secretary of the SA Council of Churches, the Rev Frank Chikane. A memorandum on the role of the police was handed to Mr De Klerk.

The Goldstone Commission of Inquiry found that police acted unjustifiably and without discipline during a march in Sebenza on March 1 this year when 15 people were killed and 291 injured. Mr Justice P.J. Goldstone also recommended that an unspecified number of policemen be investigated on possible criminal charges — including a sergeant responsible for four deaths.

Yesterday police said patrols found 21 people shot or hacked to death in Thokoza and Tembisa, east of Johannesburg, after an unidentified group of men armed with rifles and sharp weapons “went on a rampage” late on Saturday night.

A patrol in nearby Vosloorus found two bodies riddled with gunshot wounds near a hostel, which houses mainly Zulu migrant workers.

The deaths came only hours after the signing of a regional peace accord on Saturday between Inkatha and the ANC in the north of hard-hit Natal province, since 1987 the scene of the worst fighting between the groups.

The ANC has insisted police have sided with Inkatha.

Despite police denials, Mr De Klerk said in a statement: “I would like to stress that certain allegations which have been made against the South African Police are regarded in an extremely serious light. I have therefore referred this matter to the Minister of Law and Order (Mr Adriaan Vlok) for an urgent and in-depth investigation.”

To attorney-general

Mr De Klerk also announced a probe into the hostel system, which the ANC has said should be abolished and workers absorbed into the communities, where they can live with their families.

“The government believes that it is in the interests of healthy family life that accommodation should be provided on a family basis,” Mr De Klerk said, noting he had referred the issue to Health Minister Dr Rina Venter and she would examine “the feasibility of converting hostels into suitable family units”.

He said Mr Vlok would issue a statement on the question of police complicity “in time”.

Responding to the Goldstone Commission’s recommendation that the actions of certain police members be referred to the attorney-general, Mr Vlok said in Pretoria that it would be implemented and the necessary dockets submitted.

He said departmental steps were also being considered against certain individual members and that in future special constables, as far as possible, would not be used for riots and crowd control.

Mr Vlok said the government had taken note of the findings and recommendations and had referred the report to him “for further attention and action”.

Meanwhile the ANC called for all SAP members involved in the Sebenza shooting to be proscribed to the full extent of the law.

The ANC said it was clear from the commission’s report that police officers violated standard police procedures, wilfully choosing to disregard the authority of a Colonel Manzilulo, the SAP senior officer in the area.

Shooting was completely unjustified and the police had no need to use live ammunition or any other deadly weapons, they said.

ANC spokesman Ms Gill Marcus said yesterday the organisation had noted Mr Justice Goldstone’s criticism aimed at the MDM organisers and would investigate crowd control measures at public marches.

“We are certainly taking this matter very seriously. We are very concerned about loss of life,” she said.

To attorney-general

- Sebokeng probe blames police, UDF — Page 2
- Natal leaders sign peace accord — Page 2
UDF in talks on services

By Musa Mapisa

The United Democratic Front held discussions with Deputy Minister of Planning Andre Fourie in Pretoria yesterday about rent and service charges boycotts in black townships.

During the talks both parties agreed that:
- Black local authorities were economically non-viable and therefore required bridging finance. However, rent boycotts resulted in the depletion of bridging finance.
- The principle of payment for services was accepted with regard to affordability.
- Negotiations were to be supported in the continuing search for solutions.

- Essential services such as water and sewerage would not be cut.
- Actions taken by suppliers concerning the possible discontinuation of services should be reasonable and sympathetic.

It was agreed that the UDF would call a meeting of the Transvaal Civic Association and the TPA later this month to speed up negotiations on rent and services issues, taking note of the Soweto deliberations and proposals.

It was also agreed that Mr Fourie would refer the concern and request of the UDF delegation to the Government that services in the townships should not be suspended.
Compulsory school fees in the pipeline, says DP

PRETORIA — The introduction of a system of compulsory tuition fees at state and provincial schools was likely during the course of 1991, DP education spokesman Roger Burrows said yesterday.

The idea is that the fee would continue to grow in line with the economy, even if the fee was lower than that quoted for the past four years.

Before provincial councils were abolished, the Transvaal Provincial Council amended the education ordinance to make provision for compulsory fee paying by parents.

A Transvaal Teachers' Association (TTA) spokesman said interest was declining, but the TTA was surprised at the scheme's success.

Among major objections to enforced payment for education by parents was the issue of collection.

The TTA felt strongly that it was not a burden that should be thrust on teachers.

It was also felt that compulsory school fees were a form of selective and discriminatory taxation.

At least some education authorities believe education has always been, and should remain, a community responsibility.

NUM officials appear in Natal court


NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa was also due to have appeared but was excused as he was busy with urgent consultations with Iscor.

The case is a sequel to a march from the NUM's Newcastle headquarters to a hotel a few kilometers away on August 26.

The case was postponed to October 1 pending a decision by the attorney-general. The accused were released on R50 bail each — Sapa

Part of Mayfair now Indian area

PRETORIA — A 15ha piece of land in Mayfair has been declared a group area for Indians, according to the Government Gazette.

A spokesman from the department of Planning and Provincial Affairs said yesterday the application, made by Rand Mines Properties in 1986, had been approved in terms of the Group Areas Act last week.

The land, which is shaped like a aircraft, is proclaimed mining land and Rand Mines Properties intends to ask for it to be rezoned for residential purposes, EMP GM Gert Strydom said yesterday.

Rand Mines Properties intends selling the land for Indian housing development once the area has been rezoned. Strydom said rezoning could take up to two years and he did not know how long the land would be sold for.

The area, called Crown North Extension 1, lies south-west of Fordsburg, an Indian group area.

Strydom said that with the area declared an Indian group area, it would cut through the red tape of getting individual permits for Indians wanting to own land in the largely white suburb.

A Planning and Provincial Affairs spokesman said the department would continue considering group areas applications until the Group Areas Act was scrapped.
Sharpeville faces services switch-off

PRETORIA — The Vereeniging Town Council is pulling the switches on all services in Sharpeville township at 2pm today unless Eskom, government or the TPA comes up with R450,000 in cash. Vereeniging Town Council management committee chairman Mario Milan said last night:

"The council has no other choice but to suspend all services to Sharpeville until the council has a guarantee of payment for September's services."

This announcement follows a meeting in Pretoria between Planning and Provincial Affairs Deputy Minister Andre Fourie and a UDF delegation yesterday at which it was reiterated that essential services such as water and sewerage would not be cut off and that solutions to the problem should be resolved through negotiations.

EDYTH BULBRING

Mario Milan said Vereeniging had borne the costs of supplying all services to Sharpeville in July and August at R450,000 a month.

"Although negotiations have been held with the Sharpeville Residents' Association, the TPA, Eskom and any other party we could name, no reasonable solutions to the boycott have been offered," he said.

Mario Milan said the white ratepayers could not pay for the services. He said 94% of Sharpeville residents had not been paying their bills.

Negotiations with interested parties would continue.

The Vereeniging Town Council was holding two meetings with Eskom today and the council would be on standby until 2pm awaiting the guarantee.

Mario Milan said the council had informed the TPA, President F.W. de Klerk and Eskom of its decision.

Azhar Cachalia said the UDF would convene the September 15 meeting with a view to settling the boycott along the same lines as the agreement reached by the TPA and the Soweto People's Delegation last Thursday.

The TPA agreed to write off rent and service arrears in greater Soweto and the SPD agreed to pay new rent and service rates set by the TPA in September.

He said the UDF expected government to take the position that if the UDF negotiated in good faith, it would prevail on the councils not to cut off services.

He also said the UDF had hoped the government would have provided the finance in the interim until the negotiations had been held.

The UDF delegation had accepted Fourie's sincerity in saying he would communicate its request to government not to cut off services until the negotiations had taken place.

"I can't see why they cannot wait two weeks," Cachalia said.

At yesterday's meeting both parties accepted the principle of payment for services with due regard to affordability.

Comment: Page 10
The horrors of single-sex hostels

From PHILIPPA FLETCHER in Johannesburg

SEPARATE thousands of men from their families, pack them into dormitories with nothing to do in the evenings but drink, then see what happens when someone starts a fight.

In the past two weeks South Africa has seen a full-scale war explode around the men-only hostels where thousands of migrant workers live.

The violence pits township residents loyal to the African National Congress (ANC) against Zulu hostel dwellers, but Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said the underlying causes were neither political nor tribal.

"It is making people live in those dehumanising (hostel) conditions, isolating them from the community, that has exacerbated the kind of problems that we have," Archbishop Tutu said.

The hostels, huge barracks of single or double-storey blocks, were built in the black townships around Johannesburg decades ago to house extra workers for the white city.

"They were a part of this idea that black people did not belong here, except as temporary workers," said Harry Mashabela of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

Often separated from the rest of the townships by a wire fence, the hostels were designed to prevent blacks penned by apartheid in 10 tribally-defined rural homelands from settling near their jobs in Johannesburg.

Grim testament

A man could live in a hostel as long as he was working, but his family were prevented by law from joining him.

He was a "guest worker" in his own country.

Pretoria scrapped the law restricting freedom of movement for blacks in 1986, but a critical housing shortage in the blacks-only townships means the hostels remain, a grim testament to the inhumanity of apartheid.

Ernest Moloss, assistant personnel officer in a Johannesburg industrial company, is one of more than 100,000 men who live in hostels around the country's industrial and financial capital.

At work he has his own office, but back in Tembisa township he shares a bedroom with 24 other men. Unlike many of the hostel dwellers who are Zulus, he comes from the northern Sotho tribe.

His wife and five children live in Pietersburg, 200 km away. But the politically conservative rural town had no work for a black manager.

He's fortunate to be able to visit his family most weekends. Many of his fellow residents do not have enough time or money to visit their far-off homelands more than once a year.

"It's not a good life to stay in the hostel," he said. "In our room there is only one stove, one toilet and one bath. There's no privacy.

"Our room is like a hall, which has just been divided to accommodate two beds in one. In each section there are two beds and two lockers, that is all,"

Moloss, 42, has lived in the hostel for 10 years. He is used to being kept awake with shouting and loud music, but recently his sleep has been disturbed by bodies.

"Last Sunday one man was shot dead next to the hostel office and on Monday morning someone found a corpse on the road outside," he said.

So far Tembisa has escaped the worst of the violence which has swept through Johannesburg's townships.

More than 500 people have been shot, stabbed or beaten to death.

Family units

Moloss says the spark for the violence may be political - a power-struggle between the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha movement - but that its roots lie firmly in apartheid.

"Originally people worked together and they didn't have these problems, but since the government started its Separate Development policy, people just feel that it's better to live with your own people," he said.

Migrant labour was a cornerstone of Separate Development - the policy of forcing black ethnic groups into their own tribal territories and making blacks think along tribal lines.

"The hostel manager just brings someone you don't know, and you have to persuade them to go along with what the majority of the room wants," said Moloss.

Female visitors are not allowed and there are no recreation facilities. In the evenings the men, many of them illiterate labourers, have nothing to do but drink the alcohol sold by the hostel's unoffical entrepreneurs.

Moloss said tribal differences were by no means the only source of conflict. Tembisa could flare over something as basic as people throwing paper on the floor.

He believes the current violence will gradually die down, but that the underlying problem will not be solved until the hostels are destroyed, or adapted to accommodate families.

In recognition of this, the government last week approved a budget for the conversion of a hostel in Johannesburg's Soweto township into family units.

Sapa-Reuters"
Migrants speak out!

By SOPHIE YEMA
4/20 24/8/90

SIX years ago it seemed the government had decided to phase out the single-sex hostels for some 700 000 migrant workers. But this never happened.

The controversial hostel system, mostly for single men from the rural areas, has long been condemned because it isolated hostel dwellers from the rest of the community.

Last year it appeared the government was taking steps to end the system and convert the hostels into family units. At Dobsonville and Meadowlands an attempt was made to do this. But, most hostels are still as they were.

This week hostel inmates - trapped in bloody clashes between Zulus and Xhosas - spoke of the realities of hostel life.

Ndunukshile Nkongolo, a Xhosa from Mount Ayliffe, described life in Block N21 in a KwaThema hostel.

Speaking from the KwaThema Roman Catholic Church, where some hostel dwellers have been given refuge after fleeing their hostels, Nkongolo said: "We were not Zulus, Xhosas, Sothos or Shangaans - we were united.

"Although we were living as 'married bachelors' we made the best of the worst. We never suspected anybody could influence us against one another in the hostel," he said.

"We never spoke politics. Our discussions were about our families that we had left back home.

"Then suddenly things changed and I got the shock of my life three weeks ago when I returned to the hostel and suddenly noticed a spirit of unpleasantness.

"A few days later a meeting of all Xhosas was called. This is when I realised there was division in our ranks.

"We then heard a rumour the Zulus had sneaked in weapons and guns to kill the Xhosas. I treated the rumour with contempt because I did not see weapons or guns. Things started to hot up and it was said the Xhosas were to be attacked. I was told the rumour had been reported to the KwaThema Civic Association.

"Elliot Mrwetyana, who also comes from Transkei, said: "The rumour became a reality when a group of Zulus attacked us.

"We could not stand back and we tried as hard as we could to defend ourselves.

"The police were called in and we thought they would stop both groups from fighting. But instead they seemed to be helping the Zulus.

"One of our chiefs was busy trying to persuade us to run away and not continue fighting when I saw a white policeman shoot him in both legs."

The chief, only known by his tribal name, Majola, is now in hospital.

Mrwetyana said: "I do not want to live in a hostel any more.

"I may only go back if the government allows (Transkei leader) Bantu Holomisa to deploy his army in this area. We will then be safe."
Pretoria takes first steps to open white areas to all

THE first steps leading to the opening of Pretoria's traditionally white areas to other race groups have been announced by the city's management committee.

In what is seen as a precursor to the scrapping of the Group Areas Act by the government, the Pretoria City Council has said it will consider blacks moving into white suburbs "on merit".

The chairman of the city's management committee, Mr James Leach, said in a statement the city council was prepared to "consider" applications regarding accommodation by blacks, in the light of indications that the Group Areas Act will probably be abolished next year.

The statement came in the wake of criticism by the Democratic Party of the management committee's stand against a black man's application to live in Waterkloof Ridge.

Leach said the National Party in the city council was prepared to "consider applications for accommodation of deserving cases on merit" on condition they comply to the quality of life and the standards to be set by the Government in general or of a specific area, "said to accordingly make recommendations to the Government".

A DP spokesman last week slammed the management committee's refusal to support an application by Dr Tlaile to acquire a dwelling in Waterkloof Ridge as "harshful and short-sighted".

Leach said yesterday it was a "fact that the Government was in the process of eliminating the Group Areas Act". He said: "The Government has already said there would in the future be no more space for the Group Areas Act, and all indications are that the act will be abolished next year," he said.

"The town-planning scheme may supplant in the future that only one family be allowed per dwelling.

Leach emphasized that "everything will not be thrown open at this stage".

Sowetan Correspondent
More towns opt for rent boycott talks

Staff Reporters and Sapa

The explosive rent-boycott issue was further defused yesterday, with three more local authorities opting for negotiation with township residents.

• The electricity cut-off due at 2 pm yesterday in Sharpeville was not implemented.

• The Ennerdale local authority stopped legal proceedings against residents in arrears for their water and electricity accounts, in the hope of ending the two-year crisis.

• The NP-ruled town council of Faris in the Free State will be meeting the Tumahole Civic Association and the Consumer Boycott Committee soon to discuss various contentious issues, including rent arrears.

Vereeniging town clerk D P Steyn said there were ongoing meetings between the Vereeniging Town Council, the Lekoa Town Council and Eskom, to try to defuse the situation in Sharpeville, where residents have boycotted rents and service charges since 1984.

Mr Steyn said supplies would not be cut off until a final decision was made.

Ennerdale executive officer Jimmy Oliver said the local development board would meet next week to work out a system whereby residents in debt could pay back in instalments the amount owed.

A spokesman for the Tumahole committee, Ace Magashule, said tomorrow's meeting was expected to resolve the consumer boycott.
‘Black RSC’ key to arrears crisis?

By CHRIS BATEMAN

UNLESS the government centralised black local authorities in a single body and created alternative revenue sources, the arrears problem on Peninsula services (estimated at well over R10m) would reach crisis proportions, Khayelitsha town clerk Mr Graham Lawrence said yesterday.

Khayelitsha’s Lungelethu West Town Council is running at a loss of R3 281 680 since its inception in 1984. Ikapa Town Council, responsible for Langa, Nyanga, New Crossroads, KTC and Guguletu, is running at a loss of more than R7 million. Figures for Old Crossroads were not available yesterday.

The three areas are separate administrative entities.

Warnings

Asked what could be done to reduce the deficit, Mr Lawrence said there was “nothing”, apart from cutting off electricity to payment defaulters after several warnings.

“We have no established revenue basis except for service charges and rentals — there has to be an economic basis which we’re not even near to at present,” he warned.

He appealed for a system “such as the Regional Services Council” which he said would immediately cut down on administrative costs and give bargaining power when dealing with bulk suppliers of services.

“We also need some form of tax base to generate revenue. A regional form of local government would enable us to tax the haves and distribute what is available on a more equitable basis among the have-nots,” he said.

The backlog was becoming “critical” and unless a centralised system was instituted, major government subsidisation would have to continue.

Backlog

Recently promulgated sub-economic tariffs for services which would be put into immediate effect in Khayelitsha were expected to generate some R400 000 a month. Before this the township’s 300 000 residents paid only for electricity. The Khayelitsha backlog (non-payment) on electricity alone up to the end of June was R92 966.

A spokesman for the CPA said that the backlog in rent and services charges in Western Cape black townships was R13 989 335.

The total for the Cape was R99 995 574.

Sharpeville still switched on.

VEREENIGING — Vereeniging town clerk Mr D P Steyn said Monday’s planned electricity cut-off at Sharpeville had not been implemented.

He said the Vereeniging Town Council, the Lekoa Town Council and Eskom were meeting to try to defuse the situation in Sharpeville where residents have boycotted rents and service charges since 1984.

Water and power to the township were to have been cut off on Monday, but after meetings this was delayed for 24 hours.

Mr Steyn said supplies would not be cut off before a final decision had been reached, possibly later yesterday. — Sapa.
Sharpeville gets a reprieve

PRETORIA — Sharpeville residents were given an 11th hour reprieve from having their electricity cut off yesterday afternoon, when Eskom undertook to guarantee payment for the supply of electricity to the Vereeniging Town Council.

The council warned on Monday that it would cut electricity, water and sewage disposal to Sharpeville at 2pm yesterday unless Eskom, the TPA or government guaranteed payment for September's services.

The council's management committee chairman, Mario Milam, said yesterday that the council had stuck to its guns that it would cut the services unless it got a guarantee of R450 000 by 2pm.

However, at 1.30pm yesterday, Eskom gave the council assurances which enabled the council to continue its services to Sharpeville, Milam said.

He would not elaborate on the assurances given but it was emphasised that the council would have suspended the services unless it received an iron-clad guarantee that it would not have to pay the bill.

"We received the type of assurances we wanted. Work it out for yourself," Milam said.

He said he was relieved the council had been able to continue to supply Sharpeville as an electricity cut off would have resulted in "total anarchy, loss of life and rampant crime".

Sharpeville

Milam said the problem was solved in the short term but if certain conditions were not met in the medium term, the council would be back where it had started.

Eskom communications manager Johan de Fissas said Eskom was able to demonstrate sufficiently to the Vereeniging council that solutions could be found to the problems of services' payments.

Eskom yesterday entered into negotiations with the Lehas Town Council, which administers Sharpeville. These negotiations would continue today until a solution was found, he said.

The Vereeniging council agreed not to suspend the services to Sharpeville until the negotiations had been concluded.
Rent write-off not applicable to all

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration announced in Pretoria yesterday that the writing-off of arrears in black residential areas experiencing rent boycotts will not be implemented throughout the province.

Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC for the local government and regional services councils, told reporters that cases involving the non-payment of rent differed from place to place and therefore the solution which was arrived at by the TPA and the Soweto People's Delegation was not applicable in other areas.

Emphasis was put on the fact that the TPA was merely a provider of bridging finance and could not decide whether services should be cut in a particular residential area.

The province is presently left with R10.5 million a month underwriting finance for the municipality of its financial year.
'Sell-out' slur denied

THE Alexandra Civic Association has denied responsibility for a slur pamphlet distributed in the township yesterday branding members of the rival Alexandra Civic Organisation "sell-outs who are not working for our people".

ACA chairman Mr Mike Beza said the pamphlet was "obviously the work of the enemy who did not wish to see peace prevailing in the townships."
Cash crisis in Daveyton

DAVEYTON Mayor Mr Tom Boya yesterday said his council had limited funds to meet its obligations to suppliers of electricity and water services because of the continuing rent boycott in the township.

Boya was replying to a statement by the town clerk of Benoni, Mr Denys Conrads, that the Benoni Town Council was aware that residents in Daveyton and Wattville were paying their accounts.

The Benoni Town Council is facing a law suit of R3.4 million by Eskom for the electricity account arrears of Daveyton and Wattville councils.
Katlehong services ‘collapse’

SEWERAGE blockages are imminent in the East Rand township of Katlehong as all equipment has become unserviceable due to the lack of repair and maintenance funds.

In a statement, Katlehong mayor Gideon Molotsi said essential services in the township were “collapsing” as the rent boycott continued. The rent boycott began in Katlehong about five months ago.

Molotsi added that, apart from the blockage of sewers, refuse and rubble could not be removed in the township any longer as his council owed a private firm “a considerable amount of money”.

This private firm suspended its services on Tuesday, Molotsi said.

“All, certain sections of the township have been without electricity for six days because most of the power sub-stations are not serviced regularly due to the lack of funds. Some of the sub-stations have also been destroyed by acts of vandalism,” he said.

Moleisi appealed to the community to pay at least “the temporary flat rates” to enable the council to provide essential services.

Monthly flat rates are R30 for people without electricity, R50 for people who have electricity and R130 for shop owners.

Crossroads mayor ‘rejects peace call’

CAPE TOWN — An opponent of Crossroads mayor Johnson Ngobongwana, Jeffrey Nongwe, said yesterday he was prepared to “talk peace”.

He had conveyed this to the controversial leader — but had received a negative reply. 

Old Crossroads resembled a deserted war zone yesterday. For more than two weeks faction fighting has brought normal community life to a standstill.

More than 30 shacks were torched on Wednesday. A number were still smouldering yesterday as residents salvaged building materials and prepared to move away.

Nongwe was one of Ngobongwana’s headmen, but a dispute over rent caused him to break away with 14 other headmen.

Ngobongwana’s brick house, the only one in the area, was burnt to the ground at the weekend. It had been shot at on a number of occasions.

“We have had enough fighting. I do not know why Ngobongwana does not want to talk. The children must go to school, we cannot go on like this,” Nongwe said.

More than 50 families whose shacks were razed moved into classrooms at Noxolo Primary School, forcing the school to close. After negotiations, the people moved to the Topcor Training Centre and from there to temporary tents nearby, while others put up shacks — Sapa.

By Charles Schulz
Azapo's plan for hostel dwellers

By NKOPANE MAKOBANE

THE AZANIAN People's Organisation has proposed that Vosloorus hostel dwellers be transferred temporarily to a mine-owned hostel in Boksburg.

The organisation said it was ready to negotiate with employers for transport to and from the East Rand Proprietary Mine hostel, 20km away.

In addition, employers would be asked to continue to pay the dwellers' rent at the ERPM hostel.

These plans were suggested by Azapo at a meeting in Vosloorus on Monday called to resolve the conflict between the hostel dwellers and local residents.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the PAC, ANC, Azapo, local churches and the Vosloorus Town Council.

Fighting between the two parties claimed dozens of lives in the past fortnight.

Azapo's general secretary of Azano Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe said his organisation had tabled several views and proposals at the meeting.

They felt hostel dwellers should be treated not as Xhosas and Zulus in conflict, but as oppressed and exploited blacks who were part of the black working class, forced to live in those conditions by the apartheid system.

Azapo hoped that the hostel dwellers would be temporarily housed at the ERPM hostel for two months while alternative measures were being investigated by local leaders.

It believed solutions to the problems should be treated on a long and short-term basis with a view to establishing unity between the warring parties.

The organisation also called for a rally where all parties would bind themselves to the interim solutions.

"Although these proposals pertain to Vosloorus, Azapo calls on student organisations, trade unions, civic associations and other organisations in other areas to consider them urgently," Nefolovhodwe said.
WASHINGTON - Anglican Church leader Archbishop Desmond Tutu told a US television interviewer this week he hoped talks to end violence in South Africa would culminate with a meeting between Inkatha president Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

Bishop Tutu, who cut short his visit to Canada to return to South Africa because of last week's bloodshed in the townships, said he was hoping the virtual state of emergency in various areas that had been declared unrest areas would reduce the violence to nil.

Fighting

Then something had to be done about the single-sex hostels which had housed so many of the people responsible for the fighting, he said.

The hostels system had to be ended and the buildings turned into family units, he told NBC in an interview from Johannesburg.

The police also had to be seen to be impartial, they must not just be impartial, he added.

Tutu said it would then be the time for talks, especially between Inkatha and the ANC, culminating in a meeting between Buthelezi and Mandela.
THE scrapping of the massive Soweto rent debt represents one of the most important breakthroughs in the quest for a new South Africa.

The R516-million debt was written off this week after lengthy meetings among the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD), officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Soweto Council.

Parties at the meetings said the agreement would only be applicable to the greater Soweto townships, but could be persuasive in other areas.

It was agreed that each household in greater Soweto will pay R55 tomorrow to cover September’s bills and thereafter R23 a month plus 12c a unit for electricity.

During the debate, delegates agreed that residents will pay an extra R5 from January 1991 as a levy towards the Greater Soweto People's Fund — to be established for community development and assistance. The fund will be controlled by an independent board of trustees and nominees from all principal bodies involved.

A final levy of R20 would be voted if greater Soweto is being considered.

The board is established in a Metropolitan Chamber for the Central Witwatersrand to serve as an interim forum with the primary function of investigating and formulating regional, non-racial and democratic policies.

As a sixth principal body, the Johannesburg City Council will be invited to participate.

A table of electricity discounts was also formulated at the meetings. They are:
- 33.3 percent for the first 250 units
- 25 percent from 251 to 350 units
- 20 percent from 351 to 450 units
- 15 percent from 451 to 550 units.

On a high ... Soweto Civic Association president Isaac Mogase (above), who has announced an information campaign to help explain the rent breakthrough.

Thulutha Matsoporo, a disabled pensioner from Naledi in Soweto, said people were prepared to pay, but let it be the right amount.

Welcoming the move, Matsoporo also said these measures should apply countrywide.

"We only hope the write-off won't mean overcharging residents again," she said.

John Khumla of Zola in Soweto was pessimistic, saying authorities haven't done enough.

He said, "Before they started removing us from our old frehold area they promised that after 20 years the house be comes yours. This has not happened..."

Political comment and newsbriefs by K. Naidoo, both of 2 Herb St., New Doornfontein, Johannesburg.
Fierce debate over the role of hostels

Although many fingers have been pointed at the hostel system as a major contributing factor to the recent township carnage, mining houses have insisted that they stay.

In the wake of recent violence which has claimed more than 200 lives, calls have been made by ANC and church leaders for the hostel network to be destroyed and for hostel dwellers to be given property in the townships so that they can become integrated members of the community.

But according to the country's mining houses, the need for the hostel system remains, although the original intention of hostel dwellings — to entrench the National Party's former influx control policy — is no longer valid.

"Hostels will remain a feature of mining life as long as there are single labourers seeking temporary work," says Adrian du Plessis, spokesman for Anglo American.

And as long as there is legislation stipulating that migrant workers and their families may not be housed within South Africa, the hostel system will serve a purpose, according to Government chief executive, management resources, At du Plessis.

For local mineworkers seeking a way out of the hostels, however, the mining houses have offered an alternative.

"We have committed ourselves to promoting home ownership among the miners and part of the fruits will be the depopulation of the hostels. We are hoping that through this programme, conditions in hostel life will improve," Mr du Plessis said.

However, according to National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) spokesman Jerry Majetladi, the housing scheme is only within reach of black middle management and does not benefit lower-income miners.

"The plan is elitist because they are building houses that most miners can't afford. Why can't the mining houses establish mining villages for blacks as they did for whites miners — on mine property?"

"These villages could be racially integrated. They could also build houses where people who choose to bring their families could do so," Mr Majetladi said.

He added that as far as the NUM was concerned, hostels or compounds — "institutions deliberately created by capital in collusion with the State to control and cheapen black labour" — should be destroyed completely.

"The compounds are a social disaster — not only in terms of separating breadwinners from families, but in terms of the psychological strains placed on workers in them."

Mr Majetladi claimed the hostel system also denied the dwellers the right to expression and also entrenched tribalism.

"In some hostels even today, mine management has tribal leaders called 'inumas' elected to administrate Hostel violence, as the majority of cases, is instigated by management's insistence on these methods."

"The system also made it impossible for the union to organise workers because union leaders had to ask permission from mine management to enter hostels premises."

"Hostel dwellers are controlled by management to the extent that they become aliens in their own country. They cannot enjoy the same privileges that the community around them does," Mr Majetladi said.

But despite the concession by mining houses that the hostel system imposes hardships on workers they believe the answer is not to destroy the system but rather to improve the conditions.

As far as ethnicity is concerned, we do not encourage it in the hostels. We have taken a deliberate decision to integrate them," Mr du Plessis said.

"And we believe that by de-populating the hostels of miners who will become home-owners, the conditions for those workers who wish not to settle, will improve."

The hostel system is not a subject of fierce debate between the NUM and mining houses.
Bid to end rent boycott in Vaal

THE Vaal Civic Association and the Vaal African Chamber of Commerce will meet the Le
duo City Council this week in a bid to resolve the rent-and-service-
charges boycott.

The council announced it would attempt to per-
suade the Vereeniging Town Council and Eskom
not to disconnect the electric-
sity supply to Sharpe-
ville and other townships
within the council’s jurisdic-
tion.

This week the TPA
said steps to cut off water
and electricity supplies
would be taken by the
Black Local Authorities
which are autonomous bo-
dies over which the TPA
has no say and thus can-
not prohibit or order to
cut off bulk supplies.
Report back on rent talks

MEETINGS will be held in Soweto today to discuss the rent agreement reached last week between the Soweto People's Delegation, the Soweto Civic Association, the three councils and the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Residents in Alexandra, Vosloorus, Thokoza, Katlehong and Melamodi will also meet to discuss the ending of the rent-and-service-charges boycott.

In Dobsonville residents will meet at the Kopanong Hall at 9am, and will be addressed by Sister Bernard Nueva. SCA president Isaac Mogase will address residents at the Diepkloof Hall at 2pm.

The SPD's Cyril Ramaphosa will address a meeting at the Meadowlands Stadium at 2pm, Ellen Khuzwayo will speak at the Ibhongo High School in Dlamini at 2pm, and Re Lebamang Sebidi will speak at the Dutch Reformed Church in Pimville at 2pm. SPD secretary Pat Lephunya will address meetings at Khuthala Lower Primary School in Protea North at 10am, at the Roman Catholic Church in Tshiamo at 2pm, and at the Lutheran Church in Naledi at 3pm.

The SPD and the SCA have proposed that single, non-racial town councils be established and all arrears be written off.
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The SPD and the SCA have proposed, that single, non-racial town councils be established and all arrears be written off.
Tembisa faces power switch-off

TemBISA residents may face an electricity cut-off if the town council does not pay the past due amount or the outstanding account.

The council made an appeal to residents to pay their electricity bills on time. The council also made it clear that the electricity cut-off will apply to all those who do not pay their bills.

Tembisa residents have until the end of the month to pay their bills. If they do not, the council will be forced to cut off the electricity supply.

The council made it clear that the electricity cut-off will apply to all those who do not pay their bills.
Enthusiasm over rent arrangements

By SY MAKARINGE

The tentative agreement reached between the Soweto Peoples Delegation and the TPA on the ending of the Soweto rent boycott has been met with great enthusiasm, according to Mr Isaac Mogase, president of the Soweto Civic Associations.

Mogase was one of six executives members of the SPD who addressed eight report-back meetings held in various parts of Soweto at the weekend.

He said the SPD was given an overwhelming support by Soweto residents who also wished them well in future negotiations with the TPA.

The agreement was reached nearly two weeks ago after a series of meetings which also involved the three Greater Soweto councils.

In return of assurances that the residents would start paying for their services, the TPA agreed to write off arrears totalling more than R500-million accumulated over the past four years.

The parties also agreed on an interim service charge of R23 a month which comes into effect next month. Electricity consumption costs 12 cents a unit.
Parys cuts power, water to township

By Melody McDougall, Vereeniging Bureau

The Parys Town Council yesterday cut electricity services and 90 percent of the water supply to residents of Tumahole. About 40,000 people are affected. Parys town clerk Joop Ferreira yesterday said the disconnection of services was the result of township residents not having paid their bills for the past three months. He said Tumahole owed the council about R25 000.

Stressing that the decision to cut services was not a political one, Mr Ferreira said it was strictly a business matter.

Mr Ferreira said the water supply had been reduced to 10 percent of normal flow. This would ensure sufficient water for drinking and cooking purposes.

According to Mr Ferreira, a meeting would be held on Thursday between the town council, the Tumahole Town Committee, the police and the Tumahole Civic Association to discuss the issue.
Toekomsrus residents air their grievances

A PEACEFUL crowd of about 1 000 Toekomsrus residents handed over a petition of grievances to the Randfontein Town Clerk Mr Louw Brits yesterday morning.

Toekomsrus Crisis Committee secretary Shadum Butler said Brits had been given an ultimatum to reply to the petition within a week.

There was a strong police and SA Defence Force presence along the road from the township playing fields into town but there were no incidents.

"White residents along the way kept a low profile."

Another Toekomsrus resident, Mr Cecil Byron, said high rents were the main source of unhappiness in the area.

For a four-roomed house "very old, nothing more than a matchbox", said Byron, residents paid R380 a month.

Another woman said although many residents in Toekomsrus had bought their homes, electricity and water rents were crippling, high - R400-R500 a month she claimed.

Another resident from this Western Transvaal township, Mr John El-land, said Labour Party leaders the Rev Allan Hendrickse and Mr David Curry were desperately needed to help the community. - Sapa
Switch-off catches residents unawares

By Musa Mapela

The disconnection of water and electricity in Tumahole township near Parys on Monday has changed the lifestyle of the 40,000 residents. Parys Town Clerk Joop Ferreira said the disconnection had come about because residents had not paid their bills for three months.

Buckets

The township now owed the council about R235,000. Mr Ferreira said the decision to cut services was strictly a business matter, not a political one.

Women who had forgotten to store water before leaving for work yesterday were seen in the afternoon moving in streets with buckets on their heads. After touring the township, The Star team stopped at a supermarket to buy cold drinks. They were warm.

The stench of rotting meat hung heavily in the air.

One customer was buying candles, while a small boy struggled out of the shop with a five-litre container of paraffin.

Some residents, like the Modise family, were using gas for cooking and lighting. Music could be heard from their home. It came from a battery-operated hi-fi set.
Rand Power Cuts Loom
Kimberley poised to switch off power

Kimberley yesterday threatened to withhold electricity from its neighbour, Galeshewe, which owes about R6m in service bills.

The threat came as Tumahole township business began to feel the bite after the Parys Town Council cut off electricity and reduced water supplies by 90% on Monday morning.

Kimberley’s threat to switch off follows close on the heels of Carolina in the Eastern Transvaal, Alberton in the East Rand and Vereeniging in the Vaal triangle. The cutting of supplies to neighbouring townships was prevented by means of negotiation and intervention by Eskom and the TPA.

Sapa reports that Kimberley City Council said yesterday water and electricity to nearby Galeshewe township would be cut from September 18.

The report quotes township mayor Theo Bosvark as saying residents had been boycotting rent and service charges since March this year, and they now owed about R6m to the Kimberley council.

Pleading with residents to pay, Bosvark said his council might be able to convince Kimberley not to proceed with the switch-off.

Meanwhile, Tumahole butcher Solly Mlambo had to send R14,000 worth of meat back to the supplier yesterday because of the blanket electricity cut by Parys.

Parys cut services to Tumahole after the township had run up three-month arrears of about R235,000, according to Town Secretary Joop Ferreira.

Mlambo runs a butchery with a daily turnover of R8,000, and his adjacent grocery shop averages about the same turnover.

"But with the electric saw, the scales, the fridge and the till not working, I had to send the meat I had in stock to Vereeniging for cutting. I had to serve customers without a scale, and my stock was getting bad," Mlambo said.

"So when the supplier came with new stock I had to send the stuff back because I could not keep rotting meat on the premises," Mlambo said.

Mlambo said dry cleaner Peter Monkhe had piles of clothing sitting at his factory that had been brought by clients who hoped power would be restored.

"I keep hoping electricity will be restored, and the people hope their clothes will be cleaned it’s puzzling because not one business owes money. The Tumahole Town Committee cuts off power if you owe," Monkhe said.

His assertion was echoed by almost all businessmen interviewed, including grocer Ruth Tladi, who reduced orders as milk, chicken, milk products and other items began to go bad.

A meeting between the Parys Town Council, the local civic association, the Tumahole Town Committee and the SAP is scheduled for tomorrow.

And according to Sapa, about 1,000 Toekomsrus residents yesterday handed a petition of grievances to Randfontein town clerk Louw Brits, demanding the immediate and unconditional resignation of the management committee.

The residents gave the Randfontein council a week to reply.

The march, which had all the makings of a showdown between "coloured" participants and conservative white residents of Randfontein, was peaceful.
Johannesburg — The Katlehong Town Council has confirmed that electricity will be switched off today.

Council spokesman Mr Fanee Maree said a time had not been confirmed. Pamphlets distributed by helicopter to residents on Tuesday apparently put the cut-off time at 7am, however.

The council is R4 million in arrears in its Eskom electricity account, and also owes about R1.5 million to the Rand Water Board because of a rent and service-payment boycott extending back to April 1, he said.

By yesterday afternoon the situation was extremely tense in the township.

"Every road is blocked off," said Mr Maree. "You can hardly get into the area. None of our employees have turned up for work."

The Katlehong Civic Association (KCA) has refused to meet councillors on the issue because, it says, they are not representative of the community.

Hospitals and police stations would not have their power cut. It would also be unfair to cut the electricity in the Katlehong hostels, Mr Maree indicated, because accounts had been paid. Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports noted that electricity will also be switched off in Thokoza today. — Sapa
Residents worried about attacks in the dark

COUNCILLORS have threatened to cut off electricity in the troubled East Rand townships today.

The Katlehong Town Council yesterday used a helicopter to distribute pamphlets warning residents that electricity would be cut off because there were “no funds” to run the township.

Earlier in the week Tembisa mayor Mr. SB More announced that his council had resolved to discontinue the supply of electricity to rent defaulters.

More than 10 people were killed this week in the dark township of Vosloorus.

Mr. Cyril Jantjes, an African National Congress representative on the East Rand, has warned of a disaster “if the councils go ahead with their decision to cut off electricity in the townships”.

The ANC said the cutting of electricity “will give vigilantes a perfect chance of launching their violent attacks on our people.”

Said Jantjes, “There is clear evidence that these attacks are not directed at specific people but are carried out at random.”

There was no reason why the councils were reluctant to negotiate with the civic associations in resolving the problem.

Publicity secretary of the Tembisa Residents Association Mr. George Bila said the council’s decision to cut off the electricity was “a slap in the face of our people.”

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Highveld Bureau

Twenty-three Transvaal municipalities are now in arrears with Eskom since the Government stopped bridging finance two weeks ago to townships boycotting rent and service payments.

Eskom refuses to divulge how much it is now owed, but it is believed to run to several million rand.

Communication manager Johan du Plessis said Eskom was confident of being repaid the outstanding millions, which were accruing interest from the day of default.

"We feel the situation is under control at present, but there is cause for concern where some white local authorities are cutting off supplies to townships."

He said each defaulting local authority would be given 60 days to meet its payment, after which legal action would be taken.

However, he stressed that Eskom's policy was to negotiate with townships.
Half a million on East Rand face blackout

By Claire Robertson,
Pretoria Bureau

More than 500,000 East Rand residents could be without electricity from today as the first blackout hits Reef towns.

Tokoza and Katlehong — the latter the scene of some of the worst recent township violence — were informed by way of leaflets dropped from helicopters this week that electricity would be cut this morning.

The move follows austerity measures introduced by the Government at the end of August. Local authorities hit by rent and service-charges boycotts were informed that bridging-finance coffers had run dry and assistance with service payments would be curtailed.

Germiston town clerk Tonie Heynecke yesterday received offers of help from local industries who had heard of the Katlehong blackout. Some wanted to help pay for electricity.

Tokoza officials have said they would continue with attempts to resolve the rent boycott through negotiations.

A meeting between organisations and the township administration on Monday ended in a deadlock, said the Transvaal Provincial Administration. The TPA could not commit further on the blackouts as "each local authority is autonomous." Katlehong and Tokoza are two of the most cash-strapped East Rand townships.
Board recommends opening of two areas in Johannesburg

PRETORIA — The Free Settlement Areas Board (FSAB) has recommended in two reports sent to President F W de Klerk that two areas affecting 15 suburbs be declared Johannesburg's first open residential areas.

Yesterday FSAB chairman Hein Kruger declined to comment on the contents of the reports.

One report is based on investigations into Mayfair and Pageview, while the other concerns 14 suburbs in eastern Johannesburg.

However, sources told Business Day the one report recommended that only Mayfair be declared a free settlement area.

The other report recommended all 14 suburbs be declared one free settlement area.

These are Hillbrow, Bellevue, Yeoville, Berea, Doornfontein, New Doornfontein, Judith's Paarl, Bertrams, Lorentzville, portions surrounding Joburg Park, a portion of Houghton Estate up to its boundaries with Kilian Golf Course, Oaklands, Norwood and Orange Grove.

**Decision**

Kruger said the FSAB received an application from the Johannesburg City Council on Tuesday asking that the board investigate opening the whole of Johannesburg.

The board would decide this week whether it would investigate the application.
Kattlehong power off today

JOHANNESBURG — The Kattlehong Town Council has confirmed that electricity will be switched off today.

Council spokesman Mr Fane Maree said a time had not been confirmed. Pamphlets distributed by helicopter to residents on Tuesday apparently put the cut-off time at 7am, however.

The council is R4 million in arrears in its Eskom electricity account, and also owes about R1.5 million to the Rand Water Board because of a rent and service-payment boycott extending back to April 1, he said.

By yesterday afternoon the situation was extremely tense in the township, Mr Maree indicated, because accounts had been paid.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports noted that electricity will also be switched off in Thokoza today — Sapa
Into Tumahoe’s burning heart of darkness

The Parish municipality’s four-day switch-off of electricity and water services in Tumahoe took effect last week, leaving residents angry and frustrated, reports JO-ANNE COLLING.

TYRES burned in the streets of Tumahoe on Wednesday night. Maybe they were targets of defacement at the cutting off of electricity and water supplies to the township by the neighbouring municipality of Parry on Monday.

But in the dark night they appeared as offerings to ‘Jinjer the way, the truth and the life’ of Parry.

The community was reeling itself from the shock of news that the reduction of services Parisians were calling “no electricity, no light, no work” would be imposed by a range of affiliated organizations.

The message was broadcast on Wednesday on Parry FM, and members of the Tumahoe Research & Education Centre (TREC) said they were about to launch a campaign to raise the town’s profile. The group’s spokesperson said they had received a number of calls from people concerned about the situation.

The group was forced to call the inquiry “Jinjer is angry. We have been trying to make our voices heard.”

It has been a tough week for the community.

A young boy was shot dead on Wednesday afternoon.

ROLAND KIMBALL

Youthful anger at this burning of tyres which forms the only illumination in Tumahoe Streets

Tumahoe dances as the lights go back on

By MONDULI MAVUNGA

There was dancing in the streets of Tumahoe near Parry last night following the announcement of the town’s reconnection to the electoral supply of electricity to the township.

A statement released after several hours of negotiations between the Tumahoe Civic Association (TCA), the local councils of Tumahoe and Parry, the Orange Free State Provincial Administration and the South African Police Services.

As a result of the negotiated settlement, section 11(2) of the Social Services Act, which states that electricity may be supplied to a township, will now apply to the Tumahoe area.

A joint working committee has been established to ensure that the reconnection process is managed effectively.

The committee will comprise representatives from the Tumahoe Civic Association, the local councils of Tumahoe and Parry, and the Orange Free State Provincial Administration.

The committee will also be responsible for ensuring that the reconnection process is managed effectively and that all concerned parties are kept informed throughout the process.
BLACKOUT AS PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES PULL THE PLUG

THE long-standing threat to cut off supplies of electricity and water to townships where residents are refusing to pay for services became a reality in several townships this week.

In the bloodied and battered East Rand areas of K atelehong and Tokoza electricity supplies were cut early yesterday.

The response of residents was one of fear rather than anger, as they felt that the intensity of night time attacks could only increase under cover of complete darkness.

In K atelehong, boycotts have resulted in the local council being owed R4 million in arrears electricity payments and R1.5 million for water.

The K atelehong Civic Association, holding to the position that the council is illegitimate, is attempting to negotiate with provincial authorities.

Council spokesman Fanie Maree told Sapa this week that the KCA had firm arrangements to meet the TPA, but that the council was not pleased that its official status was not being recognised.

On Monday the Parys Town Council cut off supplies to the township of Tumahole — leaving just a trickle of water, a mere 10 percent of the normal supply, to cater to residents' most basic needs.

According to Parys town secretary Jocp Ferreira, the Parys town council owes the Parys council R200 000 for services.

Tumahole school pupils immediately began boycotting classes and yesterday the overwhelming majority of workers stayed home in protest as members of the Tumahole People's Delegation met councillors, the police and provincial authorities in a bid to solve the problem.

The Tumahole situation is compounded by a consumer boycott of white-owned shops which began on August 29.

Services are due to be chopped in the Kimberley township of Galeshewe within days.

Two months ago, when the council suspended services, a sit-in of residents at the mayor's house resulted in their rapid resumption, according to sources in the community.

Silobela near Carolina was the first boycotting township to experience a cut in services.

The drastic action by local authorities has been prompted by the fact that provincial authorities are no longer able or willing to provide bridging finance to enable municipalities to pay their bills to Eskom and various water suppliers.
Daveyton rent arrears indaba

RESIDENTS of Daveyton near Benoni are invited to a
mass meeting at the Sishaba Stadium on Sunday to dis-
cuss rent arrears.

The meeting, called by the Daveyton Civic Asso-
ciation, starts at 8am.

In a statement, the civic association said it was time
it and the white council met to work out a new model
and start negotiations on the rent arrears.
UDF attacks power cuts on the East Rand

THE UDF has attacked the decision to cut off electricity to Katlehong and Tokoza from yesterday.

The UDF's Mr Ronnie Mamoepa called on the Transvaal Provincial Administration to "immediately withdraw this decision before it is too late to contemplate the disastrous consequences for the East Rand in view of the violence sweeping the townships".

This step would only serve the interests of those who wish to perpetuate violence under the cover of darkness, the UDF spokesman said.

"At a time when the country is seeking ways and means of addressing this violence, we perceive this move by the TPA as a creation of a climate which is conducive for the escalation of violence and must be condemned," he said.

The UDF noted that the TPA should learn from its experience with the Soweto People's Delegation - which resulted in the resolution of the rent boycott.

"High-handed methods can never resolve matters but on the contrary, discussions and debates will yield an everlasting solution to this crisis," the statement added. - Sapa
Atteridgeville residents to discuss boycott

By ALINAH DUBE

The Atteridgeville/Sausville Residents' Organisation (ASRO) has called a meeting for Sunday to discuss the current rent boycott in Atteridgeville.

The meeting, which will take place at the Super Stadium starting at 11 am, is the first after a three-month ban on public meetings by the Atteridgeville City Council.

Political and civic organisations were barred from using council facilities following special council meetings on June 25 and 27 this year.

The decision to lift the ban is a sequel to a meeting between ASRO, the Transvaal Provincial Administration, and the local council a week ago. It was resolved that ASRO be allowed to use public amenities provided they gave a written guarantee that no violence would be perpetrated at their meetings.

An ASRO spokesman yesterday said to ensure the people's safety, the organisation had applied for permission, appointed lawyers to serve on a joint security monitoring committee and formed a committee of marshals to assist in crowd control.

Decisions taken on Sunday will be discussed at a meeting of ASRO and the TPA next Tuesday.
Rentals frozen

The Mamelodi People's Delegation and the Mamelodi City Council have agreed on the freezing of rental arrears in the township.

This was announced in a brief joint statement issued after the two parties met at the council chambers to discuss the rent crisis yesterday.

Their recommendations are to be referred to the TPA for a final decision.

'Sowetan Correspondent'
EDGING INTO POWER

Township civic associations representing several million Reef residents will meet this weekend to forge closer ties.

The meeting on September 15 in Johannesburg, hosted by the UDF, will launch the Southern Transvaal region of civic associations as a prelude to the formation of a national civic association early next year.

Delegates will attend from 97 "civics" across the Reef and will elect a 15-member executive body.

Regional civics are already established in Border and the northern Transvaal.

In effect, the move should be seen as the ANC-UDF establishing local government structures as future alternatives to existing local authorities, now struggling to survive.

The local authorities, which face deficits of tens of billions of rand as a consequence of a four-year rent boycott and a five-month rates boycott, have had bridging finance turned off by the Transvaal Provincial Administration. This in turn is leading to supply switch-offs in some townships and deteriorating health conditions as sewage removal is not effected in some areas. All the authorities are on their knees.

Titus Mafolo, UDF publicity secretary, said the rent and rates crisis had revealed the need for a national civic association.

"While the TPA is negotiating as a provincial structure, we have been negotiating as individual civics. There has been no cohesion in terms of approach," Mafolo pointed out that not only would the bargaining position of civics be strengthened from within a national forum, but situations such as boycotts could be resolved more amicably and quicker by a national structure.

Late last week, the UDF again approached Minister of Planning & Provincial Affairs, Hernus Kriel, for an answer to a suggestion when they met with him three weeks ago that the UDF should serve on the National Land Commission. However, Kriel is abroad until September 17.

The initial meeting with Kriel took place after a UDF decision — since rescinded — that squatters should occupy vacant property. Mafolo said the UDF wanted to sit on the land commission to know best which land was available for informal settlement and to promote cohesion between communities and civic organisations with government land policies. He said that last week's destruction of shacks at Dobsonville was indicative of the poor communication between government and local authorities.
THE first victims of the electricity blackout that hit the East Rand townships of Thokoza and Katlehong yesterday were the local petrol stations.

As the Thokoza town committee and the local civic association were deeply locked in negotiations to resolve the electricity bill question, taxis operating in the adjacent areas were speeding to the nearest filling station — an Indian-owned operation on the Alberton side of the border of the two townships.

The two councils cut off power to the townships yesterday morning after the five-month rent boycott in the areas.

Meanwhile, Tumahole township was celebrating last night after electricity and water were restored after talks between the local township administration, the civic association and the Parys Town Council.

Parys withdrew the services on Monday after the township failed to pay its R25 000 bill to the council, town secretary Joop Ferreira said earlier.

A Thokoza garage owner said yesterday all her filling station operations had come to a standstill.

Taxi driver Sandile Mbhele said he had to get his petrol from a station over the bridge when electricity was cut off yesterday.

THEO RAWANA

"I sympathise with Thokoza and Katlehong garage owners, but I also have to keep my operation going," he said.

Katlehong's switch-off was selective, with emergency services such as the local hospital and the police station spared.

Some street lights were on in Katlehong and the local shopping centre had power reinstated in the afternoon.

But Thokoza, whose town committee had asked Alberton to cut off its electricity supply, had a complete blackout.

Businesses in areas outside Katlehong's shopping centre experienced a day of lowered turnovers as butcheries had to do without refrigeration.

Weighing facilities were affected and meat had to be cut with butcher-knives instead of electric saws.

Shops had to use calculators instead of tills and could not keep food fresh.

Witwatersrand SAP spokesman Col Frans Malherbe said last night police had made no arrangements for street lights to be switched on in the trouble-torn areas.

"We are deeply concerned about the street lights being switched off and are going to talk to the people involved tomorrow," he said.
Delicate talks solve rent boycott

Special Correspondent

Very few people know how delicate the negotiations were which led to the solving of the rent boycott in Greater Soweto - or what the consequences could be.

The local authority and the ANC-orientated Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) have agreed to cooperate after nearly five years of boycott action.

Just three months ago members of the SPD and councillors of Soweto (Benoni) and Dobsonville did not even talk to each other. Now they are cooperating with the Transvaal Provincial Administration in an effort to solve Soweto's problems.

Decisions are being taken by the five groups which are investigating the Soweto problem.

An important factor in the agreement is that representatives of the Soweto Civic Association will accompany meter readers on their rounds. The boycott action, seen as a protest against their actions, will now have to be explained. In years past, electrical bills have been used to this end.

Electrical bills will now have to be used to explain and charge bills which should be brought about in the Soweto area.

The billings of electricity rates by the Soweto City Council are being reviewed.

Leaders of the Alliance, Soweto and other areas who were considered to be too radical to negotiate with, now support the new proposals and are presently explaining it to the street committees in Soweto.

The groups are expected to sign the final agreement on September 24.

For September an allowance of R25 per house is payable. From October an increased rate of R2 per month will apply, plus 12 cents per unit for electricity usage, consumed, with a discount on a sliding scale. The discount rate will be 10 cents per unit.

The Soweto Civic Association has been asked to send out a statement to its members to this effect. The Soweto Civic Association is to be given a copy of the new proposals and the amount will be gradually increased.

In Johannesburg, 70 percent of the income comes from the private sector. As a result of the new proposals, the present situation will change. The average household is now paying R39 per month for electricity, while the average household in Greater Soweto is paying R25 per month. The average household in Greater Soweto is now paying R16 per month.

The money for the deficit will have to be partially recovered by the Central Water and Sewerage Administration. In Johannesburg, 70 percent of the income comes from property tax and profit on payments for electricity by the private sector, as well as 11 percent from public bodies. The people in Johannesburg would be paying a very high tariff if the business sector was supposed to serve the complete metropolitan area - which it does not.

A part of the income already exists in the form of regional services council (RSC). About 85 percent is already being paid by businesses in Johannesburg and 77 percent of these amounts are being spent on improving infrastructure in the areas of black councils.

The five groups plan to form a Metropolitan Chamber to serve as an arm of the municipal council. The Chamber will be made up of all the municipal councils within the metropolitan area. The Johannesburg City Council will be invited to serve on the Chamber as its first president.

The Joint Technical Committee will be set up to work under the Metropolitan Chamber. Working groups will be formed to look at the various aspects of the problem, and to consider the feasibility of proposals for the metropolitan area. This will be done by the regional services council. The Chamber will be made up of all the municipal councils in the metropolitan area. The Johannesburg City Council will be invited to serve on the Chamber as its first president.

What would be the position of the SPoD in this process? First, it has been clear that the goal of the SPoD has been to improve among black people as a result of the negotiations under the leadership of Glass and Zyl MEC and the conduct of Fanie Frensham, who chaired the meetings.

The SPoD recently "saw" the black township at Dobsonville where the CP-controlled town council threatened to cut off water and electricity. This negotiation forms the framework for a successful negotiation elsewhere in the region. While the boycott had been a political action in the past, it has now become a local issue. The present problems will have to be addressed, but they can be overcome through negotiation.
Sharpeville’s power to be cut off today

Staff Reporters
The power supply to Sharpeville township in the Vaal Triangle will be cut off from today, and in Katlehong on the East Rand, refuse collection has been suspended because the town council cannot pay its bills.

In other East Rand townships, plans are afoot to limit refuse removal to once every two weeks to try to cut costs.

Vereeniging management committee chairman M L Milani yesterday announced the power cut to Sharpeville, which becomes the second Transvaal town — after Sishela township near Carolina in the eastern Transvaal — to have its power cut.

The power cut in Sharpeville, where residents have boycotted rent since 1984, will affect at least 6 000 homes.

Dr Milani said the Vereeniging council was owed about R800 000 for electricity supply, and attempts to recover the money had been unsuccessful.

Reconnected

“We have held discussions with the ANC, Cosatu, the SAPC, the Lekoa council, the TPA and the local civic association on the matter but we have made no headway.”

Dr Milani said it cost the council R460 000 a month to supply power to Sharpeville. The council could no longer afford to foot the bill.

He said that even if residents started paying their electricity bills now, it would take about three weeks to have power reconnected.

In Evaton, the Vaal Civic Association’s local chairman Thembuso Radebe told residents at a meeting that the rent boycott would continue in the Vaal regardless of what happened in other black townships.

He said the slogan “Asnamala!” (we have no money) was still relevant — six years after it was adopted.

Hilda Stewart, marketing director of a refuse collection company, Mult-Waste, said the company had been informed by the Katlehong Town Council that there was no money to pay it and it was therefore canceling the contract, which still had seven years to run.

Mrs Stewart said her company removed up to 200 tons of refuse a day from Katlehong and she feared that the uncollected rubbish could become a health hazard.

A source from Katlehong said the collection of refuse had merely been suspended.

Vosloorus acting town clerk Andries Vrey said the Vosloorus Town Council decided yesterday to limit refuse removal to once every two weeks to try to cut costs.

The Soweto Town Council will hold another round of talks with the Transvaal Provincial Administration on September 24 regarding the end of the rent boycott. Arrears amounting to R1.5 million have been written off.
Hostel shocks

Soweto 5/9/90

Conditions are not acceptable
-Presiident

PRESIDENT FW de Klerk said conditions at a Soweto hostel he visited yesterday were unacceptable.

As a result, De Klerk said the Government would have to seriously consider turning hostels into family housing.

De Klerk was speaking after a surprise visit to Soweto.

He saw living conditions at Nancefield Hostel - one of the trouble spots in the recent wave of township violence.

He went into a section of the hostel and also a communal toilet in another section.

As De Klerk came out of the toilet his expression was one of shock at the conditions and the stench.

He later told a media conference that he was pleased that he had visited the hostel.

The conditions his delegation had seen were unacceptable, but improvements could be made.

He reiterated an earlier announcement that Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter would coordinate a proper investigation of hostel problems in South Africa.

He said the Government was in favour of family housing.

De Klerk received a warm welcome during his two-hour tour of the township.

It was his first visit to Soweto since becoming State President last September.

He was accompanied by Minister of Education and Development Aid Dr Stoffel van der Merwe and Venter.

They were later joined by Minister of Law and Order Mr Adraan Vlok at the Protea Police headquarters where De Klerk addressed the police and the media.

Vlok flew in by helicopter from Sebokeng where violence flared up again yesterday.

His visit had given him hope, De Klerk said.

He pointed out that the decision to visit Soweto was made only a few days ago.

The tour took De Klerk to Baragwanath Hospital, Winnie Nbigazi Primary School in Pomville, Nancefield Hostel and the Tshwane Business Centre.

At all these places, De Klerk shook hands, smiled and waved at the excited crowds.

He said that with the exception of Baragwanath, the visit was not planned.

"The visit is not a public relations exercise, but the start of a programme to appraise myself of the situation in Soweto and other trouble spots in South Africa."
Atteridgeville to continue boycott

By Mckeed Kotlolo
Pretoria Bureau

Atteridgeville residents yesterday resolved to continue the rent boycott until the local council resigns.

"A mass meeting convened by the Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents Organisation (Aatro) and attended by hundreds of residents rejected the freezing of rent arrears in the area and demanded that they be written off."

Speakers from various area committees of Aatro expressed their constituency's decision to demand the immediate resignation of the councillors. The residents unanimously resolved to continue with the rent boycott which started in April this year.

"The areas' representatives said residents were not even prepared to pay the flat rate because the local council was guilty of misusing funds."

"Our case is different from that of Soweto and other areas where a flat rate had been suggested, because their councils did not misuse any funds as was the case in Atteridgeville," said one speaker.

The residents also rejected a decision that Aatro take part in the planned joint committees with the council.

But they mandated Aatro to continue to negotiate with the council so that they could "educate councillors and show them their faults".

One speaker said the council had early this year been found guilty of gross mismanagement by the Kriel Commission of Inquiry, which recommended to the Transvaal Provincial Administration that the council be disbanded.

They also called on the Government to build affordable houses for the people and demanded a single tax base for the whole of Pretoria.

Aatro is to meet the local council tomorrow.
Tokoza lights stay on

By SY MAKARINGE

TOKOZA residents, whose electricity supply was to have been cut off last Friday by the Alberton Town Council, have been given a week's reprieve.

The Alberton Industries Association came to the rescue when it paid R10 000 to cover the bill until next Monday.

At a meeting attended by officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the Tokoza Civic Association agreed to advise residents to start paying for essential services immediately.

Mr Nigel Mandy, a mediator brought in by the TPA, said the meeting had agreed on an interim charge of R70 a month for houses which had been wired. Residents whose houses had not been wired would pay R10 a month.
RESIDENTS and migrant workers living in hostels should stop the senseless carnage and unite in the struggle against apartheid, Transkei President Tutor Ndumase said in Sebokeng yesterday.

He was speaking to thousands of people at a peace rally at the local stadium.

Ndumase told the people to "refuse to be used by faceless, hidden forces behind the violence".

Language did not determine the nationhood of Xhosas and Zulus as they were "equally oppressed and share a lot in common", he said.

Commitment
He called on people to "demonstrate their commitment to democracy" through freedom of speech and of association.

"Let us tolerate one another and agree to differ."

While he complimented President FW de Klerk's reform initiatives, he called on the Government to "secure the safety of all people living in South Africa".

Speaking at the rally, Vaal Civic Association official Mr Ernest Sofo accused Inkatha of "setting in collusion with the police" and of being "the perpetrators of violence in Sebokeng".

He expressed concern over Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini's absence from the peace rally.

Zwelithini was said to be consulting with an Inkatha leader in the region.

The rally, which was delayed for two hours by Ndumase and his delegation, who flew into Sebokeng by helicopter after meeting Sebokeng Council members earlier,About 1 000 singing migrant workers, some armed with knobkerries, had earlier gathered in front of the hostel's opposition the stadium before joining the residents - Sapa.
Still no queues to pay rent

By Montshwa Mhodile

Most Soweto residents have not yet started paying rent in spite of an agreement in principle between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) and the Greater Soweto councils to end the rent boycott.

This was revealed by a check at the townships' administration offices yesterday.

After a 15-hour meeting in Pretoria on August 30 it was decided that township residents would pay a uniform tariff of R65 for September and from October an interim service charge of R23 a household plus electricity on metered consumption of 12c a unit.

The Soweto agreement was to have been referred to various parties' constituencies for ratification and another meeting has been scheduled for September 24 for formal agreement.

Comments from sources ranged from 'no change at all' to 'a slight improvement' compared to the period before the latest developments.

It appears to council sources that residents have adopted a 'wait and see' attitude before they decide to pay because there had not been any formal agreement between the three parties.

The other assumption is that people have not fully grasped the implications of what was discussed at the talks and are perhaps waiting for a mass consensus on whether to pay.

The rent boycott was started in June 1985 after the Government's declaration of the state of emergency. The state of emergency was revoked in June this year.

There are still no queues at rent office.

The mayor of Soweto, Samuel Mkhwanazi, said "We are keeping our fingers crossed".
Committee on rents formed

AN interim working committee to address the rent boycott of 1990.

The organisations involved are the Vaal Civic Association, Zamdela Civic Association, Vaal African Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the city councils of Vereeniging, Vanderbijlpark, Lephalale and Evaton, the Transvaal Provincial Administration and Eskom - Sapa.
**Soweto's elderly may lose out**

By Montshiwa Moreke

Soweto tenants who continued to pay their rent during the four-year boycott are waiting to see what the attitude of the authorities is going to be towards them.

Those who appear to have been mostly affected are the pensioners and conservative residents.

They continued to pay, in spite of warnings by civic organisations not to do so, because they were afraid of losing their homes when the council started evicting defaulters.

A council administration source confirmed that the only people who had been consistent with their payments were the pensioners.

Diepmeadow mayor Moses Khumalo said it was the council's view that residents should be compensated for the risks they took in the face of serious threats to their lives and property.

He said that when the matter was raised at last month's meeting between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), Greater Soweto councils and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD), discussion was totally rejected by the SPD.

"As far as negotiation with the SPD is concerned, those who were paying their rent during the boycott have lost out. They did not want even to consider the matter."

"For the sake of peace we let the matter rest. If the issue should come up again it will be dealt with by councils outside negotiations with the SPD," Mr Khumalo said.

A spokesman for TPA said the matter had been discussed with the other parties.

"We have to wait until Monday when the signing of the formal agreement takes place. Then, you will have to get all five standpoints on how they are going to address the matter."
Tembisa residents take council to court over electricity cuts

THE rent crisis which has gripped many Transvaal townships takes on a new dimension today when residents of Tembisa, on the East Rand, take legal action against the local town council for cutting off electricity supplies.

Electricity was switched off in a quarter of Tembisa on Tuesday night.

Tembisa Residents’ Association (TRA) official Amon Manie said his organisation felt it was illegal for the town council to cut off electricity as residents were not against the payment of services tariffs.

"Residents do want to pay, but they want to pay for what they consume. There are people who get electricity bills despite the fact that their houses are not electrified.

"The cutting off of electricity goes against assurances given by the TPA that no essential services will be terminated pending the outcome of our negotiations with the town council, TPA and Eskom.

"The Tembisa Town Council could not be reached for comment.

"Earlier this week Eskom deputy GM, marketing and distribution, Allen Morgan said his company was discussing with the Tembisa Town Council and TRA how to resolve problems causing the non-payment of services tariffs.

"In another development, the Alberton Town Council, Thokoza Town Council, Thokoza Civic Association, Eskom, business-

men and the TPA meet tomorrow to review Thokoza’s rent crisis.

"The move follows the cutting off of electricity to the East Rand township by the Alberton council last week. Power was restored after it was agreed that Thokoza residents would again pay for services.

Thokoza council chairman Gert Muller said "We are meeting to review progress achieved so far. We have until Monday to ensure that enough funds are generated to enable the Thokoza council to pay the Alberton council. Failure to generate those funds will result in an immediate electricity cut-off.”

Thokoza Civic Association president Sam Nuli said he had “no fear of power cut-offs on Monday,” as residents would begin paying again for services today.

Sapa reports that CP MP for Brakpan Frank le Roux has criticized government for giving away taxpayers’ money by donating R87,7 m belonging to the East Rand Regional Services Council to the TPA.

"This money has now been donated merely to catch up on unpaid water and electricity bills.

"As a result, upgrading of infrastructure in black townships would be postponed indefinitely, Le Roux said.

Half an hour later another police spokesperson...
No clarity yet over 'Spruit rent arrears

AN agreement has not yet been reached between the Katilehong Civic Association and the Transvaal Provincial Administration on how much the residents should pay in the meantime for arrears on services, KCA spokesman Mr Oupa Thibile said yesterday.

A compromise was reached at a meeting earlier this month for Katilehong Council officials to restore electricity in the township, while the KCA and the TPA were still sorting out the technical problems, he said.

Thibile blamed what he called "the arrogance and obstinacy of the councillors" for the present boycott.

"Katilehong residents have always been willing to pay but were not going to pay for ridiculous service charges, which councillors and council officials failed to explain," he said.

The KCA will meet the TPA's consultant, Mr Nigel Mandy, next Tuesday, Thibile said - Saps.
TPA firm on call for payment

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has restated its call to residents in areas affected by the rent boycott to pay their tariffs.

The call comes in the wake of an announcement by the Pretoria City Council that it intended cutting electricity in Atteridgeville and Mamelodi on September 25th.

Mr. Olaus van Zyl, the Transvaal MEC entrusted with local government and regional services councils, said at a Press conference in Pretoria yesterday that consumers should note that bulk suppliers would not be able to render services indefinitely without payment to local authorities.

Van Zyl said, "I wish to emphasise that black consumers in boycott-affected areas will eventually suffer most, since money set aside for capital or development projects or for part of such projects, will now be used for financing essential services."
Accord for rent boycott agreement

The signing of an accord to ratify an agreement ending the rent-and-service-charges boycott will take place in Soweto tomorrow.

The accord will include the writing-off of arrears, the establishment of a metropolitan chamber to investigate the setting of regional, non-racial and democratic approaches, the creation of the Greater Soweto People's Trust and the creation of a joint technical committee in which the Johannesburg City Council will be invited to take part.

Third force ANC dissidents – Vlok

ALTHOUGH the matter was “still being investigated”, it had been argued that the so-called third force in the violence might be a dissident group within the ANC, Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said on Friday.

Addressing the NP-dominated President's Council, Vlok said the “most worrying” aspect was that the moderate faction of the ANC leadership apparently did not know about this as it had “lost control of the militant youth who were in favour of this dissident faction”.

However, he said police had so far found no proof of the existence of the so-called third force.

Reports by CP Staff, CP Correspondents and Sapu.
Pretoria townships face big switch-off

THE lingering feud about the non-payment of electricity accounts by black communities seems set to move to Pretoria.

The chairman of Pretoria’s management committee, Mr James Leach, said that the councils of Atteridgeville and Mamelodi had been warned that their electricity supply from Pretoria may be terminated without warning from next Monday unless they paid their overdue bills.

Their respective arrear amounts are R1.7 million and R3 million.
Formal end to rent boycott

Soweto's four-year rent (and) services boycott is set to end today with the historic signing of the Greater Soweto Accord. Ratifying an agreement reached last month to write off the R16 million in rent arrears.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD), and the Soweto, Dobsonville and Diepmeadow local councils will all sign the accord.

One of the most important decisions to be reached will be the establishment of a metropolitan chamber by the five signatories.

The Johannesburg City Council will be invited to join the chamber and look at new models for local government and investigate the possibility of a common tax base for Johannesburg and Soweto.

The Soweto agreement comes in the wake of a decision by the province to cut bridging finance to black councils. MEC Fanie Ferreira will chair the meeting.
**Councils try to head off power cuts**

**Mamelodi:** City Council, which has until today to pay the R2.5 million it owes Pretoria City Council, has urged local residents to pay their rent and service charges promptly to avoid power cuts.

In Daveyton, the town council said yesterday it would accept a service charge of R70 per household per month in an effort to recover more than R3 million owed to Benoni Town Council for electricity.

A statement issued by the Daveyton council said agreement had been reached with about 10,000 residents who attended a meeting yesterday.

**Notices**

Pretoria City Council has issued notices to both Mamelodi and Atteridgeville councils giving them until today to pay their electricity accounts or face a blackout.

Mamelodi and Atteridgeville owe Pretoria about R3.5 million and R1.7 million respectively.

Mamelodi council revealed that rent and service charge arrears by local residents amounted to R22 million. It warned residents that they could find themselves without vital services in the months ahead unless they paid at least their current monthly accounts.

The local council and the Mamelodi People's Delegation (MFD) reached an agreement two weeks ago to freeze rent and service charges arrears on condition that the defaulters paid their current accounts.

"The council is optimistic that the residents will realise the gravity of the matter and make an earnest attempt to settle their accounts," the statement said.

Daveyton council said about 10,000 residents met yesterday to discuss threats by Benoni Town Council to cut the black area's power unless the debt was settled.

The flat rate of R70 per month for services was an interim rate, the statement said.

Daveyton mayor Tom Boya pleaded with residents at the meeting to pay more than the agreed amount if possible to help prevent a switch-off.

Residents of Daveyton's lower-income area of Etwatwa are excluded from the R70 charge. They will only have to pay R50 per month for services.

The agreement represents a compromise on the part of the Daveyton council. It entered the meeting with the demand that some residents, like those living in the township's new extensions, pay R130 per month for services. — Pretoria Bureau-Sapa.

**Battling without power**

By Thabo Leshlo

"It's surprising how we take things for granted, but miss them immediately we stop having them. Then their importance dawns on you like never before." were warm.

A few kilometres away, in Kabem section, The Star team met a mother of three, Linah Ndubani, returning from Oakmore station where she had gone to collect water in a bucket.

**Official trips abroad to be queried**

By Louise Burgers, Municipal Reporter

Questions will be asked at the Johannesburg City Council's monthly meeting tomorrow about its planned spending of R100 million. Every Johannesburg mayor has the opportunity to travel abroad when in office and can choose between European countries — at a total cost of R10 million. Every Johannesburg mayor has the opportunity to travel abroad when in office and can choose between European countries. — Pretoria Bureau-Sapa.

Mr Davidson said criticism of the trips was unjustified — officials travelled business class to save money, and the budget for overseas trips by council officials had been cut.
Mamelodi City Council, which has until today to pay the R3.5 million it owes Pretoria City Council, has urged local residents to pay their rent and service charges promptly to avoid power cuts.

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The flat rate of R70 per month for services was an interim rate, the statement said. Daveyton mayor Tom Boya pleaded with residents at the meeting to pay more than the agreed amount if possible to help prevent a switch-off.

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**Battling without power**

*By Thabo Lesilo*

"It’s surprising how we take things for granted, but miss them immediately we stop having them. Then their importance dawns on you like never before."

This was Anna Soko’s reaction to the “big switch-off” after parts of Tembisa on the East Rand were plunged into darkness when the town council cut off electricity.

The council also cut off the water supply elsewhere in the township.

Mrs Soko (37), mother of five and spaza shop owner, said the power cut had disrupted her family’s life. When The Star visited her home she was cooking potatoes on a paraffin stove before going to sell food at local schools.

"I now have to wake up at 3 am to two hours earlier—I have to be able to cook the food that I sell, before boiling water for the children’s bath and breakfast," she said.

Mrs Soko said electricity in her section had been cut off without notice on Friday.

She was losing income because perishable food got spoilt and customers were not buying her cooldrinks because they were warm.

A few kilometres away, in Xubem section, the Star team met a mother of three, Linah Ndubani, returning from Oakmore station where she had gone to collect water in a 20-litre container. She was unable to get the water because the queue was too long.

Ms Ndubani’s (31) had her youngest child on her back and was carrying a parcel of clothing she intended to wash at a house near the station.

"It’s tough in Tembisa," she remarked.

She said the water supply had been cut off last Monday.

"I don’t know why they trouble us like this.""

Asked how she had coped since Monday, she replied that her only option was to wake up and go and collect water at the station about 1 km away.

"I go to the station in the morning and at 2pm sometimes, like today; I return with nothing because of the long queues.

When approached, town clerk Anton Reihan refused to comment and referred The Star to the township mayor. The mayor could not be reached at the time of going to press.
Pay up, Mamelodi urges folk

THE Mamelodi City Council, which has until today to pay the R3,5-million it owes the City Council of Pretoria (CCP), has urged the local residents to promptly pay their rent and service charges to avoid the pending power cut.

A Press statement by the Mamelodi council called on the residents to pay their end-of-the-month accounts to avoid the possible cut of some of the township’s “vital services next month”.

The CCP has issued notices to both the Mamelodi and Attendgeville city councils giving its sister councils until today to pay their electricity debts accounts or face a blackout.

Mamelodi and Attendgeville councils owe CCP R3,5-million and R1,7-million, respectively.

The Mamelodi council said it was doing its best to get financial help to pay its debts.
Move to delay electricity cut in Pretoria

By MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville City Council, which faces electricity power cuts today unless they pay the Pretoria City Council more than R1 million for arrear bills, has asked the council for a four-week reprieve.

Mr Dan Mouton, acting town clerk of Atteridgeville, said yesterday they were scheduled to meet with officials of the local civic association (Asro) later in the day to resolve the rent boycott that started on April 1, this year.

Mouton, who confirmed that the council had lost about R6 million in revenue since the boycott started, said the Pretoria City Council had written them a letter threatening to cut off electricity supply to the township today unless they paid the arrears of more than R1 million.

Urgent meeting

"We have asked the Pretoria City Council to give us an extension of four weeks to discuss the issue again with Asro. We also asked for an urgent meeting between our executive committee and that of the Pretoria City Council. We are aware that the power cuts would result in serious consequences," Mouton said.

At a public meeting at the Super Stadium last Sunday, residents resolved that rent would only be paid after councillors resigned. A spokesman for Asro said this decision followed the finding of a commission of inquiry which investigated irregularities in the council last year and recommended that the council be dissolved following alleged mismanagement of public funds.

The commission, which was appointed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, also recommended that the council not be allocated bridging finance until their finances are properly controlled.
Township plans hit by boycotts

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

Multimillion-rand township development projects are being shelved in Transvaal areas affected by payment boycotts as the funds allocated for these projects are used to pay for essential services.

The projects expected to be affected include electrification programmes, the upgrading of stormwater facilities and the erection of buildings such as community centres.

Essential

The funds earmarked for these projects by regional service councils (RSCs) are in many cases to be used as bridging finance to pay for essential services such as water, sewerage and waste removal.

The relocation of RSC funds has been given the blessing of the Transvaal Provincial Administration, but the TPA has stipulated that no RSC money is to be used for settling township electricity accounts.

This means that while boycotting townships no longer face the threat of having their water supply cut, they could still have power blackouts.

Eskom communications manager Johan du Plessis said defaulting townships were now R30 million in arrears to the electricity giant.

He stressed that Eskom would not be suspending supplies to any of the more than 20 defaulting townships until all avenues had been exhausted. Eskom was now holding discussions with 15 townships in a bid to resolve payment problems, he said.

The TPA said the supply of clean water and sewage removal were absolutely essential services in all communities.

"In order to ensure that these indispensable services are rendered and that the bulk suppliers — these are in many cases the adjacent white local authorities — are paid, high-level discussions were held on the possible rescheduling of funds with RSCs.

"At this stage the only possible alternative is that local authorities with a cash-flow problem should approach RSCs with the request that capital projects earmarked for such local authorities be suspended, and that these funds be used to pay bulk suppliers for their services."
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"At this stage the only possible alternative is that local authorities with a cash-flow problem should approach RSCs with the request that capital projects earmarked for such local authorities be suspended, and that those funds be used to pay bulk suppliers for their services."
Councillors try to avert power cuts

TWO major meetings are due to take place on the Reef over the next two days in a bid to avert electricity cut-offs.

A Pretoria City Council spokesman confirmed yesterday that the city's management committee would meet today to discuss the rent crisis affecting Atteridgeville and Mamelodi townships.

The move follows council threats that Mamelodi and Atteridgeville would have their electricity cut if they did not pay overdue accounts by yesterday.

Mamelodi and Atteridgeville owe the Pretoria City Council about R3.5m and R1.7m respectively.

In another development, Daveyton mayor Tom Boya said his town council would meet Benoni council officials tomorrow to report on a residents' resolution to resume services payments.

"Residents agreed on Sunday to start paying interim rates of R70 and R50 a month for services in order to recover more than R3m owed to the Benoni Town Council," Boya said.

Boya also pleaded with Daveyton residents to pay more than the agreed interim rates if possible to prevent a switch-off.

All residents, except those living in the low-income area of Etwatwa, will pay R70 a month for services as opposed to the original demand for R130 a month. Etwatwa residents will pay R50 a month.

The rent boycott in Thokoza was broken on Friday Administrator Gert Muller said.

The township's council had collected R60 000 from residents for services.

The money would help to pay for the electricity supply to the township for the next six days, Muller said.

He added that the Thokoza Town Council had agreed to pay the Alberton Town Council a minimum of R10 000 a day until an econo-meal rental could be worked out.
THE Soweto Peoples Delegation and mayors of the three Greater Soweto councils clashed bitterly yesterday, minutes after signing the Greater Soweto accord to mark the end of the four-year-old rent boycott.

The clash took place at a Press conference at Tshawelo Community Centre when Mr Pat Lephunya, secretary of the SPD, said the curfew could jeopardise the entire agreement if it was not lifted.

Lephunya said the resignation of councillors “is in line with a long-standing demand from the community must now take place as the first step in the dismantling of the Black Local Authorities and the apartheid local government system”.

Mr Steve Nkalo of Dobsonville said it was not decent for Lephunya to call for the resignation of councillors as they had been elected by 46 percent of Soweto residents.

Mr MJ Khumalo, mayor of Diepmeadow, said councillors refused to be called liars.

By SY MAKARINGE

“We are here to see to it that peace prevails in our area,” he said.

An obviously shocked Mr Olaus van Zyl, MEC for Transvaal, said the mere fact the SPD had agreed to sign the accord meant that the councillors were recognised.

The drama ended when Mr Fanie Ferreira, MEC for Health Services, stopped the proceedings.

From next month the monthly account will comprise a service debt of R23 plus a charge for electricity consumption.

The five groups agreed to establish a Metropolitan Chamber which would investigate and make recommendations on issues such as the setting up of regional, non-racial and democratic structures.

They also agreed to set up the Greater Soweto Peoples Fund for community development and assistance to the people.

Residents will from January next year be expected to pay a R3 levy into the fund.
Seal of approval on Soweto accord

THE Greater Soweto Accord, which formally wrote off the area's R516m in rent arrears and ended the five-year boycott, was signed in Soweto yesterday.

The accord ratified and adopted an agreement reached at the end of last month between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA), the Greater Soweto city councils of Soweto, Diepsloot and Dobsonville, and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD).

Transvaal Health Services MECC

Fanie Ferreira, who acted as chairman at the signing ceremony, said the accord was significant because “the councils and the civic associations have come together in a spirit of conciliation and mutual understanding, in the best interests of all the people of Soweto.”

The accord provided for writing off arrears, ending the boycott and a remission of monthly payments.

The document also adopted the establishment of a Metropolitan Chamber (comprising the five signatories) which would be a forum whose main purpose would be to formulate the setting up of regional, non-racial and democratic approaches for long-term implementation of measures for the constitutional, economic, institutional and social development of the metropolis.

The Johannesburg City Council has been invited to join the chamber as a sixth member.

A Greater Soweto People's Trust was created for community development and would be financed, inter alia, by a R5 rent levy.

A Joint Technical Committee was created under the Metropolitan Chamber. The committee's working groups are to investigate and make recommendations on implementing solutions, upgrading the services and infrastructure of Greater Soweto; affordable tariffs; transferring the rented housing stock to the residents, and the establishment of a common fiscal base.

Ferreira said the different tariffs previously applied for residential units in the three council areas would be made uniform, and a flat rate of R55 a month was to be paid for September “as a goodwill gesture.”

“From October onwards, and until proper affordable tariffs have been established, the monthly account will comprise a miscellaneous service debt of R25, plus a charge for metered electricity.” Ferreira said.

Residents had had many justifiable complaints concerning accounts rendered to them, but he hoped trust would be restored.
Vosloo rejects flat rent rates

A BID to impose flat rental rates in Vosloorus township, Boksburg, appeared doomed yesterday with residents rejecting the unilateral move and warning of trouble if the local authorities went ahead.

Mayor M M Sinukela announced flat rates last week which he said would be reconsidered after three months.

"The residents of Vosloorus reject the said flat rate in its entirety in that they have had enough of these tribal leaders imposing themselves on their community," Mr Keith Montsatsi, spokesman for the township's civic association, said in a statement.

Any attempts to cut power to coerce residents would unleash events "ghastly to contemplate," he warned.

Residents, complaining of high rentals, demanded flat rates in January. Montsatsi attacked the authorities for coming with a response after eight months.

Meanwhile the chairman of the Klerksdorp Town Council's management committee, Mr Chris van Eeden, says the council and Jouberton had entered into a cooperation agreement because the black local authority cannot function normally due to a shortage of funds.

Van Eeden said at the latest council meeting that Jouberton needed R750 000 a month to function normally but that its present income was R60 000 a month. — Sapa.
Daveyton council agrees to R70 flat rate charges

By DON SEOKANE

THE Daveyton Council has agreed to a proposal by residents to pay a flat rate of R70 a month in a bid to avert imminent cuts to power at the end of the month.

The council's public relations officer, Mr JM Moropa, said the council had met residents and agreed to the flat rate and that residents of Etwatwa would pay a flat rate of R50 a month.

Moropa said the council had agreed to a temporary freezing of arrears while negotiations between the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the council and the Daveyton Interim Committee were continuing.

The council owed R3.2 million in electricity arrears to the Benoni Town Council at the end of August.

Eskom has instituted a R3.4 million lawsuit against the Benoni Council for the electricity arrears of Daveyton and Waterville townships.

Meanwhile, the Alberton Town Council will meet Mr Olaaf van Zyl of the TPA today in connection with R2.2 million electricity arrears owed by the Tokoza Council, Alberton Town Clerk Mr AS de Beer said yesterday.
Cops slate call to defy night curfew

THE SA Police yesterday expressed concern that calls had been made for township residents to defy curfew regulations which became effective last night.

A statement from SAP liaison chief Major-General Herman Stadler called on the public to support the security forces.

"These non-aggressive measures are aimed at protecting defenceless, law-abiding residents and to ensure they sleep in peace."

The curfew became effective in seven Reef townships last night, as part of "Operation Iron Fist" announced by police and the Government to stop violence in these areas.

The Civic Associations of the Transvaal (Cast) on Monday said it opposed the curfew.

Cast said the regulations were a reversion to "the old draconian apartheid-style repression", aimed at instilling fear and panic in people.

They also facilitated attacks by vigilantes and hut squads.

Stadler gave the assurance the intention was not to punish people or make life difficult for them.

Police were determined to see an end to the violence and urged residents to ignore people inciting them to defy the regulations, Stadler said.

Withdraw

The United Democratic Front would consider defying the curfew in Reef townships if the State did not withdraw the new measures.

In a statement, the organisation's publicity secretary, Mr Ronnie Mamoepa said the curfew would not end the violence in townships.

While the UDF welcomed the present calm in the townships, it believed it was temporary until the underlying causes had been addressed.

These included the abolition of the hostel system, the arrest and prosecution of warlords, the institution of independent tribunals and the weeding of elements in the security forces that were intent on destroying the negotiation process.
Lights go out in two townships

Pretoria Bureau

Electricity supplies to Mamelodi and Atteridgeville, adjoining Pretoria, were cut off at 4 am this morning.

No notice of the decision was given to 500,000 people living in the area.

The bulk supplier, the Pretoria City Council, decided last night that as the townships owed it about R6.5 million for electricity, and had had three months in which to pay the arrears, there was no alternative but to cut off supplies.

The large Kalafong Hospital in Atteridgeville was not expected to be affected by today's switch-off, but clinics in both areas are likely to be without electricity.

Pretoria's management committee chairman James Leach said of the proposed power cut: "This is merely a suspension. We are not following to the letter the contract between ourselves and Mamelodi and Atteridgeville, which called for a cut-off of supplies in the event of default."

He said representatives of the two townships would be attending talks today in a bid to resolve the situation. The council would maintain an "open door" policy.
Power cuts spark threats of boycotts

THE Atteridgeville and Mamelodi civic associations yesterday threatened to take legal action and to organise stayaways and consumer boycotts against the Pretoria City Council for cutting electricity to both townships.

Both the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents Organisation and the Mamelodi Civic Association have called on State President Mr FW de Klerk to intervene and stop the Pretoria Council from cutting electricity to the townships.

By MONK NKOMO

The call was made by Asso official Dr Abe Nkomo and MCA executive Mr Moss Chikane at a Press conference in Pretoria.

The townships were plunged into darkness at 4 am yesterday. The blackout followed an announcement by Mr James Leach, chairman of the council’s management committee, on Tuesday that electricity would be suspended until both town councils paid arrears totalling about R6 million.

The civic associations accused the Pretoria municipality of “encouraging forces of apartheid to operate under cover of darkness to kill, maim and rape innocent people in the townships.”

Business owners in both townships, especially funeral undertakers, expressed concern about the council’s decision.

Mr Elias Ledwaba, a funeral undertaker in Atteridgeville, said: “Our businesses are in a chaotic state because the bodies are going to rot. I don’t even know why my lights were switched off because I don’t owe the local council a cent.”
Pretoria townships light up after emergency plan

PRETORIA — The lights are on again in Pretoria’s Mamelodi and Atteridgeville townships, where power had been cut off.

A Pretoria City Council spokesman said the municipality decided yesterday afternoon to conditionally restore power to the townships.

“Power was cut off on Tuesday afternoon after the township councils failed to pay arrears totalling R4.7m,” he said.

At a meeting yesterday afternoon, an appeal was made to the Pretoria RSC for a loan to pay the two township councils.

Pretoria RSC chairman Pet Delport said a meeting would be held in October to consider the application.

The council spokesman said Pretoria’s management committee was confident a settlement could be reached at the meeting “and pending final agreement by not later than October 12 the council is prepared temporarily to restore power immediately.”

Delport stressed the loan could only be considered if residents paid their accounts.

UDF publicity secretary Ronnie Mamoena said the council had come to an agreement to restore power.

Davidson: overseas trips a carrot for city officials

OVERSEAS trips were one of the carrots offered to highly experienced council officials in the absence of competitive salaries, Johannesburg management committee chairman Ian Davidson said yesterday.

The Town Clerk’s Remuneration Act, which placed a ceiling on the salaries of all other officials, prevented council from trying to compete with the private sector for the top professional people, he said.

The management committee has been accused of being extravagant by sending groups of officials on overseas trips.

Davidson said he and four others would be travelling to the UK to attend a four-day conference on financial modelling systems and would spend 10 days assessing systems implemented by the councils of London, Birmingham and Manchester.

Johannesburg’s financial management systems were antiquated to the extent that the management committee did not have the tools to manage the city financially, he said.

Gerald Beatty

"cap in hand" after residents announced they were planning to initiate court action for an order declaring the action illegal.

The power cut was met with anger and bewilderment by thousands of township families.

A police spokesman said extra police were deployed in Atteridgeville and Mamelodi yesterday but no incidents had been reported up to late yesterday.

Wilson Zwane reports that residents of the East Rand townships of Watville and Daveyton have until tomorrow to raise more than R1m for electricity or face power cuts.

This ultimatum was issued after a meeting between the Benoni Town Council officials and representatives of Watville and Daveyton.

Benoni acting town clerk Andre de Jager said the meeting agreed that electricity would not be switched off if the two townships paid their October electricity in advance.

“The agreement represents an interim arrangement. Daveyton and Watville still have to pay the Benoni Town Council about R1.5m in electricity arrears,” de Jager said.

He added that in terms of the arrangement advance payments of R1.2m and R180 000 had to be made by the Daveyton Town Council and Watville Town Council respectively.

Daveyton mayor Tom Boya said “Residents have started paying the flat rates we agreed upon on Sunday and I am confident that we will raise money to avert the switch-off.”

Boya said he did not think the Daveyton council would be able to raise the R1.2m within the given time “But if we raise a portion of it we can negotiate with the Benoni Town Council for a few days breathing space.”

Watville mayor George Nkosi said the executive committee of Watville Town Council would hold a special meeting today to discuss the matter.

This would be followed by consultations with residents, he added.

Another East Rand township, Katlehong, faces a power cut unless more than R3m in electricity arrears is paid to Eskom before October 8.

Mayor Gideon Mototsi yesterday urged residents to pay monthly flat rates of R10 (for houses with electricity) and R20 (for houses without electricity) to avert a switch-off.

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RE: UNITS

Dr. Charles Schul
R65 000 spent on home improvements 'not improper'

IMPROVEMENTS worth R65 000 made to Johannesburg Town Clerk Manie Venter’s R325 000 rent-free Houghton home were not improper, the Hienstra Commission has found.

The commission also commended the Johannesburg City Council for “valiant action” taken to protect its officials.

Apart from the town clerk’s residence, which is owned by the council, an additional amount of R120 445 was spent on safeguarding the homes of councillors and officials. However, the commission found that from an accounting point of view the expenditure on Venter’s home was of a permanent nature and ought to have been capitalised.

The expenditure was instead roughly divided between the council’s general expenses vote and the repairs and maintenance vote.

The management committee was advised that Venter was at risk, which necessitated security measures to protect him and council property, the commission found.

During the commission, Advocate Dennis Fine — acting for the commission — cross-examined Venter on the R24 000 used for improvements which included the building of an extension to the garage consisting of a kitchen, toilet and shower.

The commission did not find that this practice was improper.

“Should expenditure on improvement be divorced from direct security expenditure… any attempts to keep a veil of secrecy over the town clerk’s house would be futile.”

Treasure was aware of ‘cash for spies’

PAYMENTS made to Johannesburg City Council informers over five years “slipped through the net of audit investigations” because of a lack of acceptable accounting and audit procedures.

The Hienstra Commission of Inquiry found that former city treasurer Perry Rabe and previous chief internal auditor Cohn Findlay were fully aware of cash payments made to informers. However, records had not been kept in accordance with rigid accounting standards and the information slipped through the net of audit investigations.

The commission did not agree with the argument that payment of R14 355 to spies, R4 256 in operational expenses and R2 260 for criminal investigations was insignificant, or that about R1.3m absorbed by the information section in five years was minimal when measured against council’s total R5bn annual budget.

Ratepayers and citizens of Johannesburg demanded accountability from their local authority. They were entitled to value for money.

Rabe should have realised that covert activities bred contempt for generally accepted legal and accounting principles if he had complied with his statutory duties the accounting problems could at least have been eliminated. He should have indicated to his accountants how to record the payments to comply with rigid accounting standards.

Specific instructions should have been given to internal auditors to exercise extreme vigilance concerning the transactions.

A breakdown in the internal audit function, caused by Findlay’s actions, had led to far-reaching complications, the commission Findlay had failed to instruct his staff to include these transactions in audit programmes for regular checking.

Chief internal auditor Pieter Cruywagen testified that audit programmes currently in use were in operation when he was appointed in 1988. They contained no reference to the information section or payments to spies.

The commission said external auditor Casper Venter and his staff had been unaware of payments made over five years.
Objections to ER 'Berlin Wall' plan

A WAR of words has erupted between the Brakpan Town Council and the Wattville Concerned Residents Committee over a plan by residents of a white suburb to build a wall to separate them from Tamboville.

The Dalpark Residents Committee has sent a petition to State President Mr FW de Klerk and the Brakpan Town Council about their plans to erect the "Berlin Wall" between Dalpark Extension Six and the informal housing project on the outskirts of Wattville township.

Dalpark residents said in a memorandum sent to the council that the development of Tamboville would lead to an increase in burglaries and devalue properties.

A spokesman for the DRC, Mr Chris de Lange, was quoted in a local newspaper as saying: "We do not want a squatter camp on our doorstep."

The chairman of the WCRC, Mr Abbey Nyalunga, has lashed out at the proposed plan and vowed that his organisation would not recognise the buffer.

He said residents visiting Dalpark were domestic workers and it was absurd to blame crime on black people.

However, the acting town clerk of Benoni, Mr JA de Jager, said the development of Tamboville would go ahead as planned.

Tamboville is a stretch of land bordering the Brakpan suburb and Wattville.

Early this year, more than 3 000 families were poised to erect shacks on the land and some were demolished by authorities because they had occupied private land.

The Benoni Town Council later entered into an agreement with the WCRC that it would develop the land and build low-cost houses.

By MATSHUBE MFOLOE and IDO LEKOTA
Townships face more power cuts

THE Pretoria City Council yesterday warned the Atteridgeville and Mamelodi town councils that it would cut off the electricity supplies again - this time indefinitely - if they did not pay their debts on or before October 12.

The Pretoria Council cut off the supplies to the two townships at 4am on Wednesday after the local municipalities failed to pay the electricity arrear bills totalling about R6 million.

Electricity was restored about 4pm the same day following a meeting between the three councils and Mr Piet Delport, chairman of the Pretoria Regional Services Council.

In a joint statement released yesterday, the parties said an appeal had been made to the Pretoria Regional Services Council to lend money to the two councils so they could pay their debts.

Delport told the parties, however, that a special meeting to consider their request for money could be held next week, only after residents in these townships have undertaken to pay their accounts.

The Mamelodi Civic Association is scheduled to meet the local council today (Fri) to discuss a flat rate to be paid by residents. The council has already agreed to freeze R22 million owed by residents.

A spokesman for the Atteridgeville\Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Asro), said a public meeting would be held at the Community Hall at 2pm on Sunday to work out new strategies to resolve the rent boycott they started in April.

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S 00141
Plea to ER townships
to pay electricity bills

BY NKOANE MAKOBANE

The Tokoza and Katlehong councils have appealed to
residents to pay electricity bills in order to maintain the
supply of electricity in the two townships.

The appeal was relayed yesterday through Mr Nigel
Mandy, chairman and mediator in negotiations in vari-
ous black local authorities.

He said people in Tokoza had started paying the in-
term charge of R70 for houses with electricity since last
week and the response had been good.

In Katlehong, they were still negotiating with the
curb association which had, as an interim measure, of-
fered that each house pay R30.

"We have said R30 is acceptable for houses without
electricity. However, R70 is required for those with it."
Talks on township payment under way

Municipal Reporter

Negotiations are under way between the Province and civic associations to end rent and service-charge boycotts in Tokoza and Katlehong.

The chairman of the mediation team, Nigel Mandy, said about one-third of Tokoza residents had already come forward to pay for electricity this week.

In Katlehong — where Eskom is owed R5 million — Mr Mandy said the civic association had expressed willingness to resume payments.

They have offered R30 a house, whether it has an electricity connection or not,” he said.

Eskom has given the Katlehong Town Council until October 8 to repay a substantial part of its debt or it would be forced to “take action”.

Katlehong mayor Gideon Molotsi said pamphlets calling on residents to abandon the rent boycott would be distributed.

He said that if there was no response from residents, the power cut would be enforced on October 8.
We want an independent administrator, say Sowetans

by ELSABE WESSELS

THE Soweto Civic Association (SCA) this week called for the appointment of independent administrators to run Reef townships until a new local government constitution has been established.

The demand was made by SCA secretary Pat Lephunya following the signing of the historic accord between the Soweto People's Delegation — the negotiating arm of the SCA — and the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) on Monday.

"Such administrators will be responsible for running the townships from day to day while the new structure is put in place," Lephunya said.

The accord paves the way for an irrevo-
ciable process of change to third tier government in the Central Witwatersrand.

The implementation of the guideline's set out in the accord will affect the redef-
ition of local government borders in the region and secure the complete elimi-
nation of apartheid at that level.

Lephunya this week described the signing of the accord as a victory for the SCA. The programme of action it stipulates echoes the demands of Sowetans since they embarked on a mass rent boycot in June 1986, he said, underlining the significance of the accord. "Through the establishment of a Joint Metropolitan Chamber we have secured a structural mechanism to address and solve the problems of apartheid local government."

"The Chamber will begin to redress the legacies of the past, and the leaders dele-
gated to it will draft the new constitu-
tion."

The new single metropolitan area would include Johannesburg, greater Soweto, Roodpoort, Sandton, Alexan-
dra, Eldorado Park, Lenasia and Marl-
boro Gardens. It is envisaged that deleg-
egates from all these local government bodies will be represented on the Cham-
ber.

Another major victory claimed by the SCA is the transfer of houses to Soweto residents. Lephunya said the handing over of housing stock to the people recognised the permanence of blacks in South Africa's cities.

He envisaged that the accord would fundamentally impact on the restructur-
ing of local government countrywide.
E Rand residents face power cuts on Sunday

By GLENDA DANIELS

RESIDENTS in the East Rand townships of Daveyton and Watville face power cuts on Sunday unless they pay R1,38-million for electricity supplies by today. Daveyton has to pay R1,2-million and Watville R180 000 for October.

An interim measure was agreed to this week between officials of the councils and the Benoni council's acting town clerk, Andre du Jager. The two councils owe a total of R5-million in unpaid bills.

Meanwhile, residents of Duduza on the East Rand this week embarked on a consumer boycott demanding that the Nugel town council switch on electricity to the township. The electricity supply has been cut since June.

Electricity supplies were cut off to about 600 000 people in Pretoria townships in the middle of the week to force them to pay R4,7-million in service arrears.

The Pretoria City Council confirmed power had been restored following an urgent meeting of the parties involved.
Protest halts cop's posting

Sunday Times Reporter

TOWNSHIP residents have won the battle to stop the transfer of their popular police station commander.

Lt Roy Govender, who is stationed at Laudium, was due to start his new job tomorrow at police headquarters in Pretoria.

Now police chiefs have decided to "bow to pressure from community and religious bodies not to move the crime-busting policeman.

Lt Govender so endeared himself to the people of Laudium that when they heard he was going to be transferred they started a petition.

The 2 000-signature petition and letters of support from educational, civic and religious bodies were handed to commissioner of police for the Northern Transvaal Major-General Sarel Strydom this week.

Former House of Delegates MP Boetie Akranije, who headed the delegation, said the police had agreed to keep Lt Govender at Laudium.
What FW saw: dark, smelly hostel filth

Piles of rubbish, dirty water everywhere

By Moslwane Moroke
Hostels in the townships, or anywhere else in South Af-rica, are not home - but people are living there. The newsagent, who has never been inside one, said.

He did not like what he saw - something other men come home to every night after a hard day's work.

Yesterday, The Star visited the hostel to see what the President probably saw.

Welcome was the first greeting. The building was in fine order - the walls were painted white, and there was a pleasant smell of cleaning fluid in the air.

The walls were bare; the only furniture was a steel bed frame with a mattress and a pillow. The only heating was a small electric heater.

The smell came from the bathrooms, which were filthy. The water was brown and dirty, and the pipes were rusty.

The place was called a kitchen-cum-dining room. The walls and roof were covered with black soot from the pressure stoves, which burned every night and morning.

The bungalow has eight small beds where eight men have to sleep for most of the year while they remain at work. Often it is necessary to sleep in the same bed, as there is no privacy. The men are housed in a single room, with no windows or curtains, and no furniture.

Life inside - a hostel resident shows his spangless bed in the Nancefield hostel, which houses several thousand migrant labourers.

Cleaning up - a man does his laundry at the Nancefield hostel, which is sometimes also used as a preference to the cold showers.

"We have complained many times about the water but there is nothing else we can do because authorities do not attend to the problem," said Dube, Mngomez, from Bergville in Natal.

Another resident said "There is no place to live. We live here because there is nowhere else to stay."

From work we cook on our own stoves, eat and then go to bed. On weekends there is nothing to do and those who want to go to the beach have to go outside the hostel."
Taking hate out of the hostels

IAN BERNHARDT and JO DUNSTAN suggest that the hostels, site of much recent violence, should be adapted rather than abolished

It is important to understand that the hostel issue is not a new one. The concept of a long-established home with a nearby ancestral burial place has been in place for many years. However, recent events have highlighted the need for urgent action.

The situation is complex, and there are many factors at play. One of the main reasons is the economic realities of the area. Many young workers are forced to live in these hostels due to the high cost of living in the city. The lack of adequate housing and the overcrowding have led to tension and, in some cases, violence.

Solutions must be found that are not only effective but also sustainable. One such solution is to adapt the existing hostels rather than completely replacing them. This approach would involve upgrading the hostels to meet modern standards, providing better support systems for the residents, and ensuring that they are integrated into the community.

We must also address the underlying issues of poverty and inequality that contribute to the problems in the hostels. This requires a comprehensive approach that includes social welfare programs, education, and economic development.

In conclusion, while the recent violence in the hostels is alarming, it is a symptom of deeper societal issues. We must work together to find solutions that address these issues and provide a safer and more dignified living environment for all.

SUPPORT SYSTEM: up to 28 people can rely on one hostel dweller's wage.
Toekomsrus marchers may face violence

The CP has warned of a possibly violent confrontation today between conservative whites and residents of Toekomsrus township - if an authorised protest march proceeds through the white residential area.

Dr C P Mulder, CP MP for Randfontein, said in a statement yesterday he had lodged his party's opposition with the Randfontein magistrate, the town clerk and the local SAP Security Branch.

"The white residential area through which the march is to take place has about 30,000 to 40,000 white residents. This is CP country and we have heard persistent rumours that some people will not allow this march through their area. We fear residents may even form impromptu commandos to confront the marchers," Mulder warned.

He was highly upset about the authorities allowing the planned protest march through a white area, which was organised by the Toekomsrus Crisis Committee.

"This is looking for confrontation," Mulder warned.

"The Conservative Party will hold the National Party, which allows these marches through white areas, responsible for any damage or incidents resulting from this," he concluded.

Town Clerk Mr Louw Brits, approached for comment, said the march would start at 10am from the Toekomsrus sports fields. Residents would march to the municipal offices where a petition against the high municipal service costs would be handed over to the town clerk.

Brits said he had received the CP objection on Sunday - and had moreover proposed to receive the petition in Toekomsrus itself to save residents from having to march.

About 100 municipal traffic officers and policemen would be on duty to control the march, and another 100 reservists would be standing by.

Brits said he had also sent a letter to all residents along the route, asking them to remove their cars and not to interfere with the marchers.

-Sapa
Soweto acts on hostel transformation plans

THE Times of South Africa
JOHANNESBURG — The Voortoorn municipality has begun demolishing the hostel complex in the large housing project. According to the police report, 3 people were killed in a morning attack, which left six people injured. The police have detained 13 people in connection with the shootings.

The hostel complex was occupied by thousands of people who were demanding compensation for their homes. The police have warned that the complex will be demolished to make way for new housing developments.

A hostel resident said that the decision by the municipality to demolish the complex was taken to prevent further violence. The hostel, which is the largest of its kind in the town, has been at the center of a long-running dispute between the municipality and the hostel residents.

The municipality has said that the decision to demolish the hostel complex was made to improve the living conditions of the residents. The hostel was built in the 1980s and has become dilapidated over the years.

The hostel residents have threatened to resist the demolition, and a protest is planned for tomorrow. The municipality has said that the protest will be handled peacefully.

In a separate incident, a petrol station was set on fire by a group of people who were protesting against the demolition of their homes.

The police have urged residents to remain calm and peaceful during the protests. They have also warned the protesters against any acts of violence.

The situation remains tense and the police are on high alert.
Hostel complex goes

THE VOSLOORUS municipality has begun demolishing a hostel complex which township residents regard as one of the causes of violence which has plagued Vosloorus over the past two months.

Vosloorus mayor Mr Morrison Sinukena, said the decision to demolish the hostel complex was in response to a delegation sent to the Town Council by residents.

Yesterday afternoon a large crowd of several thousand residents watched peacefully as a mechanical shovel demolished the first row of dwellings. - Sapa
Joy as Vosloorus hostel crashes down

By ELIAS MALULEKE and Sapsie

VOSLOORUS residents rejoiced this week when the local hostel was partially demolished, but their joy was short-lived as their electricity was disconnected on Friday night, plunging the East Rand township into darkness.

Local civic association publicity secretary Keith Montsisi said it was not known why the electricity was disconnected at about 6pm.

He confirmed township residents had embarked on a rent and services boycott in May, but maintained they should have been informed of any “switch-off”.

Montsisi informed the Pretoria police after the electricity was disconnected and told them there were no patrols in the township. “I was concerned about what might happen in the darkness following what happened on Tuesday.”

Pretoria police liaison officer Maj Steve Senegeti said: “There is definitely a police presence in the area.”

On Friday the Vosloorus council told police the electricity would be reconnected that night.

Residents were woken on Wednesday morning by bulldozers moving in to demolish the hostel. Vosloorus is the second township to demolish hostels after Tsakane, whose hostels were pulled down in 1985 after a bitter battle between hostel inmates and township residents.

Kagiso in the West Rand is also about to demolish its hostels following the council’s resolution to resettle the inmates at Durban Deep Mines in Roodepoort.

The Vosloorus demolition comes after women marched to the council offices and demanded the hostel be demolished immediately. The council initially turned down their request, saying inmates had until September 21 to occupy the hostel.

Vosloorus councillor Sydwell Mofokeng said the inmates would be temporarily housed at the Ngum hostel, which has already been partly demolished to make way for family units.

However, a shortage of funds means there is still a long wait before hostels are phased out for residents of Soweto, Katlehong, and Thokoza.
The fighting makes us feel like men.
Housing & Hostels - Transvaal

1990

OCT. - DEC.
Council is reviewing its policy on homes as offices

THE Johannesburg City Council is in the process of reviewing its regulation concerning people using their homes as offices and workplaces.

"However, the council's current home/office laws would still be strictly applied, said the council’s acting deputy director of planning Morag Gilbert.

Clause 29 of the Johannesburg Town Planning Scheme currently limits the amount of floor space that can be used for office purposes in homes to 20% of the total floor space available.

The current regulations allow a home-owner to apply for permission to extend the amount of floor space used from 20% to 25% and to apply for permission to employ two people.

According to a council survey, it was estimated that there were currently about 3 500 home offices in the Johannesburg municipal area, both legal and illegal, which constituted 3.5% of the city's total housing stock.

The survey found that about 30% of the home offices could be accommodated in terms of the existing regulations which make provision for the employment of two people at the home office on application.

The new proposal would permit the employment of two people without application provided there was no negative effect on the neighbourhood.

The draft proposals would also allow other alternatives for Johannesburg residents to use homes as offices, but people who wished to acquire these rights would have to apply to the council.

Rezoning

The second category would allow the employment of more than two people which would be allowed if, among other things, a Site Development Plan was approved.

The third category would allow for the rezoning of residential houses Gilbert said in this category council planners had in mind houses adjacent to shopping centres.

She said the proposals had been sent to residents' organisations, which in the past had been hostile to the idea.

Responses had been received and the council would decide finally on the proposals in the light of the comments received from the residents' associations.

In the motivation for the new policy, the town planning department pointed out "there is a problem of having little control over the type of home office activities which cannot be accommodated in terms of the current Clause 29 requirements."

It also said that SA could not rely on mineral exports as a stimulus to growth and there was therefore a need for "inward industrialisation" and the generation of informal activity of every kind.

"This implies a great need for flexibility, freedom from constraints and positive action for nurturing growth wherever it occurs spontaneously."

The Johannesburg City Council is currently engaged in a court case against well-known Johannesburg artist Braam Kruger, who allegedly used more than 20% of his Yeoville home for painting.

Kruger and his wife Wimpe have pleaded not guilty to the charges at the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court.
Council rent move backfires

By SY MAKARINGE

The Diepmeadow Council's attempt to recover rent arrears when it hired a firm of attorneys backfired after it was slapped with a R2-million bill in legal fees.

The cash-strapped council hired Schoitz and Botha Attorneys in July this year to collect more than R37-million owed by Diepmeadow residents. This was after several black local authorities had been warned by the Transvaal Provincial Administration that essential services would be discontinued if they failed to collect rents.

The firm sent several letters of demand to residents in July warning them to pay their arrears or risk being taken to court. The impression given at the time was that the council would not incur any legal costs as these would be borne by the residents.

But the plan to take the residents to court was halted when the Diepmeadow Civic Association intervened on behalf of the residents.
Postal workers in protest over high electricity bills

ABOUT 50 placard-wielding, toy-throwing and ululating members of the Post and Telecommunications Workers Association demonstrated outside the Johannesburg Central Post Office yesterday to protest against exorbitant electricity bills.

The protesters were all residents of Molapo Villa in Soweto, a housing complex erected by the Department of Posts and Telecommunications for Post Office workers.

The department was deducting up to R450 from residents’ salaries each month for electricity, but without taking electricity meter readings, one of the demonstrators, Mr Albert Malatji, claimed.

No power

Some houses had no electricity at all while others had no meters, he said.

Potwa had requested an arrangement whereby Molapo Villa residents could pay their electricity bills directly to the Soweto City Council, but this had been rejected by the department, he said.

"The city council would charge us R55 a month for electricity," he added.

Another demonstrator, Mr M S Chauka said: "I am only earning R1 000 a month and then they still deduct R350 for electricity. I cannot afford it. I’ve got children to support."

Potwa spokesman at the protest, Mr Steve Matehikiza, said Molapo Villa’s electricity bills were based on average consumption and not cal-

culated from individual meter readings.

The union was therefore demanding individual meter readings.

Police maintained a visible but low profile while protesters paraded in front of the post office.

Sapa
Hillbrow flat raids

JOHANNESBURG — Police and Inkatha members are assisting landlords who exploit black tenants in grey residential areas, it was claimed here.

The allegation made by Actstop, however, were denied by the police and Inkatha's youth leader, Mr Themba Khoza.

Actstop has 75 flat committees in Hillbrow and adjoining suburbs. Actstop spokesperson, Mr Pressage Nkosi, said police on Monday evicted residents from a flat in Hillbrow for a landlord without a court order. Actstop members had said they would set up a mechanism to defend themselves.

Approached for comment, a Hillbrow police spokesperson said: "I am not prepared to say anything to you about Actstop."
Sayco campaign to clean Sebokeng

AN environmental awareness campaign has been launched by the Sebokeng branch of the South African Youth Congress, the Vaal Civic Association and the African National Congress, writes SELLO MOTLHABAKWE.

Sayco president for Sebokeng, Mr. Viva Manqa, said the township had been dirty since the recent outbreak of violence in the Vaal. Manqa said Sebokeng residents should donate 50 cents each at Sayco offices for the campaign.

Manqa said the campaign would also be aimed at using open spaces as parks to brighten the township.
Rent boycott to stay until demands met - Mayekiso

By Esmeré van der Merwe, Political Reporter

Rent boycotts would continue until a wide variety of demands, including the scrapping of all discriminatory laws and the current system of local government had been met, the president of the newly formed Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal said last night.

Moses Mayekiso said the organisation would meet on Sunday to draw up a plan of action on violence, the curfew and the "mum state of emergency" in several townships.

Speaking at the ANC's first conference on local authorities in Johannesburg yesterday, Mr. Mayekiso said civic associations should retain their independence, stay clear of any political affiliation and should not replace local government structures.

They should remain pressure groups fighting for better socioeconomic conditions and should act as watchdogs over any future government.

Demands which should be met before the rent boycotts were called off included:

- Scrapping of the black local authority system
- A start to negotiations on a system of nonracial municipalities
- Ending of the "mum state of emergencies" and phasing out of the hostel system
- Abolition of discriminatory laws
- A stop to the privatisation of housing, with civic associations taking control of residential development
- Removal of imbalances in the distribution of wealth through economic restructuring, including nationalisation.
Soweto rent payments pour in after accord

THÉO RAWANA

SOWETO residents are queuing at municipal offices to pay their rent and service accounts in the wake of the Greater Soweto Accord, which wrote off R15m in arrears. Amounts collected over the past month have risen by between 145% and 917%, according to township administrators.

The accord, signed by the TPA, the three Greater Soweto councils of Diepmeadow, Dobsonville and Soweto and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) on September 24, marked the end of a five-year-old rent boycott.

The Soweto City Council released figures on payments yesterday:
- One township that had collected R12 778 on September 1 collected R31 297 on October 1 — an increase of R145%.
- Another received R3 438 on September 1 and increased its takings by 585% on October 1 to R21 834.
- The R22 322 collected in one township on October 1 was a 202% increase on the R7 098 collected on September 1.
- In another township the R26 758 received on October 1 was 917% above the R2 631 collected on September 1.

Soweto mayor Sam Mkhwanazi said he was heartened by the way residents had responded.

"The deal with the TPA was reached after long, tough negotiations and the chances of any write-off of arrears after this are remote," he said.

Diepmeadow mayor Moses Khumalo said the response of residents was "nothing short of fantastic".

"The two townships of Meadowlands and Diepkloof, which had been hit by a near-total boycott, had had a phenomenal turn-out of residents who had come to pay since the accord was signed. Although he had no comparable figures readily available, Khumalo said, "Last Saturday, which was half a day, the Diepkloof office collected R90 000, while Meadowlands had R30 000. Meadowlands collected R58 000 on Monday and the trend has been followed in the past two days."
Loan Guarantee Fund finances first project

MARIETTE DU PLESSIS

Borrowers qualifying for a loan would be required to pay monthly instalments of at least R120.

The first phase, to be completed in November 1991, comprised 550 houses ranging from 35m² up to houses of 55m² and would be available for purchasers from R12 540.

He said the supply of housing must match the real affordability of the community and as such this project aimed at the lowest possible cost for formal housing, opening up a range of housing options not previously addressed by the industry.

Through this private sector initiative, low-income earners in the informal sector, small business and domestic service could become eligible for loans.

Development

Creighton said the planning was done with an integrated approach which balanced township design and construction in order to reduce costs and increase delivery speed.

Being concerned with the macro and macro environmental conditions within which the housing process developed, the Perm actively involved the local community in the development of the concept, he said.

The houses would "cluster" around the courtyard, replacing some 60% of the formal streets and meeting the social and cultural needs of the target area, he said.

Services provided included the availability of waterborne sewage, reticulated water, electricity and hard-surface roads.
Power cuts loom for thousands

By Therese Anders, Highveld Bureau

As the rent and services boycott continues in 27 Transvaal townships, many thousands of people face power cut-offs this week.

Cash-strapped town councils now owe Eskom R70 million, an increase of R47 million since the Government cut bridging finance on September 1.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) reports that after recent agreements, service payments in Soweto and in the Eastern Transvaal have improved.

"However, the situation has deteriorated on the East Rand, and more towns have joined the boycott in the Western Transvaal."

Last week Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal president Moses Mayekiso announced the boycott would continue until a number of demands had been met, including the scrapping of discriminatory laws and the system of local government.

The organisation later said the boycott in Soweto was off.

Carolina's Conservative Party-led council, which cut electricity, water and sewerage services to Slobela township several weeks ago, has warned it will cut services again today.

Flat rate

Vosloorus residents, who are already having their power cut for up to six hours a day, have until Thursday to pay up. Unless accounts are paid, the Pretoria City Council will cut power to a number of townships, including Mamelodi and Atteridgeville, on Friday.

In many Eastern Transvaal townships, residents are paying a flat rate for rent and services that is well below the amount needed to cover the ratepayer's true electricity and water consumption charges.

This still leaves black local authorities with big bulk-supply accounts that they cannot pay.

The TPA, therefore, is allowing councils to apply for funds earmarked for regional services councils for township capital projects.

Eskom communication manager Johan du Plessis said the electricity giant viewed the boycott in a serious light.

"But we are not anxious about it because we are negotiating rather than switching towns off."

He said the fact that people were starting to pay meant they felt they could "pull this thing through."

He stressed Eskom would not consider writing off any of the R70 million debt.
Rent boycotts in townships to go on

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Rent boycotts in all Transvaal townships except Soweto will continue until agreements have been reached.

"Mr. Cas Coovadia, assistant secretary for the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast), said the Soweto boycott remained "off."

The boycott ended last month with the signing of an agreement between the Transvaal Provincial Authority, the greater Soweto town councils and the Soweto People's Delegation.

Mr. Coovadia clarified remarks made last week by association president Mr. Moses Mayekiso on the continuation of the boycotts.

"Soweto's rent boycott is off — at least for the time being. People are starting to pay. But other boycotts will continue.

"The Soweto agreement had very positive aspects and has brought about tremendous gains for the community. But the struggle in Soweto is far more advanced than in other areas.

"Cast now needs to examine how the TPA can be pressured into extending the agreement to other townships.

"Cast will draw up guidelines which could be used by civic associations to ensure that the Soweto signing is not used by the TPA to pressure other structures into signing."

Cast, formed last month, represents 38 civic associations.

Mr. Coovadia said a national civic association would be formed early next year."
Sowetans queue to pay rent

By Montshiwa Moroke

There has been a dramatic increase in the payment of rent and service charges in Soweto since the signing of the Greater Soweto Accord about two weeks ago, says the Soweto City Council.

The accord was signed by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the three Greater Soweto councils of Diepmeadow, Dobsonville and Soweto, and the Soweto People's Delegation (SPD) on September 24.

Figures released by Soweto town clerk Piet Geers for the period between September 1 and October 4 show dramatic increases of between 15 and 917 percent.

On September 1 Jabavu collected R12 778 in rent and on October 1 R31 257 — an increase of 144 percent.

On the same days, Chiawelo collected R8 668 and R19 661 (128 percent); Orlando East R9 185 and R26 226 (186 percent); and Zola R3 438 and R21 634 (535 percent).

Tladi's rent collection showed a 917 percent increase from last month.

Mr Geers said the department had taken extra security measures at pay points since the increase in payments.

The acting town clerk of Diepmeadow, Tom Mabambe, said the response to the accord had been good.

A spokesman for the Dobsonville treasury department, Chris van Zyl, said that from Tuesday last week, cashiers had been fairly busy.
Project will house 5 000

By Jovial Rastao

A R23 million housing project, which will accommodate an estimated 5 000 black people in Daveyton, was launched last week.

The "Emaphupheni" project has a community centre and school.

Speaking at the launch of the project, general manager of housing of the Permanent Building Society — chief funder of the project — Denis Creighton, said there was already a waiting list of more than 1 000 registered homeowners signed up for houses costing between R12 540 and R27 900.
State lifts Soweto curfew

MINISTER of Law and Order Mr Adriam Vlok at the weekend announced the lifting of the controversial 9pm to 4am curfew in Soweto.

However, the curfew still in force in Tembisa, Katlehong and Tokozza on the East Rand.

The curfew was condemned by many organisations and residents when it was declared by State President FW de Klerk on September 25. They claimed it would not only leave residents unprotected but would also make them vulnerable to attacks by the "forces of darkness".

Vlok said the drop in the crime rate in Greater Soweto areas like Meadowlands, Dobsonville and Diepkloof justified the lifting of the curfew.

He said the Government could lift the curfew quickly because of "the wonderful co-operation" of the people of Soweto in the past weeks.

The Pan Africanist Congress said they had always condemned the curfew. A spokesman said the PAC saw Operation Iron Fist as a continuation of the earlier operation Watchdog which was the Government's plan to disarm the residents. The spokesman said the Government was using the recent violence as an excuse to continue with the campaign under a new name.

Azapo general secretary Paudelani Nefolobhodwe said residents are most probably happy about the lifting of the curfew "in relation to their original call for the removal of the army from townships".

By IDO LEKOTA
INTOLERABLE conditions in the townships coupled with a desire for a better life have contributed to an influx of black professionals into white suburbs.

This emerged from interviews with some of the black professionals who have abandoned townships around Johannesburg.

A businessman, who requested anonymity, said the living conditions in the "traditional" townships were abominable and forced people with "means" to find better living places in the white suburbs.

"Some people have moved into the new extensions. Living conditions there are better than in the traditional townships. However, people like me, who could afford it, went for the best — the white suburbs," he said.

A young doctor said even since he left Soweto more than a year ago he had no reason to "yearn for what I left behind".

He said that in a Johannesburg suburb he had more privacy than ever before as he now had a bigger house.

Consumer Institute for Research and Promotion director Elridge Mathewa described conditions in the townships as "barbaric and not conducive to human habitation".

Mathewa, who recently vacated his Parktown house for a house in Spruitview (a new black suburb on the East Rand), said he had been forced to leave the township because of the "unacceptable" conditions there.

“Black townships are barbaric. The streets are dusty and litter is strewn all over the place. You do not have room for a proper garden or a swimming pool," he said.

He conceded, however, that life in a white suburb was not always "rosy" and had taken its toll on him.

"I found myself exposed to a totally different culture. I started missing being among my own people. But I was not keen on returning to the township mess I had left behind. That is why I decided to leave the city and move into Spruitview," he said.
Coetzee gives evidence at UK hearing

LONDON — A detailed description of the office and home of SAP forensics chief Lt Gen Lothar Neethling, and details of how he allegedly provided poison to kill anti-government activists, were led in evidence at a special hearing in London yesterday.

Alleged former police hit squad leader Dirk Coetzee was giving evidence at the start of Neethling's R1.5m defamation and damages suit against the editors and publishers of Vrye Weekblad and the Weekly Mail.

Defending

The newspapers are defending their publication of allegations by the former security force police captain that he obtained "knock-out" drops and poison from Neethling.

Coetzee said it was intended to kill activists and ANC members in 1981, when he was in charge of the alleged Viakopane death squad camp near Pretoria.

The civil action is linked to the inquiry into hit squads by the Harris Commission, before which Neethling denied Coetzee's claims, suggesting Coetzee might have seen his office and home during the course of his duties while he was posted to the police narcotics bureau, Sanaab.

The Rand Supreme Court, which is to begin hearings on November 12, gave permission for evidence to be heard in London from Coetzee, who is now in exile. — Sapa.

No end yet in sight to township rent boycotts

RENT and service payments in Transvaal townships improved in September, but there was still no indication that the boycotts had been broken, TPA officials said yesterday.

Residents of 57 Transvaal townships are refusing to pay rent and services charges.

At least 26 owe Eskom R7.6bn in electricity arrears.

Meanwhile, a body representing southern Transvaal township civic organisations yesterday reiterated its call for the rent boycott to continue until the authorities had met its demands.

A conference of 30 civic organisations, organised by the Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast), unanimously resolved to co-ordinate "mass activity" within the next three weeks to demand the scrapping of rent arrears and abolition of racially based local authorities.

At a press conference yesterday, Cast president Moses Mayekiso said the envisaged mass activity would include protest marches and mass meetings.

Vermeulen said in a statement that payments improved last month after agreements had been reached in Greater Soweto, eastern Transvaal and the East Rand townships of Daveyton and KwaThema.

"However, there is no indication that the boycott has been broken as yet, as only two regions (eastern Transvaal and far northern Transvaal) had payments of over 50%.

Wilson Zwane and Tim Cohen

Maguire fears for life after being freed

BULAWAYO — The Zimbabwean government has unconditionally released Rory Burt Maguire, 39, who two years ago was jailed for failing to report the presence of SA agents and of assisting them in carrying out sabotage.

Maguire — who prison sources said was freed about two months ago — told Zana national news agency on Monday he was afraid for his life.

He was jailed for seven years on July 14, 1988 for withholding information from authorities about the fatal bomb attack on a Transvaal suburb, Bulawayo, which resulted in Obert Mwanza being killed and a number of SA refugees being injured.

It is not clear whether Maguire's release was in terms of the presidential amnesty proclaimed last July, when President Robert Mugabe pardoned a wide range of criminals. — Sapa
Top law firms joining the battle over township rents

CIVIC associations in rent-defaulting townships are making increasing use of top legal firms as they swap confrontation tactics for negotiations.

Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) national director Brian Currin says a number of civic associations in townships threatened with service cuts have approached his organisation for assistance.

"We then instruct other law firms to handle these cases for us. Some law firms handle our cases for nothing and others charge us tariffs," Currin says, adding: "There are 50 law firms in Johannesburg that handle our cases for nothing."

Those who do charge tariffs do so at about a third of the going rate, says Currin.

According to Currin, the municipalities are not entitled to switch off electricity just because township residents are boycotting these and other service payments.

Procedures

"If a tenant does not perform according to the agreement with his landlord, the landlord cannot take the law into his hands and eject him or cut his electricity off. He must get a court order," Currin says.

Lawyers Dan Rosengarten and Sue Albery of Bell Dewar and Hall — one of the law firms that handles LHR cases — maintain that municipalities, in cutting off electricity, should follow proper procedures and consider individual circumstances.

"A blanket cut-off is unfair in that it affects everyone including those who have paid for electricity," Albery says.

Bell Dewar and Hall represents, among others, the townships of Thokoza, Spruitview on the East Rand and Tswapale in the Free State.

"What we do is threaten municipalities who have cut off services with a legal action until services are restored," Rosengarten says, adding: "Threatened legal action coupled with sustained and organised pressure from the community have sparked off negotiations among interested parties — the town councils, Transvaal Provincial Administration, Eskom and residents. We have attended some of these negotiations to give advice to our clients," Rosengarten says.

According to Rosengarten all parties are now willing to resolve rent boycotts through negotiations.

Thokoza administrator Gert Muller argues that a blanket discontinuation of services, while not ideal, does protect the paying residents from victimisation by the unpaying residents.

"Some of the paying residents do request us to cut power in the whole township. These people fear for their lives," he says.

However, electricity is not cut off until residents have been given notice.

"Residents are given enough time either to pay or make other arrangements," says Muller, adding that there is no law preventing the town councils from cutting off electricity if it is not paid for.

"It is only the Health Act that prohibits the cutting off of water. But while the Act says water should be provided, it does not stipulate that individual houses should be provided with it," Muller says.
Katlehong rent talks

NEGOTIATIONS between representatives of the Katlehong Civic Association, Eskom, Katlehong City Council and Transvaal Provincial Administration resume today in a bid to resolve the rent and service charges boycott in the East Rand township.

The meeting follows proposals made last week that residents in houses with electricity pay R45 and those without electricity pay R10.

The payments were proposed by the civic association to enable Eskom’s electricity supply to continue for this month while negotiations continued.

Katlehong and 27 other Transvaal townships owe Eskom R70 million.

The council owes Eskom about R5 million...

Residents of Vosloorus on the East Rand could face power cuts tomorrow - Sowetan, Reporter.
CIVIC associations in the Transvaal are to organise stayaways, boycotts and protest marches in a bid to bring about the collapse of the local government system.

This was announced by the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) this week.

The organisation, which was formed last month as an umbrella body for 38 civic associations, announced at a press conference in Johannesburg that “mass grassroots struggles and campaigns will be intensified to force the resignation of councillors and the adoption of a new non-racial municipal dispensation.”

Protest actions

Cast president Moses Mayekiso said civic associations would determine the nature of protest actions which would take place within the next few weeks.

Cast announced several decisions which had been taken at a one-day meeting in Johannesburg.

These included:

- Racial local government structures should be disbanded and replaced with a system of single tax-bases in townships and cities
- One person, one vote municipal elections for non-racial municipalities.

Family units

- All service charge arrears must be written off and houses should be transferred to “those who had paid for them.”
- Cast would establish community trust funds to contribute towards the building of new houses
- All development schemes by the private and public sectors should involve community participation
- Cast would campaign for the conversion of hostels into family units and the development of shacks into formal housing

Township violence

Asked whether residents could be mobilised into mass action in view of the recent spate of township violence and continuing negotiations on national level, Mr Mayekiso said:

“The militancy of the people is still there. The violence has not hampered mass action. Instead, people are angry with the State for undermining their organisations and are committed to intensifying the struggle.”
HUNDREDS of white South Africans, most of whom have no inkling of what township life is like, will next month gain first-hand experience of the hustle and bustle of Soweto in what will be known as the "Soweto Encounter".

Organised by Konoma, a Christian agency for reconciliation, the exercise is aimed at promoting "contact between divided communities" of South Africa and to keep the friendship going in the interests of the country.

Hundreds of Soweto families are expected to open their doors and their hearts - to their fellow countrymen between November 23 and November 25 and share with them their fears and their hopes, their tribulations and their expectations.

**Guests**

The guests, from plush northern Johannesburg suburbs and other areas, will spend three days and two nights with their hosts in overcrowded match-box houses in Soweto where in many cases a kitchen is also a bedroom.

At best they will share evening meals - which can be anything from pap and morogo a la carte to mopani and magoti (samb and offal) - in dining rooms which serve as bedrooms at night. At worst they will go to bed hungry and with an empty stomach.

They won't have the luxury of eating out as the number of restaurants in this sprawling and dusty city can be counted on one hand and are seldom patronised by the cash-strapped residents.

**Scene from a previous encounter held in Mamelodi.**

**By SY MAKARINGE**

Some of them will be thrown into the deep end of the "Wild West" where only the fit survive and where the knife used to rule the roost before guns became fashionable. They will have to sleep with one eye wide open and be ready to get dressed and scuttle for cover in case of an eventuality.

Bathrooms are non-existent in more than 90 per cent of Soweto's homes. The visitors will have to make do with wash bowls.

Hot water here is a luxury. The visitors will be very lucky to get a warm bath in the morning as the word geysers is a foreign concept.

If they have to answer the call of nature in the middle of the night they will have to venture into the darkness because as most Soweto homes do not have inside toilets.

A Sunday afternoon stroll through the narrow streets of the township may be spoilt by the sight of streams of faces coming from blocked sewers - a sight which Soweto residents have come to regard as normal.

Of course, Soweto is a city of contrasts. Some of the "lucky" visitors will be hosted in cozy homes in places such as Diepkloof Extension, Protea North and Beverly Hills where life is no more different than in the northern suburbs of the Golden City. But the danger there is that they will go back home with an impression that "all is well in Soweto".

Soweto also has places of interest such as Club 707 in Orlando West and the Blue Fountain in Mafetha where they can dine in style.

Regional co-ordinator of Konoma Becky Ginsburg said although black people were known to be very hospitable she did not expect them to go out of their way just to please their guests.

"Just be normal and be free," she said.

Ginsburg saidGuests would be encouraged to experience Soweto life as fully as possible. She said she would be very happy if people in areas such as Msengwville came forward and volunteered to host the visitors. Are there any takers from Nancefield Hostel?

The Soweto Encounter is one of many programmes Konoma has organised in the past three years in an effort to afford white South Africans, especially, an opportunity to see how "the other half" lives.

The first was about three years ago when hundreds of whites spent a weekend with their township hosts in Mamelodi. Many had been apprehensive before they ventured into the township. But in the three days that they had been rubbing shoulders with township residents they became impressed by the people's openness and hospitality.

**Unrest**

Questioned on the possible effect of the unrest in the township Ginsburg said: "As with all previous Konoma Encounters we will take steps to ensure the safety of all participants. We are optimistic that violence will subside by late November. If it does not we will have to reassess the viability of the Encounters, unfortunately."

Konoma was started by Dr Nico Smith, former pastor of the Mamelodi NG Kerk in Afrika, in 1986. The organisation helps South Africans prepare for a non-racial future by providing them with opportunities for personal and meaningful contact with people of other communities.

"Anyone who is interested in hosting a white family or individual can write to Konoma, PO Box 33596, Jeppestown, 2043 or phone Ginsburg at (011) 618-4272."
LAW and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok has hinted that the 9pm to 4am curfew in the East Rand townships of Tokoza, Vosloorus and Katlehong will be lifted shortly.

Addressing a Press conference at the Vosloorus Police Station on Tuesday night Vlok said after evaluating the situation on the ground, he believed that the curfew could not remain in force "for a long period".

"We will lift it as soon as circumstances permit but I want to stress that if violence breaks out again we will not hesitate to reimpose the curfew," he said.

He and several top police officials, including Commissioner of Police General Johan van der Merwe, had earlier visited a police roadblock at the Phola Park squatter camp in Tokoza.

Vlok talked to motorists while their vehicles were being searched.

Vlok's party, accompanied by representatives of the media, then drove through the seemingly deserted squatter camp before returning to Vosloorus.

At the Press conference Vlok said that he had been pleased to find that residents were heeding the curfew and cooperating with police, but added that electricity blackouts in certain areas made law enforcement difficult.

Vosloorus mayor Mr Morrison Smekela said the imposition of the curfew had saved "very many lives in Vosloorus" and had been welcomed by local residents.

"Before the curfew more than 200 people died in this town," he said.

He said that as the situation was normalising he hoped the curfew would be lifted during next week.

A nightly seven-hour curfew went into effect in Soweto, Katlehong, Tokoza and Vosloorus on September 25.

The measure was lifted in Soweto last week - Sowetan Correspondent
Pretoria townships face power cuts

By MONK NKOMO

Residents of Atteridgeville and Mamelodi are bracing themselves for electricity cuts again today following "unsuccessful attempts by both town councils to urge residents to pay rent.

The executive committee of the Pretoria Regional Services Council met late yesterday to consider loan applications totalling about R9 million from the two town councils to enable them to pay its outstanding electricity bills to the Pretoria City Council.

Mr Piet Deport, chairman of the RSC, said he was optimistic the loan would be granted "I think there is going to be an application settlement".

The Pretoria City Council, which cut electricity supplies to both townships for 12 hours on September 26, has threatened to take similar action unless the arrears are paid today.

A spokesman for the city council said Mr James Leach, chairman of the management committee, "is full of hope that the loan will be granted".

She added that no final decision had been reached on whether to switch off electricity should the amount owed not be paid today.

Civic groups in the two townships have threatened to take court action.

They have also threatened mass action including a consumer boycott should electricity supplies be cut off.
Pretoria’s townships given power reprieve pending loan

The Pretoria City Council would not cut power to neighbouring townships today pending the Pretoria Regional Services Council’s decision to step in with loans to help the townships.

The council had threatened to discontinue power to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi today unless about Röm in electricity arrears was paid.

At a Press conference yesterday Pretoria City Council’s management committee chairman James Leach said the Pretoria Regional Services’ executive committee would make recommendations at a special meeting next Thursday that loans be granted to the town councils of Atteridgeville, Mamelodi and Zithobeni to enable them to pay their accounts.

Until then the Pretoria City Council management committee would not take action to cut the main electricity supply to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi, Leach said.

The city council cut electricity supply to Atteridgeville and Mamelodi last month and restored it hours later on the condition that the townships made payments on their arrears today.

In another development, negotiations among the TPA, Eskom, Katlehong Town Council and the Katlehong Civic Association began last night.

Katlehong mayor Gideon Molotsi had said the talks would centre on the interim flat rates residents would have to pay to keep essential services going.

“If residents accept our proposed monthly flat rates then they will pay R50 for houses with electricity and R30 for houses without electricity. The business men will pay R100,” Molotsi said.

Intravenous drips withdrawn for testing

SABAX, manufacturer of intravenous drips supplied to clinics in Johannesburg where a number of babies had died, said in a statement yesterday it had brought a microbiological specialist from the UK to help evaluate its procedures.

The Department of National Health and Population Development said tests of drips supplied to the department by Sabax had “shown contamination of the prepared medicines.”

Saxbax spokesman FF Erasmus said it had “suspended all of the admixed products which may, or may not, have been implicated pending the outcome of intensive investigations.”

The clinics had withdrawn use of the drips after an unspecified number of neonatal babies had died. Park Lane Clinic said yesterday that laboratories had found the medical products in question contained the same bacteria as found in infected babies at the clinic. — Sapa
No non-racial cities under apartheid — ANC expert

BY JO-ANNIE COULINGS

The African National Congress has urged civic associations to guard against subverting the thrust of national constitutional negotiations as they engage local and provincial authorities in talks about service provision.

It is also taking concrete steps to help civic associations avoid conceding points that will lend legitimacy to these structures.

Hard on the heels of the ANC's intervention, made during its conference on local government matters last week, comes the announcement by the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAs) — with more than 30 affiliates — that it is stepping up its role in securing the resignation of township councillors.

CAs, in an interview with The Weekly Mail, said it is tackling the problem of local government and that civic associations are accountable to the people of South Africa.

The developments are an implicit rebuke to the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce of the Central RSA and the Development Association of Jabulani, which are co-led by the Johannesburg City Council.

In an interview with The Weekly Mail, ANC local government expert Thoomo-

MINIST BOKU warned against easy assumptions that civic structures or organisations are representative of the people and their functions should be coordinated with the ANC.

"It is not possible to have a non-apartheid city under apartheid," he insisted. "We need to guard against encouraging joint working groups where the danger is that civic associations might be co-opted, might be forced to involve themselves in delivering services — and in the end not be able to deliver the goods.

"We must be very careful about having resources and real power be delegated to them," he insisted. "We are also very careful about having people or organisations which are accountable to the people of South Africa.

"This does not mean that civic associations should return to negotiating around service delivery," he said.

Sharon the ANC view that civic negotiations do not play a role in agreements that are disadvantageous to residents, Boku announced that there would be "very broad parameters within which negotiations will take place, and ensure that weak civic organisations are not perceived as anti-government organisations."
Rent crisis focus shifts to role of township councils

By WALLY MBHELE

AS the rent crisis in more than 30 Transvaal townships lurches on, the major conflict has shifted from rent repayments to focusing on the status of local town councils in talks.

Civic associations which are negotiating with the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) on rent arrears are demanding that township councils and officials be excluded from the talks.

The TPA, however, is equally adamant that councillors participate in resolving the crisis.

It is estimated the rent-boycott-stricken town councils owe Eskom R70-million, which it is not prepared to write off.

An umbrella body, the Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cas), has stated that the "rent boycott will continue" until, among other things, councillors resign.

In its first major announcement since its formation last month, Cas said this week that it planned a mass campaign "to bring about the collapse of the system of local government".

"We strongly condemn the attitude of the TPA to push local civic to negotiate with councillors. We believe councillors should resign as they don't have any mandate to negotiate on behalf of the people," said Cas general secretary Sam Mhluli.

Civic associations have, since the beginning of the recent rent boycott, refused to deal directly with local councils, preferring to negotiate with the TPA — a move which saw some councils, such as that of Thokoza, collapse. In other townships, such as Kamelela, councillors resigned voluntarily. In Soweto, successful negotiations were conducted and the rent boycott was resolved.

However, last week a meeting between the Atteridgeville and Saulville Residents' Organisation (ASRO), the TPA, and the Atteridgeville council failed to reach a settlement over the council's proposed interim service charges.

ASRO claimed the TPA had "failed to first dissolve the local council, as recommended by the Kriel Commission".

The Pretoria city council had given Atteridgeville residents until yesterday to pay for services, failing which electricity would be cut.

Electricity and water to Vosloorus has been cut at intervals over the past week.
Squeeze on rented accommodation as flat building winds down

By ROBERT LAING

RENTED accommodation is hard to find. No new flats are being erected and tenants in old buildings are seeing their homes sectionalised and sold under them at prices they cannot afford.

Estate agent Eskel Jawitz says, "It's a question of affordability. The market can't support the high rent needed to offset high-rise building costs."

"New flat buildings are not economical — especially with interest rates at 20 to 21 percent."

Sable Holdings financial director Andy Bouleurs says: "People think residential rentals have gone through the roof, but they are still not high enough to attract developers. I don't know if a new flat building that has been built in Johannesburg within the past 10 years."

"The returns on residential property are way below those of office or industrial property."

Financial institutions see residential property as bad business. Fedlife's property portfolio is a typical example: offices, 55 percent; industrial, 27 percent; retail, 12 percent; vacant land, 4 percent; hotels and residential, 2 percent.

"Residential buildings are a management headache with little profit, according to the institutions. "You have hundreds of tenants complaining about the plumbing and other stuff. Commercial property is a pleasure — you simply collect your cheque every month," Bouleurs says.

Some estate agents blame the Rental Act for the lack of rented accommodation. Flats built before 1966 were rent controlled at prices landlords found unrealistically low.

Government hopes to rekindle developers' interest in rental accommodation by phasing out the rent control of white dwellings by the end of the year.

Rent control will remain for married tenants with dependents whose gross income does not exceed R1,250 a month, single tenants with dependents whose gross income does not exceed R750 and tenants who are more than 69 years old.

Landlords will be prevented from increasing rents on decontrolled buildings by more than 10 percent each year for the first two years after the abolition of rent control.

Axing rent control, however, is unlikely to harvest any new flat buildings.

"Economics dictates. Building costs and interest rates are too high to justify property developers investing in flat buildings," Jawitz says.
Township threatens consumer boycott

THE Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Asro) yesterday threatened a consumer boycott because of the Atteridgeville Town Council's decision to cut off electricity to non-paying residents.

The process of switching off electricity to defaulters began yesterday and, said Atteridgeville town clerk Dan Mouton, would continue until electricity accounts were paid.

"It is now in the hands of the residents if they come forward and pay their accounts, we will not continue with the switch-offs," he said.

Asro official Abe Nkomo said the residents had decided to bring their grievances to the attention of the authorities by embarking on a consumer boycott.

Inconceivable

"Our repeated calls for the disbanding of the town council have been unheeded and that is why the people have decided to embark on a consumer boycott until the council has been disbanded and electricity restored," Nkomo said.

Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cassie) assistant general secretary Cas Coovadia said his organisation found it "inconceivable that basic services are being cut off by illegitimate council structures and racist white municipalities at a time when negotiations are in progress between numerous civic associations and the TPA." The latest power cut in Atteridgeville further vindicates our decision to co-ordinate mass action against such actions by the authorities. Such mass action will take place in various areas of the southern Transvaal in the next fortnight," Coovadia said.

Sapa reports that Asro publicity secretary John Ramatsui said his organisation would be meeting residents' organisations from Mamelodi and other townships surrounding Pretoria. A decision about a consumer boycott would be taken within two weeks.

Asro's intention to embark on an "extended" consumer boycott had been communicated to the Pretoria Chamber of Commerce, Ramatsui added.

Nkomo said he believed the council intended cutting off electricity to 1 000 houses a day.

Mouton said more than 90% of residents were boycotting rent payments.

The move to switch off electricity in Atteridgeville came two days after residents were assured by the Pretoria City Council that their electricity would not be cut pending a decision by the Pretoria Regional Services Council (RSC) to grant loans to the town councils of Mamelodi, Atteridgeville and Zithobeni.

The Pretoria RSC is expected to approve the loans at a meeting on Thursday.

RSC chairman Pieter Delport has said the loan, which would take care of all outstanding debts for essential services up to and including October, would be "market-oriented" and had to be repaid within five years.

Outstanding debts were an estimated R13.8m for the three townships, Delport said.

Vosloorus residents have rejected the local town council's proposal that they pay a R70 monthly flat rate. Instead, they have decided to continue their six-month-old boycott.

Facilitator Nigel Mandy said the parties negotiating to end the Vosloorus boycott were to meet today.
TPA, VCA meet on rent boycott

THE Vosloorus Civic Association meets the Transvaal Provincial Administration today in an effort to "end the six-month-old rent boycott."

The meeting follows the local residents' rejection of the council's proposed R70 flat rate.

Residents resolved on Sunday that they would resume payments only if the council conceded the R50 flat rate.

VCA spokesman, Mr

Keith Montsi, said his organisation would "press for the R50 flat rate" when they meet the TPA. He also said the TPA would also be asked to write-off all arrears incurred since the non-payment of rent and service charges.

Montsi attacked the Vosloorus Town Council for electricity cuts in the township.
Giving the home buyer a choice

HOUSING has always been a serious issue in South Africa.

The problem has snowballed and, as demands increase to crisis proportions, people are looking to the problem of supply.

Basil Read has been involved in housing schemes for several years — especially in the coloured community.

The Delmore Park project is an example of the company’s work in this area. The project is now reaching fruition.

The housing project addresses the problems in the coloured community in the East Rand, where until now choices were limited.

Basil Read housing division MD Pat Calligan says: “The project aims to re-establish the choice for the upper income bracket in that community.”

Basil Read is offering a variety of attractive designs,

Overall aesthetics have been given consideration, with more than 50 different designs available.

“Building will commence on January 7 and I expect to have the entire project completed by December next year,” he says.

A show house and on-site offices have been completed.

Housing packages begin at about R54 000 and upwards.
Actistop urges action against CP councils

CIVIC Associations countrywide are being urged by Actistop to take action against Conservative Party councils which refuse to heed the scrapping of the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act.

Spokesman Mohammed Danger said this week people should force recalcitrant councils to implement the law by way of organised protest, marches and court action.

Threatening that CP councillors and CP municipalities could be tied up in litigation for the next 20 years, Actistop further urged Lawyers for Human Rights, the National Association for Democratic Lawyers and the Black Lawyers Association to assist any individual or civic association which had to go to court.

"It is the start of the Martin Luther King era of the 1950's in South Africa when people who are blocked, will go in their thousands to the front doors of previously segregated amenities to demand entry.

Weapons

"Their weapons will be exposure and embarrassment," he said.

Danger said Actistop had urged the powerful umbrella body, Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Casi) representing all civic associations in the area, to adopt this form of protest.

"To the CP councils who defy the law, we say if you want to retain your apartheid signs, then you must also put up the white's only signs outside your businesses."
Massive blackout looming in townships

NEGOTIATIONS between provincial authorities and civic associations to end rent boycotts in the Transvaal are in danger of being derailed, with tens of thousands of township residents now facing electricity blackouts.

The talks process was brought under threat today when it emerged a letter was sent to black councils instructing them to use funds collected from residents to pay council salaries before paying off electricity debts.

If councils did not follow these rules, the TPA could not become a party to agreements ending rent and services boycotts.

Civic associations have accused the TPA of blackmail and warned that residents would not pay to uphold apartheid structures.

Daveyton and Wattville townships on the East Rand faced power cuts at yesterday after negotiations broke down on Monday.

Rally

The Atteridgeville City council was yesterday continuing to cut power to houses and businesses of rent and service charge defaulters.

In Vosloorus, meetings were held yesterday to try to prevent a breakdown of talks between the Vosloorus civic association and the TPA.

A meeting between the Benoni Town Council, the two civic in Daveyton and Wattville, the Daveyton and Wattville Town Councils, Eskom and the TPA, ended in deadlock after TPA officials insisted that a mandatory list of priorities be followed with payments.

The Benoni Town Council said the TPA thought monies collected should be used to pay salaries, then water, sewerage, refuse removal and electricity - in that order.

"Certain of the parties present insisted that the flat rate of R70 for Daveyton and R50 for Wattville be utilised primarily for the payment of services, for example, electricity."
THE Atteridgeville City Council on Monday proposed the implementation of a curfew and "Operation Iron Fist" after it cut off electricity supplies to houses and shops whose owners are in arrears with rent.

By MONK NKOMO

A private company was hired by the council to cut off the electricity supply at a cost of R80 per house, according to a spokesman for the local civic association (Asro).

Mr Dan Mouton, acting town clerk of Atteridgeville confirmed the power cuts but said he did not know the amount being paid to the private company.

The ANC, UDF and Asro yesterday condemned the council's decision. "This is a highly provocative and suspicious move. We call upon our people to look at a form of mass action," the three organisations said in a statement.

A spokesman for the local branch of Cosas said the power cuts were going to retard their progress as they were busy preparing for final examinations.

The cuts were done four days after the Pretoria City Council announced that they were not going to cut electricity supplies in Atteridgeville and Mamelodi again after the Pretoria Regional Services Council granted both town councils loans to pay their electricity bills following a rent boycott.

The decision by the Atteridgeville council to cut electricity supplies yesterday was taken at a special council meeting on October 5. "We convinced the RSC and the Pretoria City Council that we are doing something," Sowetan established yesterday. The council also discussed the possibility of implementing Operation Iron Fist and curfew after the power cuts.

Rate

Mouton said the reconnection fee of electricity was R15 per house plus rent arrears from June 1 this year. The rent boycott started on April 1.

A number of residents yesterday telephoned Sowetan appealing to Asro officials to hold serious talk with the council to determine a flat rate and to resolve the rent crisis.
Townships face blackout after rent talks deadlock

TWO East Rand townships were facing power cuts last night after negotiations to resolve the rent crisis collapsed this week.

The talks deadlocked on Monday night when the Transvaal Provincial Administration’s mandatory list of payment priorities was rejected at a meeting between the TPA, ESKOM, representatives from the town councils of Benoni, Daveyton and Waterville and delegates from civic associations in the two townships.

In a statement yesterday, the Benoni Town Council said the TPA’s attitude was that payments collected from residents should be used for wages before water, sewerage, refuse removal and electricity debts were paid.

The council said “certain parties present” rejected the TPA’s list of payment priorities, saying that flat rates of R70 and R50 in Daveyton and Waterville respectively should be “utilised primarily for the payment of services such as electricity”.

As a result of the deadlock, ESKOM, which has been supplying electricity to the two East Rand townships since the beginning of the month in terms of an interim agreement, had indicated it intended pulling out of the agreement and would discontinue the electricity supply, the council said.

It said ESKOM was due to cut off electricity to Watville and Daveyton at midnight last night.

Agreement

But ESKOM communication manager Johan du Plessis said his company would not cut off the townships’ power supplies as they came from the Benoni Town Council and not “directly from ESKOM”.

However, it would pull out of the negotiations on direct electricity supply to Watville and Daveyton if an agreement was not reached by last night, Du Plessis said.

TPA officials met representatives of the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (CAST) yesterday in an attempt to resolve the crisis, Sapa reports.

Speaking after the meeting, Transvaal MEC for local government Olaus van Zyl said “In the provision of services to communities, local authorities must inevitably employ staff. It was stressed by the TPA and accepted by CAST that the payment of salaries is one of the first priorities in meeting the financial needs of local authorities”.

Van Zyl said CAST had not been in favour of the plan that councillors’ allowances be paid.

As the TPA/CAST talks were in progress, the Atteridgeville Town Council was cutting off power to rent-defaulting residents. The council began cutting off power on Monday and Town Clerk Dan Muton said this process would continue until electricity accounts were paid.

Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents’ Organisation (Aaro) official Abe Nkomo said his organisation had sent a letter of demand to the town council to switch power back on. Muton confirmed that a letter of demand had been received.
Court action plan over power cuts

AN application challenging the Atteridgeville Town Council's decision to cut electricity supplies to rent defaulters was lodged in the Pretoria Supreme Court today, lawyers representing the residents said yesterday.

A spokesman for the lawyers said the application could have been brought earlier as a matter of urgency but due to certain technical problems they had to delay to prepare the case.

Technicians belonging to a private firm started cutting electricity since Monday.

By MONK NKOBO

Acting town clerk, Mr. Daan Mouton, said he did not know how much the council was paying the company.

Appeal

By yesterday 3,000 houses were without electricity.

The local branch of the Congress of South African Students yesterday appealed to the Atteridgeville Council to consider the fate of the students whose exams are due to start their final exams but cannot not study at night.

“We view the action taken by the council as very much disturbing especially at this time of the year,” said Cosas.

The council has announced that the only way to restore electricity was for each affected resident to pay a R15 reconnection fee and arrears from June 1.

Meanwhile, 13 women and two men arrested on Tuesday after staging a sit-in at the Atteridgeville mayor's office were due to appear in court yesterday on charges of trespassing.

Concern over unclaimed bodies

A SOUTH African Council of Churches delegation headed by the Rev Frank Chikane has expressed "deep concern" to the police over the number of unidentified bodies at mortuaries.

Regional commissioner of police, Major-General Gerrit Maritz, said the SACC had offered its assistance in identifying the bodies, locating their next-of-kin and rendering pastoral care to the families.

He said the SAP had traced all employees, companies, relatives or friends who had someone reported missing during the recent unrest to furnish all available details to The Regional Commissioner, SAP, Private Bag 5, Johannesburg 2000, for attention Colonel F G Malherbe - Sapa.

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ANCHOR COLLEGE
The black housing bubble has burst.
Tension climbs as power cuts spread

JOHANNESBURG — Tension mounted in the Transvaal last night as black township residents reacted to continued cuts in power, water and other services by councils hit by rent boycotts.

The Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) threatened mass action and blamed the cuts on the government's reluctance to act against the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

The mass action — expected in the next few weeks — could involve consumer boycotts, mass demonstrations and work stoppages to pressure the government on the crisis created by its apartheid policies, Cast said.

Affected areas included Atteridgeville in Pretoria, Toekomrus near Randfontein, Wautville, Daveyton and Vosloorus on the East Rand, and several areas in the Eastern Transvaal.

In Atteridgeville, where power has been cut to an estimated 3,000 homes, residents are planning legal action to stop further cuts to rent defaulters.

Crisis point loomed as the water and power cuts spread to more townships last night.

Residents of Maokeng in Kroonstad decided on a stayaway from today until services had been restored, while in the Eastern Transvaal township of Mhluzi, Middelburg, three councillors were attacked and a minibus was petrol-bombed.

Years of boycott of rents and service charges have plunged black town councils into near collapse. Residents regard the councils as "puppets" of the government.

The ANC yesterday issued a statement condemning the cuts, saying they affected hundreds of thousands of people and would fuel tensions.

It held the government responsible "for any violence or chaos that results from such cut-offs." "The boycotts began and have been sustained because our people totally reject apartheid institutions," an ANC statement said.

"The various communities have agreed to resume paying rent in agreements painstakingly hammered out with the TPA." — Sapa
Dark weekend in Vaal townships

From MONO BADELA

JOHANNESBURG. — Tension is mounting in Transvaal townships as scores of thousands of black residents face a weekend without essential services.

At least seven major townships on the East and West Rand, including Atteridgeville in Pretoria, have had their power cut over the past few days.

Most of the areas affected fall under Conservative Party-controlled councils. Residents have described the situation in the township as "chaotic" and claimed they had not been warned about the water suspension.

They have threatened to embark on consumer boycotts if the council continues to deprive them of essential services.

The United Democratic Front spokesman on local government, Mr Pat Lephuza, called upon the government to intervene.

At a conference in Johannesburg on Wednesday, Lephuza said the services crisis would result in the breakdown of the negotiation process.

Other speakers condemned the uncompromising attitude of the Transvaal Provincial Administration. They said negotiation at local level had become untenable.

Reprieve

In Pretoria, the Atteridgeville town council has cut electricity to at least 30,000 homes on the East Rand. Urgent negotiations continued yesterday to end a power cut in Daveyton.

In the Benoni township of Wattsville, residents were granted a reprieve on Tuesday night from a midnight power cut after Eskom granted a 14-day extension.

Electricity has been cut in Middelburg's Mtunzi township and the Carolina township of Slobela.
Mass protest threat over services cuts

THE cutting of services to more than six Transvaal townships has been slammed by the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast), which is threatening mass action, and by the ANC which says the move will fuel tensions. (2)

Cast national co-ordinator Patrick Lephunyana told a media conference yesterday that mass action — which was expected within the next few weeks — could involve consumer boycotts, mass demonstrations and work stayaways, Sapa reports.

Lephunyana blamed power cuts on government, saying it was reluctant to use its machinery to stop the TPA from cutting electricity supplies to black townships where rent and service charge boycotts were in progress.

In a statement yesterday, Cast said it did "not see its way clear in talking to people who cut electricity".

Electricity supplies to Toekommerus near Randfontein were cut yesterday morning. Supplies to the East Rand township of Daveyton were cut on Tuesday night, after Monday's talks to resolve the rent crisis collapsed. Also on Tuesday, Bethal cut all services to Emzambe and Ermelo exchange water and sewerage services to Wesselton, while Carolina and Middelburg cut power supplies to Sitobela and Mhuzu, WILSON ZWANE reports.

In Atteridgeville, near Pretoria, the

Services

The TPA, the Rand Water Board, Regional Services Council, Eskom, the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the civic organisation would engage in "exploratory talks".

An Eskom spokesman said last night Eskom was considering summoning four black local authorities "who were R13m in arrears". THEO RAWANA reports.

Communications manager Johan du Plessis said negotiations for a resumption of payments were being continued with the councils "wherever possible."
Mrs Primrose May, who was shot behind the ear and later lost consciousness after police allegedly fired teargas and birdshot in Toekomsrus township yesterday. Her son, Solomon, points to the injured area.

Talks over power cuts in six townships threatened

NEGOTIATIONS between the TPA and the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal may break down following electricity cuts in six townships, Mr Pat Lephunya of Cast said yesterday.

Lephunya said the UDF national office had confirmed it would intensify mass action to pressure the Government to attend to the crisis created by its policies.

He said several actions were being considered, including a provincial consumer boycott and stayaway, that would extend beyond the towns affected.

Four eastern Transvaal townships, Mzimoni near Bethal and Wessielton near Ermelo, are without electricity, sewerage and water while Selobela near Carolina and Middelburg are dark.

Daveyton would remain without electricity until an agreement was reached with the TPA and the Benoni Town Council, Daveyton town clerk, Mr DJ Erasmus said.

Power was switched off at midnight on Tuesday after negotiations between the Daveyton, Benoni councils and the TPA deadlocked.

Electricity to Toekomsrus was cut off yesterday.

A spokesman for the Toekomsrus Civic Association, Mr Thomas Luiers, said at least 15 army trucks and police vans accompanied municipal workers who were switching off electricity in the houses.

The ANC yesterday issued a statement noting with great concern the growing tensions in the townships, especially in the eastern Transvaal, resulting from decisions by Conservative Party-controlled councils.
Alexandria township’s five-year rent boycott is to be tackled today at a meeting of all parties concerned, according to a statement by the Alexandria Civic Organisation.

The TPA, the Rand Water Board, the Regional Services Council, Eskom, the Development Bank of Southern Africa and the Civic Organisation would engage in "exploratory talks" at the Alex City Council chambers.

The meeting starts at 9am.

"These are exploratory talks, we are not going to agree on anything and whatever proposals are made will be considered," the organisation said - Sapa.
Blackouts in the townships ‘make life more dangerous’

WILSON ZWAONE and TIKO RAVANA

The switching off of power in the Transvaal townships has led to town council officials being called in to mediate in disputes over the issue. On Monday, the Atteridgeville town council started cutting power to residents who had not paid their bills.

The ANC has warned that it would hold the government responsible for any violence or chaos that results from such cut-offs.

The TPA this week rejected a call by the Atteridgeville Residents' Organisation (ARO) to disband the local council because of alleged irregularities.

"In the absence of specific factual allegations, the matter could not be investigated," the TPA said.

In the case of Atteridgeville, the Executive Committee of the TPA concluded that the ARO's proposal was inappropriate.

"The call for the disbandment of the Atteridgeville council must therefore be rejected," the TPA said in a statement.

As power was being cut in Atteridgeville, the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAS) -- a body representing 11 southern Transvaal civic associations -- threatened to mobilize people to protest against the council's action.

Block

In a statement this week, Cast said it found it "inconceivable that basic services are being switched off by illegitimate council structures and racist white municipalities."

Yesterday Cast said it had made it clear to the MEC for local government, Olusheke Zuma, that the inclusion of black councillors in negotiations was a stumbling block to a fruitful negotiation process.

"We proposed that the TPA cannot benefit from a lack of consultation or the exclusion of these people and should facilitate their re-entrance," said Cast assistant secretary Caesar van Wyk in a statement.

He said Cast had committed itself to intensifying the mass struggle until apartheid was totally removed "and our real problems are resolved."

Residents and businesses involved in business were playing havoc with their daily activities.

A shopkeeper said the switch-off would endanger many late-shift workers. "The lorry-driver now get their chance to go home early and avoid the chaos of darkens," he said.

A factory worker said the black-out would endanger many late-shift workers. "The lorry-driver now get their chance to go home early and avoid the chaos of darkens," he said.

A shopkeeper said the switch-off was seriously affecting business. "There are lots of perishable foods that I stock. How can I keep them fresh if my fridge has been rendered useless by the power cut?" he asked.

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West Rand placed under new curfew

GOVERNMENT last night placed a curfew on the West Rand township of Toekomsrus, where violence erupted on a large scale yesterday.

One person was shot dead and there were running battles between police and residents.

Although the clashes were related mainly to electricity cuts, an ANC spokesman for the area said the trouble began when police allegedly teargassed a squatter settlement, which resulted in the suffocation of an elderly woman.

On Wednesday night tempers flared in Toekomsrus, culminating in the burning down of the township's library.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok warned in a statement last night he would not hesitate to reimpose curfews on other Reef townships if there was a breakdown in law and order. He said he had ordered the curfew to protect law-abiding citizens.

Meanwhile an 11th-hour decision by the Pretoria Regional Services Council (RSC) to lend three of the city's townships R17m to meet service arrears prevented the blanket suspension of electricity supplies to the townships.

RSC chairman Peter Delport announced the loans to Atteridgeville, Mamelodi and Zithobeni yesterday, shortly before electricity was due to be cut to the townships because of their failure to meet their electricity, sewerage and water arrears.

The loan, which must be paid back over the next five years, will meet the council's arrears until the end of October.

The loan is intended to pay for the council's bulk service commitments, and will not result in the restoration of electricity to about 2 000 Atteridgeville residents who have not paid their bills.

Water and electricity supplies have been cut at six townships which collectively owe at least R12m.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration has provided water tankers to Ermelo township, outside Bethal.

Sapa reports that TPA spokesman Piet Wilken said yesterday water tankers would be provided as soon as possible to Wesselton township near Ermelo, the other Eastern Transvaal township affected by water cuts.

Those affected by cuts in essential services are Sibhela near Carolina, Mihlu in Middelburg, Daveyton near Benoni, Atteridgeville, Zithobeni in Bronkhorstspruit and Maokeng in Kroonsdorp.

The Kroonsdorp Town Council, which cut water and power supplies on Wednesday, decided yesterday to provide water to Maokeng township for two hours a day.

The curfew which came into effect last night begins at 9pm and lasts until 4am every day and covers Toekomsrus and Toekomsrus Extension 1.

Any residents stopped outdoors between those times will have to show documentary proof of their bona fides. Police will man roadblocks from 9pm and will search vehicles from that time.

Sapa reports that police travelled through Toekomsrus last night announcing the curfew in English and Afrikaans, barely an hour after Vlok had introduced the measures.

Barbecues made from assorted debris barred streets. Police attempting to clear them were pelted with petrol bombs and other missiles.

In a statement, the ULP said the countrywide termination of electricity supplies raised questions as to the TPA's sincerity in holding negotiations to end the rent and services boycott.

See Page 8
Home loans: Lenders wary of grey areas

FINANCIAL institutions are showing reluctance to grant loans in at least one grey area.

The Weekly Mail has come across two incidents of people being refused bonds in different properties in Bertrams, Johannesburg. Banks and building societies polled by The Weekly Mail have denied they have national bans on granting bonds in certain areas — but most say decisions are left to regional managers.

Estate agent Eileen Kovac, who operates in Bertrams, remarks: "They say Bertrams is a high-risk area because it's 99 percent black."

She says if there is already a bond on the property the bank or building society may grant a "takeover bond" but is only prepared to give 65 percent to 70 percent of the bond amount being asked for.

It's virtually impossible to buy a house in Bertrams unless a company bond is available, reckons Kovac.

A journalist for a major newspaper, Glynis O'Hara, was flatly refused a bond by the United Building Society for a house in Judith's Pearl. However, the SA Perm was willing to grant a bond — at R10 000 less than was asked for.

Her experience suggests that even where bonds are granted, house prices are pushed down.

De Huszemark chairman Piet Hamman goes further. He is adamant that financial institutions are refusing to grant loans in suburbs like Hillbrow, Joubert Park, Jeppe, Bez Valley, and Melv Don.

Applications for loans in these areas are either flatly refused or the terms offered make things very difficult for prospective buyers.

If Hamman is correct, the reluctance to grant bonds in these areas threatens to hasten a decline in those areas.

"If this is happening it would make the prophecy that grey areas will become slums self-fulfilling," agrees property economist Neville Berkowicz.

The refusal to grant bonds restricts the sale of properties and condenas the areas to slumpdom. Buyers' only alternative is to find cash; other owners will have to rent out their properties on a large-scale, accepting low rentals for them.

UBS MD Mike De Blanche says de...
RENTS BOYCOTT: Conservative councils hit back ... and spark a new wave of violence

The lights go out - and unrest blows up again

By JO-ANNE COLLING
CONSERVATIVE town councils cut off water and electricity to rent-boycotting townships this week - and sparked a new wave of unrest.

On Wednesday, even as United Democratic Front representative Pat Lephunyane warned that "further cuts will lead to a cessation of local negotiations and can only result in an escalation of conflict", confrontation loomed in the normally quiet township of Toekommerus on the far West Rand, the volatile area of Wesselton near Emnalo, and at Mhlabo and Middelburg.

At the same time, residents in Mackeng were planning an "indefinite" work stay-away to force the Kroonstad Town Council to resume supplies of electricity and water to the township.

These explosive developments around service cuts could be only the beginning. The UDF and the Civic Association for the Southern Transvaal (Cast) have pledged to launch an intensive campaign of mass action within a fortnight.

At least 10 Transvaal townships, two in the Free State and one in the Eastern Cape were this week subject to electricity and/or water cuts.

With townships in darkness and talks breaking down, the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) faces reality that it will not be easy to replicate the successful rent and housing settlement achieved in Soweto.

The political dimension of the rent boycott continues to raise its head. This centres largely on the role and future of black local authorities, which have little voter support and are rejected by the civic associations.

It also features white local authorities, who supply water to the townships and act as channels for the purchase of bulk electricity. Consequently, these white municipalities are owed large amounts of money by the black councils. And the interests of those that are Conservative Party-controlled in tackling the boycott might not be identical to those of the TPA.

The participation of township councillors in negotiations is also seen as a major obstacle to talks.

Said Cas Coovadin, of Cast: "We make it clear to the TPA that their insistence - and that of white local authorities - that black councillors be included in negotiations is a major stumbling block to a fruitful process of negotiations. We emphasised that opposition is forthcoming in our constituencies to the continued legitimisation of black councillors."

The African National Congress issued a statement pointing out that "negotiated agreements will be negated if the payment of rent is used to prop up discredited community councils and not to pay for essential services which are being cut off."

The organisation questioned why the cuts were occurring at the very time that local-level negotiations were taking place to resolve the rent problem.

"It is clear that the decision to cut services is political," the ANC concluded.

The TPA has issued a statement stressing "that it is not the TPA who is cutting off electricity and water" but the bulk supplier of services. In Wesselton and Emzinoni near Bethal the province is providing water tanks to ease the action of the local councils.

For more on the local councils debate, see STEVEN FRIEDMAN on PAGE 8 and JO-ANNE COLLING on PAGE 7.
Boycott indaba today

RESIDENTS of Transvaal townships hit by power cuts as a result of boycotts meet today to discuss the crisis.

According to the Transvaal Provincial Administration, up to 50 townships are in arrears with their services charges and could face power cuts.

A number of meetings were held yesterday between individual residents' associations and councils.

It is hoped that, once residents have reached an agreement, settlements will be reached at meetings between local civic associations and councils.

Last night the only areas without water and sewerage were Wesselton, near Ermelo, and parts of Tokonomo, near Randfontein.

Said Transvaal MEC on charge of local government, Claas van Zyl: "Several councils have phoned me to say that negotiations between themselves and local residents' representatives have started."

"We can only hope that they come to a solution and arrangements for payments can be made."

In Middelburg, the area's largest employer, Middelburg Steel and Alloys, has agreed to pay the R200,000 arrears to restore power to the township.

An ANC spokesman said the power cuts were aimed at intimidating people "to pave the way for bitter clashes between non-armed residents and the police."

- Tensions are running high in Cape Town's squatter settlements with police and army units maintaining a heavy presence amid fears of further outbreaks of violence.

The township of Khayelitsha has been seething since assassins shot dead Nomsa Mapongwana, the wife of Khayelitsha community leader and ANC member Michael Mapongwana.

At Crossroads, meanwhile, security forces moved in to separate warring factions.

More than 1,000 people supporting Johnson Ngxobongwa fled the area after being attacked earlier in the week by supporters of ANC-aligned Jeffrey Nongwe.
Eviction law is breaking down in black areas

BY EZRA MANNING and DICK TEMANN

SUNDAY TIMES, OCTOBER 24, 1999
Power restored as residents litigate

AN URGENT application brought by four representatives of Daveyton residents to have electricity restored to the township was postponed on Friday after the court had been told power was being switched on.

Counsel for the Daveyton City Council, N Segal, informed Mr Justice Marais that electricity was being restored to the township following an interim agreement between Eskom and the Chief Director of Local Government.

Segal said the interim agreement followed negotiations between Eskom and the Chief Director on Friday.

"An interim agreement has been reached that electricity is to be supplied until October 31," he said.

"I understand that it is being done at the moment and is to be supplied at the risk of Eskom."

Daveyton's power was cut off on October 18.

One of the four community members who brought the urgent application was a firm of undertakers which said its business had been affected by the shut off.

The court heard that Daveyton Undertakers had had to move five corpses to another mortuary in Waterville as a result.

Daveyton interim committee chairman James Ngubo and three other township representatives brought their application on Friday against the Daveyton city council, Benoni Town Council, the East Rand Regional Services Council, the Administrator of the TVL and Eskom.

When the application began before Mr Justice Marais, counsel for the Benoni Town Council, D Osbornes SC, applied for a postponement in order to prepare his argument properly. It was at this stage that Segal informed Mr Justice Marais of the interim agreement to restore power to the township.

At the request of the parties Mr Justice Marais recommended that the matter be heard first as a matter of urgency on October 31.

Ngubo said afterwards that the interim agreement was yet another act of bad faith on the part of the authorities.

He said it had been reached with certain discredited individuals on the Daveyton City Council who were not recognised as representative of residents although the names of these people were not reflected in the agreement itself.

Interim committee member Mahlomola Skhosana said Friday's interim agreement was part of a political game aimed at dividing Daveyton residents.
RSC says 'no to financial help for Wesselton

Staff Reporter

The Conservative Party-controlled Oosvaal Regional Services Council has refused cash aid for Ermelo's waterless Wesselton township, even though the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) had given it permission for this.

Wesselton today entered its eighth day without water or waterborne sewerage after Ermelo's CP council suspended services for non-payment of services and rent.

Fears have been expressed by local leaders about the deteriorating sanitary conditions and the possible outbreak of disease.

Oosvaal RSC chairman Gert Gouws said the Wesselton Town Council had applied for general financial assistance on October 11 and had been turned down last Wednesday, the day after water was cut.

The African National Congress was due to meet the TPA today in an attempt to have Wesselton's water reconnected.
Many In Pretoria protest

THOUSANDS of people from the city of Pretoria, South Africa, have participated in a protest against the current political and economic situation. The protesters, mainly students and workers, gathered in downtown Pretoria to demand better living conditions and an end to corruption.

The police estimates that up to 5,000 people were present at the protest. The demonstrators carried signs and chanted slogans, calling for the resignation of the government and the end of corruption.

The protest was peaceful, but tensions rose as some members of the crowd tried to block the main street leading to the parliament. Police officers used tear gas to disperse the crowd, and several arrests were made.

The protesters are calling for reforms in the education system and the delivery of basic services such as water and electricity. They also demand an end to the ongoing violence and the killings of protesters by police officers.

The government has not responded to the protesters' demands, and the situation remains tense in Pretoria.
Pretoria hit as many heed call

THOUSANDS of people...
Probe into claims over police actions at Ermelo

A TOP-LEVEL inquiry is taking place into claims that Ermelo policemen last week slashed plastic containers and chased people away from taps from which they were trying to obtain water.

In a statement, a police spokesman described the incidents - if true - as being "untoward behaviour" which would not be tolerated but denied allegations that witnesses to the slashings had been asked by police officers to change their original statements.

The incidents occurred last Thursday at Ermelo's Wesselton township, which houses 50,000 people. The area is today without water for the eighth successive day after Ermelo Town Council suspended supplies, as well as the sewerage system, because of non-payment for services.

Mr Brian Currim, the national director of Lawyers for Human Rights, said in Pretoria yesterday a witness, garage owner Mr Boete Tilly, had been asked on three occasions last Friday and Saturday "to commit perjury" after he had earlier given a statement to the police regarding the incidents.

Currim said a protest "to voice our objection in the strongest possible terms to the fact that Tilly is being pressured to perjure himself" would be lodged with Minister of Law and Order Adriaan Viljoen and Commissioner of Police General Johan van der Merwe after an affidavit and a report had been received from Tilly - Sowetan Correspondent
Pretoria faces boycott over township cut-offs

THE greater Pretoria area is faced with a consumer boycott if talks between Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hermus Kriel and black civic organisations fail to resolve the electricity and water crisis.

Atteridgeville/Saulsvillle Residents Association (Asro) publicity secretary John Ramatsui said yesterday the decision to embark on a boycott of white business came after the Pretoria City Council refused to reconnect electricity and TPA refused to disarm the local authority.

Ramatsui said Asro had been informed by Planning Department officials that Kriel was willing to hold talks with them. The meeting is still to be arranged.

He said Asro and civic organisations from Brits, Hammanskraal, KwaNdbele and Bronkhorstspruit

THEO RAWANA were due to meet on Thursday to decide when the boycott would begin.

A court ordered the Pretoria and Atteridgeville councils on Friday to stop cutting power to residents and residents were in turn urged to pay their September accounts. The order expires tomorrow.

Demand

Ramatsui said: "A commission of inquiry had found that Atteridgeville councillors were corrupt, so we demand that the TPA should dissolve the council and appoint an administrator, who could even be an official from the Pretoria council."

Meanwhile, the TPA has given the following details about electricity and water supply cut-offs:

- Daveyton in Benoni had its electricity supply restored last Friday, while 10,700 Atteridgeville (Pretoria) households were without lights unless they paid September bills by tomorrow. Only 400 houses had electricity.

- In the eastern Transvaal, Eekom was supplying electricity to Vosloorus township, but the Ermelo town council had cut water supply. The TPA had provided water tankers to relieve the situation.

- Bethal Town Council cut off water supply to Ermelo township on Friday and the TPA had provided three water tankers.

- The western Transvaal town of Wolmaransstad cut off electricity supply to Tswelopele township on Thursday, and water on Friday.
MORE residents of Wesselton, Ermelo - without water, electricity or sewerage for nine days - have described how police have slashed water containers and chased people from taps.

At a rally in Wesselton yesterday people gave accounts of how police had spilled water, broken their buckets and driven over water containers when they went to collect water at the nearby Indian township of Cassim Park.

Services to the township of 30 000 were cut off by the Ermelo Town Council because of non-payments.

Mr Brian Currin, national director of Lawyers for Human Rights, said yesterday a witness to the slashing, garage owner Mr Boete Tilly, had been asked on Friday and Saturday "to commit perjury" after he had earlier given a statement to the police.

Tilly said he had seen policemen slash buckets filled with water after he had given "100 to 150" people permission to take water from taps on the forecourt of his petrol station at Cassim Park.

Police yesterday denied they had tried to force Tilly to change his statement.

Mrs Khobo Ngebo said she had seen police pour a "substance" into a stream near the township on Wednesday. Other residents said they had also seen this.

Ms Sibongile Manana said as she walked home after fetching water at Cassim Park police stopped her, crushed her container and sjambokked her.

Mr PT Kedikanetswe said some of the residents were getting water from the nearby mine were stopped by the police from doing so.

An elderly woman said that on Thursday she had sent her daughter to buy mealie meal in Ermelo when a black policeman stopped her daughter and started kicking the bucket she was carrying.

"He did this despite my daughter having told him that she was carrying maize meal for a very serious light.

Brigadier Vic Haynes, of the SAP directorate of public relations, added "It is definitely not police policy to act outside the law and where such behaviour by any member can be proved, the police will act against the individual."
DP leader hits at electricity cuts

ELECTRICITY and services cuts to townships by town councils could lead to desperation that would aggravate unrest and conflict, Democratic Party leader Dr Zach de Beer said in Durban yesterday.

Addressing University of Natal students, De Beer said boycotts of rent and service charges and the refusal to pay mortgage bonds were endangering stability and the very social contract on which society was based.

He blamed the town councils' lack of legitimacy for the problems and urged the Government to treat the situation seriously.

De Beer said there were certain sinister and frightening aspects of South African life that were threatening the political settlement process.

The recent taxi and train murders on the Reef were executed with ruthless efficiency and the perpetrators had no inkling as to the politics of their victims.

The DP leader suspected extremist elements either from the right of the Government or the left of the African National Congress.

He said the left lacked the military and organisational skill to execute the operations and it was also not clear what black nationalist extremists had to gain from exacerbated violence and killing.

"It is also too clear that murderous behaviour among black people strengthens the hand of right wing extremists.

"The Renamo flavour of the whole thing is strong," he said.

De Beer said unless the Government took effective action to root out people in the security forces who planted a monkey's feet on the door of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, there would be reason to suspect a third force was operating in the security forces without the knowledge of the Cabinet - Sapa
Repeal of Group Areas Act causing price uncertainty

Uncertainty about what will happen after the Group Areas Act is repealed is playing havoc with the property market, Multiple Listing Services (MLS) East Rand regional chairman Jan Grové says.

He believes the Act’s repeal will affect various areas differently and that two possible scenarios may result.

Demand for accommodation may soar when the Act is repealed and this will force property prices up, especially for rented accommodation.

Upgraded

"With 68% of black, coloured and Indian families living on less than R600 a month, suburbs with houses or flats for rent will be highly sought after." These groups will probably move to suburbs in Johannesburg such as Hillbrow, Yeoville, Berea, parts of the CBD area and certain parts of the East Rand, he says.

"If a higher-income group of another race replaces a poor white group in a particular area, that area will automatically be upgraded and property prices will rise.

The other scenario is that the effect will be similar to desegregation in the US.

When one race group moves into a particular area, there is an exodus of the predominant race group. They then sell at lower prices.

Then, unrest, crime and urban blight may increase — which has already happened in Hillbrow, Grové says.

"However, partial relaxation of the Act is no solution. Neither is the Free Settlements Act.

"Both will destabilise natural market forces, resulting in additional social pressures and a sudden acceleration of urban decay in certain suburbs.

"A satisfactory and enduring resolution of this sensitive issue will largely depend on the attitude of all race groups involved. I believe that mutual trust and respect should be the guiding criteria."
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Rent meeting in stalemate

A RENT crisis meeting between the Vosloorus Civic Association and the Transvaal Provincial Association deadlocked on Tuesday over a R30 difference in service rates proposed by the VCA for residents of the East Rand township.

VCA publicity secretary Mr Keith Monisitsi said Eskom - also present at the meeting - lowered its initial electricity payment demand from R50 to R40, but TPA representative Mr Nigel Mandy insisted on a monthly payment of R70.

The TPA, VCA, Eskom and the Regional Services Council will meet again on Monday, the ninth meeting in as many weeks.

In the meantime, the TPA has undertaken to reconsider the association's interim offer of R50 and the town council will consider a 24-hour electricity switch-off.

The rent and service boycott began in July to highlight residents' grievances about allegedly high charges and faulty meters. - Sapa

Bakane resigns

THE chairman of the ruling Venda Council for National Unity, Brigadier Gabriel Ramushana, announced the replacement of Mr Gilbert Bakane from the Taylor Commission into corruption because of ill-health.

He will be replaced by Mr Isaac Raphala. - Sapa
Township's water is back.

The water supply to Wesselton near Ermelo, cut off last Tuesday because of arrears in water account payments, was resumed yesterday.

Ermelo Mines, a colliery near Ermelo managed by Trans-Natal Coal Corporation, agreed at a meeting in Ermelo on Tuesday night to pay these arrears, amounting to R130,000, to the Ermelo Town Council, the company announced in a statement yesterday.

After lengthy discussions between the Administrator of Wesselton, representatives of Ermelo, Mines, representative bodies of the Wesselton community which included the Civics Association, church leaders, the ANC and Inkatha, Ermelo Mines offered to pay the amount in arrears in order to have the water supply to Wesselton resumed.

A fund-raising campaign was also launched by various concerned parties to provide financial assistance to Wesselton residents, the statement said.

The representatives of the community undertook to formulate a plan of action in conjunction with other interested parties to ensure that future monthly payments would be made on time. - Sapa.
Township residents paying bills

THEO RAWA

RESIDENTS were honouring their Greater Soweto Accord commitment and payments for rent and service charges were picking up, Soweto Town Clerk Piet Geers said yesterday.

He was reacting to a R154m financial assistance package from the Central Witwatersrand RSC to Greater Soweto and Alexandra. This was as additional financial assistance to meet essential operating costs until March 31 1991.

The three Greater Soweto councils of Dobsonville, Diepmeadow and Soweto were bound by the accord — signed with the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Soweto People's Delegation — to negotiate with the RSC for interim finance. The accord effectively ended the rent boycott and wrote off Soweto's R145m debt.

The RSC grant, announced at the council's meeting on Tuesday, was made on the understanding that Soweto residents would keep up payments, which would average about R56.80 a month.

Geers said yesterday payments were "picking up", but figures would be available only next week.

The RSC decided a new agreement would be necessary after March 31.

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The rent and service boycott began in July to highlight residents’ grievances about allegedly high charges and faulty meters. - Sapa
R154-m grant for electricity in Soweto

THE Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council has approved a grant of R154 million to ensure the continued supply of essential services such as electricity to the Greater Soweto and Alexandra townships.

CWRSC chairman Mr John Griffiths said yesterday R27.4 million would be used to finance the supply of electricity until March next year on condition consumers paid the minimum rates stipulated in "the Soweto Accord".

Griffiths said Eskom had agreed to continue supplying electricity to these areas and would decide when the supply would be stopped if residents and other electricity users did not pay their bills.

According to the financing agreement, the four councils should:

* Effectively provide services, increase income, reduce expenditure and co-operate with neighbouring white local authorities;

* Develop an economic tariff structure to replace the interim service charges of R23 a month and the metered electricity charge of 12c a unit.
Jo'burg water is most expensive

ACHMED KAREM

JOHANNESBURG has the most expensive water in SA, followed by Durban and Pretoria, a world survey of water prices has found.

The findings were released this week by National Utility Services (NUS), which provides a fuel and energy cost control analysis programme to 750,000 business establishments worldwide and services 2,500 clients in SA.

Water prices in SA's major centres increased by an average of 14.7% in the year to end-June.

NUS SA marketing director Peter Cornelius said there was a correlation between rises in SA water prices and inflation, unlike power costs which had remained below the inflation rate in recent years.

"If this rate of increase is maintained, South Africans can expect to see costs of water double within four to five years."

The survey showed the price of Johannesburg's water was 189c/m³, followed by Durban's at 167c, Pretoria's 109c, Cape Town's 110c, Port Elizabeth's 82.2c and East London's 75.8c.

The average price for these cities was 107.5c/m³.

Prices in Johannesburg and Pretoria are linked to the Rand Water Board's increases.

In Cape Town, water prices increased by 30% in the year to end-June.

Cornelius said this rate was due to the city council's planned new R550m treatment plant at Faure.

He said the prognosis for Cape Town was bleaker, with another 30% increase anticipated in the current year, because the city could have exhausted its present facilities by the year 2020.

The outlook for water costs in SA generally was bleak, he added.

"It is generally accepted that with the current rate of population growth, we will start running short of water supplies within 30 years unless major new conservation schemes are tackled."

"This implies major increases in water costs for reasons of inflation, the capital costs of conservation schemes and the growing expense of reticulation," he said.

The survey showed UK water prices had nearly doubled after privatisation, while Australia had the world's most expensive water.
Talks on rates for Vosloorus

THE ANC's Vosloorus branch will meet the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) today in an attempt to resolve the deadlock over electricity rates in the East Rand township.

Vosloorus ANC information officer Elliot Sogom said residents were prepared to pay a flat monthly rate of R50 for electricity, but the TPA and town council wanted R70.

He said residents had been deprived of their right to electricity at a time when tensions were running high after recent township violence.

'Pupils' exam preparations had been disrupted and small and informal businesses were suffering. The Vosloorus Civic Association, town council, Eskom and the TPA were due to meet again on Monday.

Residents would meet to determine action to force the council to meet their demands for electricity, Sogom said. — Sapa.
Power for Vosloorus residents

By DON SEOKANE

THE Vosloorus Town Council yesterday resumed power supply to the township after a residents' delegation told the council about their plight.

The delegates, led by Mr Gideon Mguduka and Mr Anthony Mzazi, said power cuts were disastrous, particularly because pupils were preparing for their examinations. They said they were also concerned with the increasing crime rate during power cuts.

Vosloorus mayor Mr Morrison Sinokela said the council had agreed with the delegates that an interim flat rate of R60 be paid while negotiations with civic bodies and Eskom continue.

Sinokela said the council owed R4 million to Eskom in electricity arrears, R1.32 million to the Rand Water Board for water supply and R657 000 to the Boksburg Town Council and sewerage.

He said interest on all the arrears amounted to at least R35 000 a month and bridging finance from the Transvaal Provincial Administration cannot cover these arrears.

"Negotiations between the council and the Vosloorus Civic Association would be continued and we hope to reach an agreement on the arrears of services and electricity," Sinokela said.

A meeting has been organised for Sunday at the Vosloorus Civic Centre and discussions with the residents relating to the interim rates would be held, Mguduka said.
Behind the sisterhood, a sadness and anger

A large woman strides down a gloomy corridor in the porterage-like women's hostel in Alexandra. Emerging into the daylight, she looks at a small grass quad in the centre of the five-storey block, enclosed with barbed wire to prevent the destruction of the only patch of green.

"We know why the fighting happened in the hostels," says the formidable "Queen Patrice."

"It is because men are living simply. There are no women and children to call the men, and they forget — when they fight — that they will lose them all."

Back inside the concrete maze she passes a woman who has lost an eye of the room. A woman in distress to follow cheerful greetings to other resident women along the corridor. "Hey girl — how are you?"

"I am fine. And how are you my baby?"

This is a far cry from the war-ravaged men's hostels, where tired and despondent men sit in drab rooms thinking of home.

The women's hostel is abuzz with the activity of over 2,000 women going about their daily chores. There is a feeling of "sisterhood." Women stop to chat, coming from their daily chores of washing, cooking, cleaning. They're strangely at home in the huge, impersonal building where their cheerfully decorated rooms open on an open space.

But here too, there is loneliness, depression and dissatisfaction.

The women pay R3.50 a night for their meagre space. There is no maintenance to speak of, and squabbles break out over basic facilities like water and lights. The women are without their husbands, lovers or children. They have only each other and, whether they like it or not, their marriages are just about as permanent as marriage. Four women share a bedroom of no more than about 5 sq m.

"I've always lived in the same room with another woman," says Elizabeth Malelela, a 51-year-old company driver who has been at the hostel for 15 years. "The two of us are friends but sometimes we don't talk. Sometimes she doesn't want to say good morning. When she's cross I just listen to my radio."

Malelela is divorced. She has childen which resemble maximum science labs. There are rows of gas burners, the tiny lockers are crammed with food and kitchenware lines the walls. Hunched over cups of tea or busy preparing food for themselves, they speak of their dissatisfaction.

Says factory worker Ma Amebe, who has lived at the hostel for 10 years and is now a dedicated Alexandra Civic Organisation member: "People pay rent from the first to the seventh of every month. If you pay a day later, they charge you double."

But at a meeting, support for the four-month-long rent boycott cannot be accounted by ACO. More than half the residents have stopped paying rent in an attempt to force the local authorities to maintain the building or, alternatively, to convert the blocks into family units.

"We have the same problems in the men's hostel," says Simon Phala, listening to the women arguing about the rent, whether whether the "block ladies," who are supposedly elected from each block of 144 women, have become so. Some say there is a..."
"They are inhuman to treat us like this."

"WE wonder if these people are human – how can they cut off water to everyone – even small babies and children must suffer when they cut off our water."

Echoing the feelings of Meloding’s 45 000 inhabitants, local ANC women’s league chairperson Elisa Lande said the whole community was shocked at the Water Board’s decision to cut off water this month.

"These people are heartless – they are inhuman to treat us like this. We didn’t even have time to prepare for the cut-off because they did it without warning," said another member of the Meloding Civic Association (MCA), Elias Chalale.

"They arrested us and beat us up when we tried to get drinking water from the station for our children," said grandmother and MCA member Betsy Yola.

She said: "I look after my five-month-old grandchild – I couldn’t wash nappies or make bottles. When we tried to fill our containers at the station, the police beat us up and chased us away.

"We tried to get water from nearby farms – eventually one farmer allowed us to buy water at 50c for 10 litres. It was the only way we could get water for cooking and drinking," she said.

Residents said they couldn’t wash for the five days during which water was cut off. "One of the worst things was that the toilets throughout the township were blocked and the smell was terrible," said Lande.

Chalale said: "The Water Board knew there was a dispute between the community and the town council about the water account, but they didn’t negotiate – they cut the water off first."

"Now that the water is back on, we have agreed with the board that the community will come up with proposals on how to pay for the water," he said.
Pay up now, or we'll cut off your water!
Four towns are targeted for boycotts

TWO Conservative Party-controlled Transvaal town face consumer boycotts of white-owned businesses today and more are likely to be affected by similar action early next month.

The two towns are Klerksdorp and Boksburg. Other places which have been targeted for boycotts are Brits, Bronkhorstspruit and Kwandebele.

The protest action is against "high electricity tariffs which lead to the suspension of power supply to a number of black residential areas". Jouberton residents, however, said they would boycott stores in nearby Klerksdorp until policemen — allegedly involved in violence in the township — are arrested or suspended.

The boycott follows claims by local Mass Democratic Movement's of alleged police brutality. At least three people have died in five weeks of unrest.

On the East Rand, the Vosloorus Civic Association has called for a three-week boycott of Boksburg businesses and local enterprises owned by township councillors from today.

The call was made at a community meeting yesterday following a deadlock between the Vosloorus Town Council, TPA and the Vosloorus Civic Association (VCA) over the payment of electricity and service charges in the township.

The meeting, addressed by spokesman from Cosatu and the Vosloorus Civic Association, resolved continue the non-payment of rent and service charges until the council and the TPA and the council conceded to the R50 flat rate demanded by residents.

The Vosloorus Town Council is standing firm on a flat rate of R70 for electrified households.

Cosatu's spokesman, Mr. Sydney Ndwembe, warned that civic organizations and Cosatu had planned for a mass stayaway on November 19 if the TPA and the council fail to meet township residents' demands.

Ndwembe lashed out at certain councillors whom, he claimed, were sowing confusion in the township.

He said several councillors calling themselves "concerned residents" asked residents to pay R60.
STATE President FW de Klerk is to visit the black townships of the Vaal Triangle on Friday, according to leader of the Vaal Residents Representative Party Mr Sam Kolsang.

De Klerk's visit to the Vaal townships - scenes of bloody clashes which claimed hundreds of lives in recent weeks - will coincide with his bestowment as a free man of Vereeniging, the town he served as MP for several years.

By SY MAKARINGE

De Klerk, who is currently abroad on a three-nation tour, will be the second South African Head of State to visit the townships, which have been one of the focal points of worldwide attention since the 1961 Sharpeville massacre.

Kolsang said De Klerk had accepted an invitation by his party, an affiliate of the moderate National Forum, to visit the "townships as a resident of the Vaal Triangle."

He refused to elaborate on De Klerk's schedule for the day, except to say he expected residents to receive him with open arms.

De Klerk's office could not deny or confirm the invitation.

A spokesman said he was not in a position to disclose De Klerk's itinerary unless instructed to do so.

De Klerk received a tumultuous welcome a few weeks ago when he paid a surprise visit to Soweto. There were shouts of "Viva Comrade De Klerk" from curious onlookers as he moved around the townships to gain first hand experience of township life.
17 townships face court action and power cuts

ELECTRICITY to 17 Transvaal townships, which collectively owe R33m to Eskom, could be cut should the utility's legal action not prompt the black local authorities into settling their arrear bills.

The legal action against the 17 out of 27 black local authorities was not aimed at end-users, although electricity supplies could be cut if the courts ordered it, or if the legal process "didn't yield the desired result," Eskom spokesman Johan du Plessis said at the weekend.

The action was part of Eskom's credit control procedures and this route was preferred above the punitive cutting of the power supply to the townships, he said.

"In fact, Eskom has no reason to assume the legal process will not be satisfactory, although the legal process itself could lead us to cutting the supply," Du Plessis said.

"We realise that many township residents have started making regular payments again, but for some reason these monies are not always reaching us."

There are 27 local authorities in arrears, four of which have already been summoned while another 13 will be summoned this week.

Du Plessis indicated that apart from the Benoni municipality, which was summoned in September, no other action against white authorities was being considered.

He said he was not in a position to disclose what the local authorities had been summoned, suggesting that as they were accountable to their ratepayers, they should identify themselves.

LINDEN BIRNS

Restore

Meanwhile, a delegation of representatives from Ermelo's Wesselsdorp township are to hold an urgent meeting with Eskom officials this week to allay rumours that electricity could be cut off again.

On Thursday last week, the Vosloorus Town Council agreed to restore the electricity supply to the East Rand township, despite agreements on monthly payments not being finalised.

Service cut-offs have spread to the Transkei where the Embeni township, outside Queenstown, was left with about a week's water supply in its reservoirs after the Queenstown municipality cut the water supply for the second time this month.

After the reservoir ran dry the supply was restored and residents were given two weeks to settle accounts originally totalling R718 554, but which had been reduced to a total of R50 000.

Late on Friday afternoon, municipal staff at the troubled Khayelitsha township in Cape Town were trying to restore electricity, sewage and water supplies after clashes between police and residents claimed at least eight lives on Thursday.

Sapa reports that on Friday a skeleton staff was trying to restore the essential services and to improve security around badly damaged municipal offices, the target of a limpet mine blast on Wednesday night.

Sapa also reported that more than 30 black local authorities out of the 70 in the Free State were no longer functioning.

The Free State provincial administration said that in 34 local authorities, councilors have either resigned or do not form a quorum and can therefore not perform their functions as determined by law.

The administrator-in-executive-committee has appointed 19 people to carry out these councils' functions.
Atteridgeville boycotters get power illegally

BY MONK NKOMO

The suspension of electricity supply to the homes of rent defaulters in Atteridgeville ended at the weekend when groups of youth illegally reconnected power supply to thousands of houses in the township.

Scores of youth using makeshift stepladders climbed electric poles in the streets and embarked on an illegal switch-on campaign, from Friday until yesterday.

The council cut off the electricity supply to those people in arrears since October 15. About 10 000 houses were affected.

The illegal switch-on started on Friday night and a few hours after the Pretoria Supreme Court reserved judgment in the urgent application that was brought against the local city council by the civic organisations, Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation, challenging the council's action.

Residents greeted the "switch-on" with relief. Many cheered as youths carrying step ladders walked down the streets and switched on power from poles using pieces of wire. Almost all the township's electricity supply was restored on Saturday night.

Members of the SADF were seen on Saturday afternoon chasing some of the youths, who wore safety gloves for the operation. Some of the makeshift ladders were confiscated by the troops.

The township mayor, Mr Velaphi Mathebula was yesterday asked what action the council contemplated taking after the illegal switch-on.

"We are not going to do anything," was the abrupt reply.

Advocate Ronne Selvan, SC, representing ASRO, submitted before Mr Justice Daniel on Friday that the Atteridgeville town council decision to cut electricity supplies was done in bad faith because the council could have recovered the amount owed by residents through other legal means.

Advocate Sam Maritz, SC, who appeared for the council, argued that his clients had the lawful right to disconnect the electricity supplies to the homes of rent defaulters. He submitted that the rent boycott was an aim by ASRO to destroy the council and leave it bankrupt.

Maritz also lashed out at ASRO and accused the civic association of "blatantly lying" to residents that they had been granted an interdict against the council restraining it from making further cuts.

Maritz submitted that the untruthful statement by ASRO was "the most startling evidence of mala fide". 
Councillors assaulted

By MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville Council is expected to hold an urgent meeting this week to discuss the illegal restoration of the electricity supply to the township and the attack on three councillors by residents last Friday.

Acting town clerk Mr Daan Mouton said yesterday the council was concerned about the unlawful action. He said they would probably discuss the matter with senior officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration this week to determine what kind of action to take.

The council is also expected to discuss the attack on councillors Petros Ngubeni, Pet Makwe and MP Nangana, who were assaulted by residents.

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SOWETO has a new mayor.

He is Mr Oscar Maseko (46), a Soweto Party member who has been a councillor for Molelana for two years.

Maseko and his deputy, Mr Alfred Nyathi, were elected yesterday.

The election took place amid allegations of corruption and fraudulent land sales.

Councillors jeered and made sarcastic remarks as council clerk Mr Piet Geers conducted the election.

Oscar Maseko

In his inaugural speech, Maseko pledged an open-door policy and constant communication with civic and political organisations.

"We recognise that certificate is the ANC, PAC and the controller for a retail store.

Organisation are the main political organisations of the people," he said.

"Our relationship with them will always remain cordial."

Maseko also promised to resolve the housing issue, get more land for Soweto's roads and speed up the upgrading of Soweto's roads and sewerage system.

Maseko thanked God that he was at last the mayor of Soweto, is a father of two.

He has a Standard 10 certificate and works as a store assistant for a retail store.
Seven held over power switch-on

AT LEAST seven people have been arrested in connection with the illegal switching on of the electricity supply in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, a police spokesman confirmed yesterday.

The arrests followed the reconnection of the supply by youths at the weekend. It was cut off by the Atteridgeville Council about two weeks ago following a rent boycott which began on April 1.

A spokesman for the police said a patrol unit of the riot squad used tear smoke to disperse a group of youths who were in the process of reconnecting the power supply in Maudie Street on Monday night.

He said police had taken action when the youths stoned them and seven were arrested.

Mr Simon Tshidi, acting general secretary of the Atteridgeville and Saulsville Residents Organisation, said yesterday they had received reports that 13 people were arrested over the weekend but most of them had since been released.

He confirmed that four others appeared in the local magistrate's court yesterday but were not asked to plead and were released on bail of R200 each.

The power supply was still on late yesterday afternoon.

The Atteridgeville Council is expected to discuss the illegal switch-on campaign at its monthly meeting tonight.

An emergency meeting which was scheduled to be held on Monday night apparently failed to take place because councillors could not form a quorum.

Acting town clerk Mr Daan Mouton yesterday declined to comment.

The boycott resulted from a call by residents that councillors should resign. This followed the findings of a commission of inquiry which established that the council could not properly control public funds.

It had also not submitted audited financial statements during the past four years.
Wietpro plans to stay in black housing market

Wietpro Housing plans to continue its operations in the black housing market because it believes the solution to the housing shortage lies with the private sector, not the government.

MD Johan Jacobs said in an interview that the withdrawal of a number of large housing contractors from black townships as a result of the violence, high crime rate and threats of bond boycotts was to be regretted.

Wietpro, a company in the Malcolm Moodie group, also develops housing in white areas and industrial sites.

Jacobs said Wietpro was developing three large housing schemes in Tembisa, Dobsonville and Diepkloof. It did not intend leaving the market.

In Dobsonville, Wietpro is also planning a nursery school — funded by local residents — and a shopping centre.

Wietpro sells houses priced up to R50 000. It is investigating low-cost housing options.

According to Malungani Sanitary & Hardware Supplies owner Peter Malungani, suppliers to Wietpro, the housing company has undertaken to allocate some work to local builders.

Explaning details

"The big building companies tend to use their own — I might say white — suppliers," Malungani says.

"Since most black builders lack the financial infrastructure to develop land, they cannot obtain it. Wietpro has made 86 stands available in Dobsonville at cost price which are allocated to seven or eight local people who develop on those stands."

Jacobs employs black sales staff to explain the details of home buying to clients in their own language and to ensure that buyers can afford their bond repayments.

"It is a gross injustice not only to the purchaser but also to the building society to sell a house to someone who cannot afford the monthly repayments."

"It leads not only to heartache but also to even greater financial hardship and a negative attitude on the part of building societies towards funding in black areas."

Sachetale Home Building director Hilton Katz said his company had no intention of withdrawing from the black housing market.

"You have to assess the financial and physical risk and then decide whether it is viable to continue in certain areas," he said.
Witbank township hit by power cuts

KWAGUQA, the eastern Transvaal's biggest township, was plunged into darkness on Tuesday night when the Witbank Town Council cut the electricity supply for non-payment of arrears.

The township owes the Witbank local authority more than R500 000 for the bulk supply of water and electricity.

However, Witbank town secretary Mr Pieter Ronch said the water supply would not be suspended.

"We don't believe in that," he said. "Apart from water being necessary, stopping the supply could create a health risk to the whole community."

KwaGuqa also owes Eskom R250 000 for electricity supplied over two months to houses in new extensions.

The electricity corporation is expected to summons the township within the next few days.

KwaGuqa town clerk Mr Adam Engelbrecht said about 60 000 of the township's 115 000 residents were now without electricity. - Sapa
Residents take councils to court over power cuts

FOUR Daveyton residents launched an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday against the Benoni City Council and the Daveyton Council to have their electricity supply uninterrupted until December 31.

The application, which is being opposed by the two municipalities, is being heard by Mr Justice K van Dijkhorst.

Mr Denis Kuny, SC, for the residents, said Eskom's electric current was supplied to Daveyton via Benoni's network.

Benoni cut off electricity to Daveyton on October 16 and although the supply was reconnected it may be cut again.

Residents and the Daveyton Council have an agreement that provided residents pay R70 a month for services and electricity, no-one would have their electricity cut off while negotiations continued.

Kuny said Daveyton had the power to cut off supply to individuals.

He said the council had agreed to payment of R70 a month and it was responsible for accepting that agreement.

Judith Maphalala is one of the Miss Rustenburg '90 contestants. The pageant takes place at the Thlabane Town Hall on Saturday at 7pm and the winner of the contest will take part in the Miss Black South Africa '90.
Actstop, council try to patch up

BLACK members of Actstop were allowed to address Johannesburg councillors on Tuesday night about exploitation and discrimination in the city.

About 200 members of the anti-Group Areas Act organisation staged a sit-in in the council chambers.

General secretary Pas-sage Nkosi said black inner city residents were upset at the council's response to a memorandum listing grievances which included high rentals and exploitation by landlords.

Nkosi said there were no schools for the people, who were constantly harassed by police.

Johannesburg was prospering because of blacks' buying power but they were turned away from recreation centres and cemeteries in the city.

Problems

Councillor Ian Davidson said he recognised the problems they experienced and said the council would continue to look into them.

He assured Actstop that all amenities and cemeteries were open to all races.
Court bid to reconnect Daveyton’s power fails

FOUR representatives of Daveyton’s residents and business community lost an urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday to have the township’s electricity supply reconnected.

The application was brought against the local authority and the Benoni Town Council.

Mr Justice van Dijkhorst dismissed the application with costs after finding the four applicants had not proved there was an agreement between the Daveyton council and the residents for the payment of a flat rate of R70.

He also rejected the submission that Benoni Town Council had unlawfully deprived residents of electricity by cutting off supplies which it receives from Eskom and in turn supplies the Daveyton council for distribution.

The four applied for an order compelling the Daveyton and Benoni councils to re- connect their electricity supply, alternatively that they continue to supply electricity until December 31 at the flat rates of R70 or R150.

Daveyton’s power was cut off on October 16 by the Benoni council because of non-payments by township residents.

The four launched their urgent application in the Rand Supreme Court three days later.

The application was postponed until this week after counsel for the Daveyton council told the court an interim agreement to restore electricity to the township had been reached between Eskom and the chairman of local government.

In terms of the interim agreement the supply was due to be cut off at midnight last night.

Sued

A lawyer acting for the four said a meeting had been arranged for last night between representatives of Daveyton residents, the council and Eskom in anticipation of the case being lost.

Mr Justice van Dijkhorst said the outstanding amount owed to Benoni by the Daveyton council was R6m as at September 3.

This is due to Benoni being in arrears in paying accounts to Eskom which sued the Benoni council for non-payment.

Stealing order in 11 townships

Liebenberg takes the reins of SARS

Receiver
Black builders issue appeal on housing crisis

SOWETO developers yesterday blamed spiralling interest rates for residents' failure to meet their bond obligations, and called on building societies to extend the repayment period from 20 years to 33.

The Soweto Developers and Builders Forum (SDBF) also deplored white developers pulling out of black areas, and criticised building societies' decision to stop granting loans in some areas.

Planning and Provincial Affairs Minister Hermus Kriel said last month eight major construction companies had withdrawn from the black housing market because of political unrest and threats of bond repayment boycotts had occurred.

A number of banks and building societies were later reported to have effectively blacklisted townships where unrest and threats of bond repayment boycotts had occurred.

SDBF chairman Aubrey Mokoena yesterday rejected the allegation that political agitation stopped blacks from meeting their bond obligations.

Mokoena told a Press conference in Johannesburg:

"We believe that the so-called bond boycott is related to the rent boycott in that it has overtimes of unaffordability."

"We believe homes must be paid for, but that all misunderstandings must be taken out of all issues regarding black housing bonds and finance."

THEO RAWANA

His organisation would request a meeting with the office of the Minister of Finance and the Reserve Bank, "with a view to discussing the effect of the interest rates on the building industry".

Building societies would be petitioned for a meeting to discuss ideas to ease the pressure on bond repayments by stretching the repayment period.

Inviting white developers to return and form joint ventures with blacks, Mokoena said "We view the pull-out by major developers and the reluctance of building societies to grant loans as a very strange coincidence. This may be to the further detriment of the small contractor."

Times Holdings financial director Neil Carter said the problem with operating in the townships was that building societies were not lending in some areas, but something had to be done. Interest rates might come down at the end of next year, but the situation had to be assisted by a stable political situation.

Stretching the repayment period would not change the situation much because it would reduce the rates by three percentage points, Carter said.

Allied home loans manager Geoff Bowler said his bank would lend to all areas if it was prudent to do so. "We have to move cautiously where there is an element of risk."
COMMERCIAL explosives were used in the explosion which rocked central Johannesburg on Tuesday night.

The blast damaged the Mosby Court flats and shattered shop windows in the vicinity of the Jeppe and Troye streets intersection. No one was injured.

Witwatersrand police spokesman, Colonel Frans Malherbe, said yesterday there was no motive for the blast and no injuries had been established.

"We don't know yet why anyone would want to bomb a block of flats," he said.

He refused to be drawn on the suggestion that the bomb was the work of white right-wing extremists. "All possibilities will be investigated," Malherbe said.

White radicals are known to have stolen commercial explosives while working at mines and construction companies - Sapa
Protest over service rates

ABOUT 500 residents from Kipswill, Eldorado Park and Klipspruit West outside Soweto marched to the Eldorado Park Civic Centre today to present a memorandum protesting against high service charges.

The memorandum was directed to the Director of Housing in the Johannesburg City Council, Mr. HWK Cunningham-Scott, and Mr. Ian Davidson, chairman of the city council's management committee.
CURRENT AFFAIRS

Fm 2/11/90

Come forward to exonerate the police of any misconduct or vandalism, after allegations that uniformed policemen damaged the buckets belonging to black residents of the Wesselton township two weeks ago.

Meanwhile, the SAP’s forensic laboratory in Pretoria is conducting intensive experiments on a water bucket which one resident claimed was damaged by police during the alleged incident. The bucket is so far the only evidence which has been presented to a top-level police investigation into the allegations.

Regional police commissioner General Robert Robinson, who has personally taken charge of the investigation, tells the FM that some of the sworn statements which witnesses made to an Ermelo attorney were later found to have been hearsay.

"However, two independent witnesses have made sworn statements — available to anyone to read — that no such incidents took place."

"Both said they saw the police on the scene, but that was all," says Robinson. He says the witnesses have asked that their identities be withheld for fear of reprisals.

Robinson has also instructed two colonels from Middelburg to interview other witnesses, but no one has been able to identify any policemen or provide the registration numbers of the Casspar which allegedly was on the scene.

However, Ermelo garage owner Boetie Tilly has sworn that he saw uniformed policemen damaging the water-cans which about 30 black residents had been using to cart water from his garage to their houses in Wesselton.

The Town Council of Ermelo is one of those controlled by the Conservative Party in the Transvaal which cut off water and electricity because black residents were behind with monthly payments.

LAW & ORDER

Fm 2/11/90

UNDER THE BRIDGE

The mystery about Ermelo's damaged water buckets has taken a new turn

Two independent witnesses have now

The alleged incident comes at a time when Vlok has pledged that strict guidelines are imposed to keep policemen out of the political arena (See Current Affairs October 12).

In an interview with the FM, Vlok promised that policemen who overstepped the mark would be dealt with severely.
Judge says: pay for electricity and it cannot be switched off

THE Atteridgeville Residents' Organisation (Aros) yesterday lost its Supreme Court attempt to stop the local town council and the Pretoria City Council from switching off electricity to the township.

And Aros has now announced that an indefinite consumer boycott taking in the whole of greater Pretoria would start with a one-day stayaway on November 12.

In the past week Atteridgeville residents have illegally reconnected electricity after it was cut off. Sapa reports that Mr Justice H Daniels, giving judgment, said the council's decision to disconnect electricity supplies to those in arrears was the most effective means of extracting or ensuring payment.

As long as payment was made, supply could not be refused. Conversely, if payment was withheld, the obligation to supply ceased.

Shortly after judgment was delivered, said Sapa, the SAP was reported to be escorting workers from private contractors hired by the council to disconnect electricity.

An Aros spokesman said yesterday that the end of the consumer boycott would depend on the reaction of government and the TPA.

"We want the TPA and the councils to talk to us, but instead they bring in contractors to disconnect electricity.

"This is a serious, dangerous situation, because people might get electrocuted if they continue re-connecting power.

GERALD REILLY reports from Pretoria that Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok warned the ANC Youth League yesterday that efforts to reconnect power to townships was illegal and dangerous.

He was responding to a statement by ANC Youth League spokesman Parks Mankahana that the Youth League would be encouraged to intensify its reconnection campaign.

Vlok appealed to ANC leader Walter Sisulu to stop the youths from illegally reconnecting electricity.

ANC spokesman Jill Marcus said yesterday it was the disconnection of electricity by councils that was illegal, not the reconnection. Blame lay with government and the councils.
Residents lose in electricity battle

AN application by the Atteridgeville Saulsville Residents Organisation (Arsso), challenging the local city council's decision to cut off electricity supplies to houses of rent defaulters, has been dismissed with costs in the Pretoria Supreme Court.

Mr Justice H Daniels ruled that the council's action in disconnecting the power supply was sanctioned by its by-laws.

"Only upon payment of the amounts involved (in respect of electricity charges in the present instance) and the continued payment thereof would entitle all residents involved to claim the reconnection of the electricity supply'', the judge said.

The application was brought against the council, the administrator of the Transvaal and the City Council of Pretoria by Arsso and Mr John Legong, a resident.

A similar application by four representatives of Daveyton's residents and business community was also dismissed with costs by Mr Justice A Van Dijkhorst in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Angry

The Atteridgeville Council yesterday started to switch off electricity again to the houses of people who owe rent amid angry reaction from the residents.

Mr David Bom, attorney representing Arsso and Legong, yesterday said they were going to appeal against the judge's ruling. An application for leave to appeal will be filed within 14 days, he said.
FROM drawing board to completed house in four hours is the record set by a local construction company with the launch this week of a new concept in affordable housing.

The R20 000 asbestos-walled wood-frame dwelling unit measuring about 40 sq m was introduced as "a dream come true," the answer to the quick-fix grannie flat or a full free standing family house.

At the "test" site in Northwold, Randburg, where a team of 25 smart workers wanted for the starting gun to get into the Guinness Book of Records for erecting a house in record time, only the foundations and slab had been completed.

All materials were delivered in kit form, from the 45 degree roof trusses weighing some 3 tons to the asbestos wall panels and interior divisions.

The first four trusses were in place and clamped firm within less than 30 minutes. Guests sipped champagne and the A-team's theme tune played as the A-frame house took shape.

Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs Herman Kriel quipped that if Japan donated R6.5m to housing instead of the ANC, 3 150 "dream" homes each accommodating a family of six could be built.

"That means 18 900 people can be housed and if overseas help could continue at the same rate, there would be shelter for every South African family before the year 2000," he suggested.

Earlier, on a more serious note, the Minister stressed private sector involvement in affordable housing.

By the time the hot water geyser was being positioned in the roof, CV Construction chief Carlo Vos was at the microphone: "This house which comes complete with fully equipped bathroom and kitchen can be built with brick walls which pushes the cost up to R24 000.

"The 80 sqm version which is ideal for holiday homes or for the aged, costs R41 000 and for R71 000 the 148 sqm unit is ideal."

The secret in the latest example of affordable housing is the design with all components manufactured to standard lengths and sizes.

Costs are estimated at 20 percent less than a comparative conventional house.

Vos said the concept had been approved in principle by Randburg and Kagiso municipalities and several building societies.

Deepmeadow councillor Murube Mtatale said there were plenty of people in his town who could afford these homes, but the problem was available land.

"We have 500 - 000 people housed in Deepmeadow. Three times that number now living in tin shacks still need houses."

"Up to seven families now live in one house, the possibilities of this place are limitless," he said - Sovietan Correspondent.
The 10 toughest landlords and their running battles with tenants

After a two-month investigation of nearly fifty ramshackle buildings, the Weekly Mail names ten landlords we consider the toughest in 'grey area' Jo'burg.
The effective dismantling of the Group Areas Act in central Johannesburg has brought the return of an old phenomenon: the slumlord.

The small landlords are the ones who destroyed the Act by gradually allowing black tenants into their city centre buildings. In the process, however, they found tenants who were vulnerable, had little protection and no rights in the area.

The result is that 90 percent of tenants in the city centre are black, and in many cases are paying high rents for overcrowded buildings that are decaying and never renovated. They are at the mercy of tough, no-nonsense, gun-toting slumlords, some of whom impose curfews, charge R5 to allow visitors or even tenants who complain.

Weekly Mail investigated and identified the 10 toughest slumlords.

1 ERIC JOoste

In half of what Eric Jooste’s Malvern tenants have to say is true then we’re dealing with one tough cookie.

I spoke separately to six black tenants of Belair Flats — one of the buildings he owns in this area — and they told me that at around 10:30pm on an October night Jooste had arrived with a gun on each lap and banged on their doors in an angry search for visitors breaking the building’s 10pm curfew.

“His attitude was like a main person — in fact at every door in the block — as though he was looking for a fight,” said one tenant who asked not to be named.

When I found that Daniel Balos had two visitors, he threw them out. Daniel was fined R150 and then evicted when he refused to pay.

“Even if your girlfriend stays over with his permission, you have to pay an extra R25 a month. They say it’s because she uses hot water. And no children are allowed.”

This man pays R325 for his small bachelor flat. He says there is never enough hot water, which means they...

Two residents of a flat in Allandene Court ...

... a young boy and a dead rat

One of the two rooms is only 2m x 2m and there is not even a separate kitchen. The only water is supplied by a hot water geyser and the water is always cold.

He has a small basin in his room, no kitchen and has to use a communal bathroom.

Another tenant told me she paid R275 for a tiny room with no electrical plug, no bathroom, no hot water, a tin roof with no ceiling, and only one naked light bulb.

“If you break any of the rules you get thrown out. Say if you have visitors, you get no notice and you don’t get your deposit back,” she said.

Balos said he had been allowed back into his flat five days after being thrown out, because the tenants’ organisation Acicotop threatened legal action.

Balos’s flat is a single room of three metres by four metres, with an unpanelled ceiling, for which he pays R275 per month.

“You don’t know why we pay so much. There are three whites in the building who pay between R100 and R150 per month,” he said.

Nearby William Court, also owned by Jooste Property Management, one tenant said he paid R450 for a bachelor flat.

Several attempts to interview Jooste proved fruitless. It took two visits to the office of Jooste Property Management before manager Joy Lubbe was reached. She confirmed that Eric Jooste owned the buildings in question and explained why they had adopted the curfew.

“The reason is to keep the lights and water bills down. It costs us R250 a month. If you don’t have it, they’ll have their brothers and sisters in with them and you can’t allow 10 people in a room with only space for one or two,” she said.

We have rules and regulations and the tenants take their flats fully aware of these. Nobody forces them to take our flats.”

She said the rules applied to all Jooste’s buildings — “and there are quite a few in the Malvern area.”

Lubbe confirmed that action had been taken against Balos.

“This particular one had four people in his room, all in the same bed. If we find they have visitors, they get notice, but there’s no such thing as a fine.”

“We’d be getting complaints for four months on that day Jooste did an inspection because people were causing a disturbance, but he didn’t go there and knock doors open. He found bottles of beer all over the floor.”

Lubbe confirmed that Jooste carried a gun for protection.

She said that only one bachelor flat in Belair Court was rented for over R300, and said that the William Court rents were less than R250, but confirmed that whites in Belair Court paid less than the blacks.

“That’s because the four white tenants have been there for over 10 years and had been paying fixed rates, so you can’t just make them pay new rentals.”

Lubbe said it was not true that tenants could only wash their clothes on Sunday.

Two days later Jooste told a tenant he was evicted.

Jooste has been fined R150 and then evicted when he refused to pay.

“Even if your girlfriend stays over with his permission, you have to pay an extra R25 a month. They say it’s because she uses hot water. And no children are allowed.”

The flat is a boiler which works by coal, so for those who come home late, there’s no hot water because the others take it all. That’s why we have the rules about visitors.”

She insisted that there was “no conflict between landlord and tenants in our flats”.

Claudio Cerasoni

This man is the owner of one of the most disgusting buildings in Johannesburg.

Allandene, in Soper Road, Berea, is an old building that one would expect to be consistent with the tone of the neighbourhood. A peep inside shows otherwise.

The building stinks from damp, dead rats and rot. There are holes in the floor, and the ceiling is caving in. Toilets are blocked and broken, there is no electricity and the glass from broken windows is strewn all over.

According to city councillor Cliff Gurrum, Cerasoni has been summoned several times for "things such as raw sewage running out of the building."

The building, (and an accompanying house at 49 Soper Road, both of which are property of the company 51 Soper Rd CC), has long been the object of litigation and council action, but appears to remain as it ever was.

A few years ago Cerasoni sold the building to Tony Phanno (see below) who, according to the tenants’ lawyers, stocked the building with tenants and then failed to pay the bond, electricity, rates and taxes, Cerasoni obtained judgment against Phanno and then filed him up against health inspectors and Acicotop.

For a while the flat catcher for the building was the head lessee, Rudi van Wezel (see below), but he parted ways with Cerasoni earlier this year.

"I did Allandene for Cerasoni and he wasn’t prepared to repair or put in any money. He just wanted to evict the tenants," said Van Wezel, who accuses Cerasoni of not paying him four months’ salary.

Early last year the building’s 80 families all found themselves out on the pavement after deciding to reduce their own rents.

Cerasoni is currently involved in a court case in which he claims to want to evict the tenants in order to repair the building. The tenants are arguing that he has waived this right by failing to fulfil similar promises in the past. The dispute is likely to be decided next year.

Tenants are paying R80 rent for their single rooms, while the owners want between R160 and R280.

"If he fixes the building and restores services, we will be prepared to pay market-related rentals," said John, one of the tenant representatives.

He said Cerasoni was "very rude" to the tenants, that he "sometimes carries a gun" and "tries to make people scared."

John said the tenants only recently discovered that Cerasoni was the landlord because Van Wezel had previously told them he owned the building.

In a casual telephone interview, Cerasoni said the following: "I had sold the building to Mr Phanno, who is..."
THE TEN TOUGHEST LANDLORDS

Grim future if the blight is not halted

They call it urban blight: gangs, drug lords, rising crime rates, violent streets, decaying buildings, overcrowding, capital flight, human tragedy.

It could be the future of inner-city Johannesburg unless drastic steps are taken to turn an increasingly dangerous situation around.

Johannesburg City Councillor Cliff Garrun believes it is early days but the danger signs are there.

Underlying the problem is an increasingly bitter conflict between some city landlords and their tenants. The tenants, many of them members of the ecvi organisation Actstop, say they are living under inhuman conditions created by slumlord negligence and greed — high rents, no electricity, no maintenance, health hazards, no security or alternatively thugs with guns.

The landlords, some of them members of a new group called the Organised Protection of Property Owners of South Africa (Oppsa), counter that Actstop is politically motivated, is out to destroy landlords, and that they are being driven to bankruptcy by an out-of-date Rent Control Act.

Tenants who boycott rents and refuse to pay the electricity bill are left to live in slums created by landlords.

According to Garrun, 66 buildings in central Johannesburg and surrounding areas are in arrears for electricity, gas and water — for an amount of over R8 million. This potentially affects 3,612 flats and about 12,000 tenants. Some of these buildings have had their electricity cut off.

"Two major slumlord owners of 10 buildings are in arrears for R800,000."
**RUDI VAN WEZEL**

Perhaps more than any of his colleagues in the organisations for the protection of property owners (SA Oppos), Rudi van Wezel has failed to prosper as a landlord. He lives in a small, subsidised flat in Johannesburg’s southern suburbs and struggles to make a living from the two buildings he still owns.

He is currently involved in a dispute with Actstop tenants over rents in two of the buildings he controls, Stressa Court in Koch Street, Joubert Park. He declines to name his other buildings.

"I don't want to say where it is because I have filled it with Inkhata members that want to rent for the electricity and says some aren't paying rent.

Actstop lawyer Moshien Moosa says he has threatened to cut off the electricity, restrict visitors and place guards at the doors. Van Wezel confirmed that he had done this, adding that he won't reconnect the electricity until he is paid.

**PIETER v LOGGERGEBER**

Piet van Loggergember is a big man who likes to dress in khaki and makes it clear that he takes no nonsense.

"You get anything I say out of context and there's war," he warned me.

In addition to owning Trust Security Services, Van Loggergember owns Park Mews building in Catherine Street, Hillbrow. This building has a sign outside which says, among other things, "No lease, Friendly Atmosphere, Security Consious (sic)."

The passage were duty and the tenants afraid to speak to the press.

Robert Stillman and his common law wife Mavis Skosana said they were evicted from their block with seven hours notice after he and his wife had an argument during which she threw two flowers pots out of the window.

Stillman’s rent slip includes a statement, which he said it had, forfeiting his right to get his deposit back, and his right to notice.

"He has turned the building into a prison. Three weeks ago I had nucate bottles of beer and wine in my flat for training dinners. In my security boys came in and hit me and took the liquor. They said I was running a shebeen which was a lie. I had a charge at Hillbrow Police Station but nothing has happened.

"A lot of the tenants have been assaulted. One owner got a blue eye and several bruises because he didn't have an entry permit."

Three months ago Van Loggergember and his security guards assaulted 12 people with sjamboks and they laid charges, but I'm not sure what happened. They were Actstop members and they've been evicted.

"One day he chased a guy out of the office with his gun."

He said the conditions in the building were "terrible. The lift often isn't working, they leave rubbish in the passages for weeks and there is no hot water."

Unlike several other landlords, Van Loggergember was willing to be interviewed and photographed.
Home, sweet home!

Alex families band together to build each other houses

HOMELESS families in Alexandra township have joined forces to build houses for each other — helped by funds from an American Christian organisation.

Nine of the houses, built by unskilled residents with a little help from skilled blacks and whites who gave their labour and services free, were opened last weekend in 17th Avenue, Alexandra.

This brought to 14 the number of low-cost three-bedroom houses built since Helen Friedman arrived in South Africa 18 months ago.

She is the sole representative here of Habitat for Humanity International, an ecumenical Christian non-profit organisation based in Georgia.

More than 100 people are daily building the houses of neighbours before they start on their own, and it is hoped more will join in as soon as land is available.

Alexandra Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International.

The organisation is operating in 300 American cities and in 70 countries in the Third World.

"It is not a charitable organisation, and helps build pride and dignity in the home-owner because he has obtained his property by his own endeavour and payments," says Helen.

Prospective home-owners have to put in 500 hours of labour on other homes before they can have their own built.

They are taught basic skills, including how to use the machine that makes concrete building blocks.

The houses are sold at cost to families who earn less than R1,000 a month.

The family pays 25 per cent of gross monthly income for the house.

The houses cost about R15,000, compared with at least R38,000 for a similar conventionally-built house.

Because no interest is charged, average monthly payments of R150 will pay off the R15,000 in eight years.

The owners' monthly repayments are used to buy land and materials.

Fresh capital is obtained by donations and interest-free loans.

Several smaller South African companies have also contributed and some hardware and building material companies have donated materials.

Among the happy new home owners is Regina Mabuza, 50, who has five children and whose family lived in a yard in Alexandra for 15 years.

Because her husband only earns R216 a week, she never dreamed she would ever have her own home.

"I cannot wait for us to have our own home," she said.

Her friend Marn Mkhabe, 47, who earns R138 a week as a packer in a chicken factory, has been helping her build since February this year.

She has not yet completed her 500 hours to get her home, but is working towards it.

She lives in a back yard with her three children — she has no husband — and shares a shack with her sister who has five children.

"I cannot wait for us to have our own home," she said.

Helen Friedman and community worker Joyce Dube at the opening of the nine houses in Alexandra which were built by poor families with help from America.
Boycott of CF

By SOPHIE TEMBA

CONSUMER boycotts are likely to hit several Conservative Party-controlled towns in the Free State from tomorrow.

The boycotts have been called to protest against the withdrawal of services from several towns in the province.

In Maokeng near Kroonstad, residents will embark on a consumer boycott tomorrow to highlight their dissatisfaction over water and electricity cuts.

A meeting held in the township this week, a decision was reached that blacks will boycott all white shops in the area, including Kroonstad.

Maokeng residents say they are being supplied with water for only six hours a day – from 12 noon to 6pm – while other areas in the township are not supplied at all.

This week electricity was switched off and the entire township was plunged into darkness, which resulted in residents making a resolution not to pay service charges until their demands have been addressed.

Petsana township near Reitz has had water cut off and night-soil buckets have not been removed for five days.

Town clerk Janie Pienaar agreed at a meeting held with the Petsana Civic Association to have water supplied to the area daily between 6am and 4pm.

A meeting will be held by Petsana residents at 2pm today to decide on a plan of action.

An indefinite consumer boycott in Parys started at the end of September and targeted white and Indian businesses.

In Johannesburg, a plea has been made to the government to encourage town councils to negotiate with residents and address their grievances instead of cutting basic services.

Once the grievances of the people have been addressed, payment of services will be normalised.

This conclusion was reached at a meeting held between leaders of member churches of the South African Council of Churches recently.

Crisis deepens as electricity and water cuts cause chaos

The church leaders said: “For a considerable period of time, residents in a number of Reef townships have been expressing their grievances to councils about corruption in the administration of the councils and the poor quality of the service they provide.

“We are concerned about this inhuman action of depriving people of water and electricity, as this creates severe practical difficulties and is an obvious health risk, especially where people are living in cramped conditions.”

“It is an affront by the South African Government that people are treated in such a disrespectful manner.”

The leaders have warned that if government cannot encourage the councils to negotiate with residents, certain elements may exploit the unrest in the townships to help disrupt the negotiation process.

This week the Daveyton Town Council and Eskom reached an interim arrangement on the supply of electricity, which calls for a weekly review of service payments by residents.

The new arrangement has been motivated by a marked improvement in payments by Daveyton residents in recent weeks, said a council spokesman.

The spokesman said: “A number of interested parties, including civic associations, were engaged in a series of meetings aimed at finding long-term solutions to problems concerning the structure of local authorities plus residents’ and councils’ ability to afford payment of services.”

Other areas where there are water and electricity cuts are Toekomstrus, Atteridgeville, Jouberton and Eldorado Park.
Move to end rent boycott

THE Klerksdorp Town Council has made proposals to the Jouberton Civic Association in an effort to end the rent and service charge boycott.

Should the civic association fail to accept the proposals, electricity and water supply to the township will be cut off on Monday.

The proposals have two alternatives: the payment of a R35 flat rate plus payment of water and electricity consumption and redemption of arrears between December 1989 and July 1990 if the proposal is accepted.

If the proposal is accepted, arrears up to the end of November 1989 will be written off.

The alternative is a flat rate charge of R65, plus instalment of arrears, consumption of water and electricity, and redemption of arrears up to the end of July 1990.
Repeal will not jar prices

THERE is unlikely to be a general rise in property prices if the Group Areas Act is repealed, town-planner Grant Staff writes in the first edition of a new journal, Urban Forum.

In an article on free settlement areas in Johannesburg, Staff writes that some localised price increases or decreases might occur, depending on a combination of increased demand and the socio-economic status of those moving into these areas.

"Dynamics" (27)

He says the socio-economic status of the people moving into an area has in any event been shown to be a far more important determinant of possible price rises than race.

He writes that the same dynamics are applicable to free settlement areas. Hence, some of these areas could experience a rise in property values and prices, but only if a sufficient number of people of a sufficiently high socio-economic status want to move in.

Free settlement areas such as Mayfair might experience some pressure on prices, but it is debatable whether this will be more pronounced than in similar non-free settlement areas such as Braxton, Westdene and Melville, where prices are already rising.

If both factors — increased demand and the socio-economic level of those moving in — are high, prices will rise. If both are low, then prices will drop, Staff says.

If the first is high and the second low, then prices also will drop, he writes. However, Staff warns that much research into the specific dynamics of individual areas needs to be done before it can be predicted with certainty what outcome residential desegregation will have on particular areas.
Jouberton power supply is cut off

BY DON SECKONE

Soweto 6/11/90
Tokozia faces another electricity cut
ANC: Siams Decision on Protection Units

ANC Siam's decision on Siams Protection Units
Vosloorus rent talks deadlocked

Talks on Monday between the Vosloorus Town Council, Transvaal Provincial Administration, Eskom and Vosloorus Civic Association aimed at resolving the ongoing boycott of rent and other service charges, has deadlocked, civic spokesman Keith Montsissi has said.

Twice during the meeting, in Germiston, delegates walked out, he said.

Earlier, the council had suggested the meeting be closed in protest against a R50 flat rate suggested by the civic. But they later decided to stay on, Mr Montsissi said.

The civic had requested the TPA and the council to accept the R50 proposal on condition that it would be reviewed in a month or two.

Instead of responding to the proposal, the council in turn demanded that residents pay a flat rate of R10 for water, R10 for a masterplan, R5,70 minimum charge for electricity, R7,10 for refuse removal, and R8 for sewerage, and that meter services, namely water and electricity be suspended.

These amounted to a total of R40,80 and would exceed an amount of R50 proposed by the civic, when water and electricity charges were included, Mr Montsissi said.

Delegates, he added, later walked out of the meeting for the second time. - Sapa
Jo'burg industrial rentals are in levelling off phase

INDUSTRIAL rentals and land values around Johannesburg are levelling off, according to the latest Russell Marriott & Boyd Trust (RMBT) property guide.

"In Johannesburg, values for most areas remain unchanged since June and notable declines have been detected in older, less attractive areas," the guide says.

"In those areas land and rental values are now correcting to market levels after being artificially swept up in the last two years by the wave of demand in better quality areas." However, in areas such as Kramer- ville and City West, where the supply is still limited and demand steady, values have increased.

Where industrial land has been released in areas of short supply - around the M2 strip and Eastgate for example - prices have risen by up to 11% to about R170/m² in the last quarter.

Investment yields for industrial property have risen to 11%-15%.

High interest rates have made it more attractive for developers to sell and lease back their properties.

In Cape Town, there is a short supply of good quality warehouses and factories, especially in the 500m² to 1500m² range, but RMBT says the demand for rented space has dropped because of the coming Christmas break, political uncertainty and the economic downturn.

Land prices in Cape Town have stabilised but RMBT expects these will rise rapidly once the economy and confidence improves, because there is a shortage of good land.

In Durban, there is a shortage of centrally-located A-grade premises although there are more B-grade premises available and their rentals are negotiable. Because land is in short supply, land prices are not affected.

The investment market there has eased slightly. Capitalisation interest rates are up 5% on average.

Cape homes 'are cheaper than hotels'

A FAMILY can save money by renting a house for a holiday instead of staying in a hotel, says Holiday Booking Service Cape MD André Jankowitz.

He says his service is not in direct competition with the hotel industry, whose market is more the businessman, single traveller or elderly tourist.

"Renting a house is purely aimed at the family - mom, dad and the kids and perhaps the grandparents and a cousin - who want privacy and the feeling of being at home."

If the holiday home rental service has a competitor it is the timeshare industry. Holiday Booking Service is aimed at families who do not want to be tied into a timeshare purchase.

Jankowitz - previously a systems analyst - started his organisation a year ago and says the supply and demand for rental family accommodation in Cape Town has been very good.

His company has about 200 flats, houses and cottages on its books ranging from R55 a day to R1500 a day. The rates depend on size, area and grading.

For example, a flat in Camps Bay with sea views which sleeps two and is graded one costs R35 a day whereas a four-bedroomed house in Bently Bay with sea view, jacuzzi, trampoline and sauna graded five costs R1500 a day.

Jankowitz says each grade is similar to the star hotel grading system. The company inspects all accommodation and then grades it.

As far as possible the service has kept its rates at the same level as in 1989.

UBS details average house's cost

THE United Building Society's quarterly housing review reports that the average price of a medium-sized house is about R106 000, which may surprise Johannesburg residents.

Property advertisements show that prices of three-bedroomed houses with few trimmings in the PWV area start at R140 00 to R150 000.

Most of the advertised houses go for R200 000 to R400 000 and there is a bracket of R600 to R2m.

But UBS chief economist Hans Falkeke points out that the data used in the survey is "smoothed" to allow for seasonal changes in the market and variations between respondents.

He says on the raw data the average price for a medium-sized house of 140m² in Johannesburg is about R133 000, but only 13% of the medium-sized houses in the survey are in the Johannesburg area and 8% are in Pretoria.

Institute of Estate Agents president Dave Muller says the figures are representative of the market for houses in SA as a whole.

"You can get houses for less than R100 000 on the East and West Rand. In Maritzburg a medium-sized house costs R50 000 to R80 000."

"Johannesburg is the most expensive area in the country"
Chamber to help in Jouberton talks

THE Westvaal Chamber of Business had agreed to help resolve the electricity crisis in the Klerksdorp township of Jouberton, local civic association spokesman Tshidiso Ntaopane said yesterday.

He said his organisation had called on the chamber after the Klerksdorp Town Council cut off the electricity supply on Monday. Negotiations deadlocked on Sunday.

A town council spokesman said Jouberton owed more than R1m, and the council and the civic association had failed to agree on a flat rate. The council cut off electricity and reduced the water supply.

Ntaopane said his organisation, in an attempt to reopen talks, tried unsuccessfully to engage the Water Board and TPA in negotiations.

"We finally had talks with the Westvaal Chamber of Business, and they have agreed to hold a meeting tonight with the council," he said yesterday.

The chamber could not be reached for comment last night.

On the East Rand, Vosloorus was in danger of a blackout after talks with the local council and TPA deadlocked on Monday.

Vosloorus administrator Gert Muller said yesterday only 45% of the 8 000 electricity users were paying the R60 interim monthly rate agreed to in talks.

"When we met on Monday night the local civic association told us they were prepared to pay only R40. That is when talks broke down. There is great danger of electricity supply being cut off yet again," Muller said.

Power supply was restored to the township about a fortnight ago after residents told the local council the cut-off would adversely affect pupils who were preparing for end-of-year examinations.

Negotiations facilitator Nigel Mandla said yesterday the parties would now decide individually what course of action they would pursue.

Eskom has summoned at least 17 local authorities in an attempt to recover arrears, its public relations spokesman Johan du Plessis told Sapa yesterday.

Sapa reports the Maritzburg Department of Development and has rejected an offer by the residents of Imbali Unit N to pay a R50 flat rate to reduce their debts on rent, electricity and other service charges after a three-month boycott.

A department spokesman said electricity would not be cut off indiscriminately.
THE Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation and the United Democratic Front have called for a one-day stayaway and an indefinite consumer boycott of white-owned businesses from Monday.

The move is to protest against electricity power cuts and the refusal by the Bophuthatswana government to be reincorporated into South Africa.

**BY MONK NKOMO**

The protest action, which was announced yesterday, was met with mixed reaction by residents and political organisations who said the organisers had not received a mandate from the people.

Confusion also surrounded the involvement of the KwaNdebele homeland residents to demand the reincorporation of Bophuthatswana into South Africa.

Other affected areas are Mamelodi, Soshangwe, Bophuthatswana and Brits, according to Asko acting general secretary Mr Simon Tshidi.

He said they were also demanding the formation of a single municipality for all residents in the Pretoria area and the immediate switching on of the electricity supply in Atteridgeville and Zithobeni.

The areas have been without power for about a month because of the rent boycott.

**Boycott**

Tshidi admitted that several organisations, including Asko, Nectu and the PAC were not consulted about the protest action.

The regional secretary of Asko, Mr Dibetso Taukobong, yesterday condemned the cutting of electricity supplies to black townships but said Azapo was not party to the stayaway and consumer boycott call.

"As far as Azapo is concerned, there has never been a Bophuthatswana. We can therefore never call for its reincorporation into South Africa. It is a non-issue," he said.

Taukobong, however, supported the protest action to force the homeland to allow both Coavu and Nectu to organise freely there.

Tshidi, who denied allegations by residents that Asko was aligned to the African National Congress, appealed to residents to heed the call but promised that no person would be intimidated or
Schools, townships will get new names

ALL 62 secondary and high schools and several townships in Soweto will be renamed after African heroes and leaders by the Soweto City Council.

The vice-president of the Sofasonke Party, Mr Maphle Mothopeng, yesterday said his party will announce the new names to Soweto residents at the party’s public meeting at the Jabulani Amphitheatre on November 18.

The late president of the Pan Africanist Congress, Mr Zeph Mothopeng, who was buried last weekend, is among those honoured.

Honoured

Anchor High School in Mzamhlophe will be renamed Mothopeng High School, Phutheng Secondary School will be called Mandela High School; Emalahleni will be called Walter Sisulu High School and the newly-built Orlando East High will be called James Sofasonke Mpanza High School.

Some of the townships to be renamed are: Orlando East which will be called Mphatuzville; Orlando West will be known as Mandelaliville and Mofolo will be known as Tahabalia Village after

Sofasonke president Mshengu Tshabalala.

Some townships named after African stalwarts such as Dube village and Mofolo township will retain their names.

Chawelo township will be divided into five areas which will be renamed after Venda and Shangaan leaders who have greatly contributed to the livelihood of their communities.

The renaming programme has drawn mixed reaction from Soweto residents. While some welcomed the renaming as long overdue, others felt all existing names, such as Mofolo, should be retained.

Political fanatics among school pupils, and civic groups are expected to clamour for the names of their political heroes, with Mandela being an overall favourite.

Other topics on the agenda at the Sofasonke Party meeting will be the transfer of all old houses to owners and the writing-off of rent arrears between June 1986 and April 1989.
Mass action over councils

CIVIC Associations of Southern Transvaal yesterday announced plans of mass activity intended to persuade councillors to resign and for the Government to dismantle the system of Black Local Authorities.

The president of Cast, Mr Moses Mayekiso, said all councillors should resign by the end of November and that the Government should dismantle the BLAs and Coloured and Indian Management Committees system by the end of December.

Mass activity will include marches, which will be held in various cities of the Southern and Western Transvaal, starting on November 17.

Memoranda will be handed to the regional offices of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Mayekiso said further action will be determined by the response of the authorities after the marches and that failure by the councillors to heed the call will result in their isolation in the communities, including boycotting their businesses.

He said the switching-off of electricity in numerous townships and lack of appreciable movement towards the establishment of "one-city, one tax-base" compelled Cast to embark on a programme of mass action.
Two more black townships in the East Rand are facing cuts in electricity supplies and services this week if residents fail to pay rent and other services charges.

Last Friday the Ratanda Town Committee, which controls Ratanda township near Heidelberg, threatened to cut off electricity supplies to the area by Friday this week if residents did not pay the flat rate of R65.

In Daveyton, residents who fail to pay monies for services due to the council will have them disconnected from tomorrow.
Eskom 'will not wipe the slate clean on arrears'

THE R10m in electricity supply arrears from 30 black townships would not be written off, an Eskom spokesman said at the weekend.

Six townships have already been summoned by Eskom after it resorted to legal action in an attempt to recoup unpaid accounts.

Eskom spokesman Johan du Plessis said at the weekend although legal action had been initiated, this did not mean Eskom was closing the door on negotiating a solution to the non-payment with all relevant parties.

"We are always ready to talk to the civic organisations, the local authorities and the TPA," he said.

Summonses were expected to be served on another 15 black councils soon. They were considering what type of action to take against the remaining nine townships, Du Plessis said.

"We won't be cutting electricity to any of the 30 black councils as it would be unfair to those individuals who do pay their accounts. Cutting off the supply to the whole area will not be a solution."

A temporary agreement on tariffs should be fixed while the issues which had led to the "non-payment situation" were addressed.

Most of the 30 black councils which owed Eskom arrears were located in the Transvaal with two or three in the Free State, Du Plessis said.

Negotiations, which in some cases included input from Eskom, were scheduled to begin on Friday between the TPA and 10 Transvaal black local authorities. Meetings were also planned with the Evaton, Alexandra, Munsieville, Jouberton and Ramana civic associations.

By Friday, 10 Transvaal townships which bought their electricity in bulk from neighbouring white local councils had had their electricity supplies cut.

These areas were: Stubeni near Bronkhorstspruit; Enqwenya near Waterval Boven; KwaGuqo and Botumelung near Bloemfontein; Sibhela near Carolina; Tswelope near Wolmaransstad; Kgakala near Leerspruit, and Maokeng and Jouberton near Klerksdorp.
No danger of health crisis in PWV, says govt department

Linden Burns

There is no danger of a health crisis in the PWV, despite reports of raw sewage polluting several Witwatersrand streams, particularly in black areas, the Health Department said at the weekend.

"At the moment there is no crisis and the department has no plans to launch a campaign against cholera until all tests have been carried out," spokesman Karin Knobel said.

She said tests were performed "on a regular basis" but could not say if specific new tests had been performed since reports and warnings that raw sewage was being dumped into fresh water streams and rivulets on the Witwatersrand.

Water Affairs spokesman Mariska Haasbroek said tests were done in conjunction with local authorities.

SAPA reports Health Minister Nita Venter said at the weekend warnings of a serious health threat in the Witwatersrand would be investigated.

Meanwhile, leading SA Institute for Medical Research virologist Prof Margaretha Isaacson has added her voice to the warnings. She said cholera, typhoid, polo, hepatitis, dysentery and gastro-enteritis could all be caused by the use of untreated polluted water.

TPA spokesman Piet Wilken blamed the health hazard on rent and rates boycotts. He called on residents to pay their accounts to allow the restoration of water and sewage supplies.

The Rand Water Board's Chris Viljoen said there was no reason for public concern about the quality of Johannesburg's reticulated water.

Eskom 'will not wipe the slate'.
No danger of health crisis in PWV, says govt department

Karin Knobel said she said tests were performed “on a regular basis” but could not say if specific new tests had been performed since reports and warnings that raw sewage was being dumped into fresh water streams and rivulets on the Witwatersrand.

Water Affairs spokesman Marisa Haasbroek said tests were done in conjunction with local authorities.

Water Affairs scientific services managing engineer Hendrik Best confirmed that his department performed pollution tests on township streams “about once a month depending on the size of the stream. Only people using unpurified water are at risk.”

Sapa reports Health Minister Rina Venter said at the weekend warnings of a serious health threat in the Witwatersrand would be investigated.

Meanwhile, leading SA Institute for Medical Research virologist Prof Margaretha Issaessens said she had seen cholera, typhoid, polio, hepatitis, dysentery and gastro-enteritis could all be caused by the use of untreated polluted water.

TPA spokesman Piet Wilken blamed the health hazard on rent and rates boycotts. He called on residents to pay their accounts to allow the restoration of water and sewage supplies.

The Rand Water Board’s Chris Viljoen said there was no reason for public concern about the quality of Johannesburg’s reticulated water.
Raw sewage presents major health hazard in the Highveld

THE TPA says it holds the organisers of the boycott of rental and service fees in black residential areas responsible for the serious health hazard caused by the dumping of raw sewage in the river systems of the Highveld.

Mr Piet Wilkens of the TPA said there were strong indications that residents wanted to pay their service fees, but that they were being intimidated not to do so.

He made an urgent appeal to black local authorities and consumers to pay their rentals and service fees.

The Highveld river systems, and the tributaries of the Vaal River, in particular, are faced with a serious health hazard, because of raw sewage which is being dumped into the rivers from scores of black residential areas.

A spokesman for the Highveld region of the Department of Water Affairs, Mrs Maria Oliviera, said officials had been instructed to take legal action against local authorities responsible for polluting streams.

**Overflow**

Oliviera said that the problem had resulted from the disconnection of services to black towns where sewage was not being pumped, treated or removed.

She said sewage pits were overflowing into streets and sewage buckets were being emptied directly into streams.

Streams that have been affected are the Blesbokspruit at Daveyton, Wonderfonteinspruit, Natalspruit and Klip River in Soweto. - Sapa
Curfew threatens rent talks

By MONK NKOMO

Today's talks between the Atteridgeville-Saalville Residents' Organisation and officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration over the rent boycott hung in the balance yesterday because of the curfew.

Mr. Simon Thidi, Auro's acting secretary, said they did not know if they would attend the crucial meeting (at 4pm) because of the curfew.

"The curfew is unnecessary and only causes more violence in the township," said Thidi...
Protest stayaway leaves Pretoria streets empty

PRETORIA’S streets, offices and shops were virtually emptied of blacks yesterday as the majority of residents from surrounding townships stayed away in protest against electricity cuts in Atteridgeville and Saulsville townships and in support of the reincorporation of Bophuthatswana into SA.

Taxis

Shops operated on skeleton white staff, while some restaurants were reduced to serving only liquid refreshments in the absence of kitchen staff and supplies.

A Sabsa spokesman said no taxis were on the streets yesterday.

Sabsa members, he said, were part of the community and heeded the call by the various progressive organisations.

Secondly, it would have been uneconomic for taxis to be cut on the streets when there were no customers coming to work, he said.

A Putco spokesman and its buses were prevented from entering Mamelodi and Soshanguve by “comrades” who had sealed off the townships, and the other two services from Denilton and KwaNdebele were not running at full capacity.

There were no buses from Atteridgeville and Saulsville, he said.

A Spoornet spokesman said the train service was running at only 30% of capacity.

The one-day stayaway and the first day of a consumer boycott of Pretoria’s shops were in response to a call by the Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents’ Organisation, Cosatu, the UDF and the Anti-Bophuthatswana Co-ordinating Committee.

The action was also in protest against the cutting off of electricity supplies to Atteridgeville last month, and in favour of free union and political activity in Bophuthatswana.
Councils may be sued over sewage

The Department of Water Affairs is considering taking legal action against black municipalities which are allowing raw sewage to overflow into tributaries of the Vaal River.

This follows the build-up of sewage which is overflowing into the rivers after pumps at certain townships were shut down following non-payment of electricity bills.

Health Department spokesman Karen Knobel said her office would only come into the picture if the situation was considered "dangerous", but the people on the affected streams were not dependent on river water for their daily supply.

**Polluted**

But South Africa Institute for Medical Research virologist Margaretha Isaacsen warned that cholera, typhoid, polio, hepatitis, dysentery and gastro-enteritis could be caused by untreated polluted water.

Meanwhile the Rand Water Board has stated emphatically that pollution which may be caused by the raw sewage flowing into the river system poses no health hazard in the PWV area.

"There is absolutely no indication of pollution in the water supplied by the RWB to the PWV area," said RWB pollution control officer Ray Haynes.

RWB chief scientist Chris Viljoen warned people who used the barrage for boating and skiing that there was always risk involved in using dams and rivers for recreational purposes.
Rent boycott talks called off

A MEETING between the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) and the Atteridgeville ANC branch on the rent boycott in the Pretoria township was called off yesterday, said TPA assistant liaison director Ian Foubister.

"It was not known when the next meeting would take place," Mr Foubister said.

Atteridgeville ANC chairman Abe Soko said he did not know about this decision and was awaiting the ANC delegation’s report.

Atteridgeville Residents’ Organisation publicity secretary John Hattingh said the organisation had pulled out of the talks because of police action in the township.

The TPA had said the agenda would include recommendations of the Kriel Commission of Inquiry into irregularities in the town council. The commission earlier found there had been a number of irregularities.

Violence flared on Saturday, killing two youths and injuring more than 20 people in a confrontation between protesters and police over an electricity switch-off. Subsequent to the violence, a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed in Atteridgeville on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, the Klerksdorp and Jouberton councils will hold a crucial meeting tomorrow to determine further action in the rent and service charges boycott in the township.

The Klerksdorp council reconnected electricity to the township on Friday last week, and said tomorrow was the deadline for residents to make satisfactory payments.

In Witbank, the town council cut power supplies to the township of Kwagga on Monday.

Town clerk Adam Engelbrecht announced last week that the R60 flat rate paid by residents was not enough and if the amount was not increased there would be no alternative but to effect the cuts.

A spokesman for the residents’ organisation said they were surprised by the action.

Engelbrecht could not be reached for comment yesterday — Sapa.

Women urged to help build new SA

DEPUTY Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer yesterday urged women to become involved in the peace process and to share the responsibility of creating a new dispensation in a growth-oriented SA.

Addressing women in Soweto, Meyer said as women made up more than half the country’s total population, it was clear they had to take an active part not only in the political sphere, but also in the wider social structure.

"In working to bring about the new SA the government is not aiming only for a new political system. SA needs a whole new social structure where the ideals and aspirations of everyone can be realised," Meyer said, adding that without the involvement of women it would not be possible to negotiate a new, acceptable and workable constitution.
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Klerksdorp meets on rent boycott today

THE Klerksdorp and Jouberton councils will hold a crucial meeting today to determine further action in the rent and service charges boycott in the township.

The Klerksdorp Town Council reconnected electricity to the township on Friday last week, and said today was the deadline for residents to make satisfactory payments towards the bulk supply.

A spokesman for the Klerksdorp town council said on Tuesday that the payments were not satisfactory, they may decide to switch off electricity again. However, he had no statistics on how residents were responding to the call to pay. - Sapa
Civic groups to march on Reef and Vaal

THE Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal is to hold protest marches on Saturday to demand the resignation of councilors, Cast announced yesterday.

Cast president Mr Moses Mnyeki said marches would take place in Johannesburg, Germiston, Toekomsrus and the Vaal at 10am.

Memoranda would be presented to the regional offices of the Transvaal Provincial Administration.

Permission had been granted for Johannesburg and Germiston. The organisation expected authorities that had not yet granted permission for the marches not to create "a climate of confrontation".

He said: "We must reiterate our contention that these marches are part of a programme of peaceful mass action to red our people of the ravages of apartheid and improve the quality of people's lives."

"The curfew imposed in Atteridgeville and the policy of swashing-off of power in various townships make it virtually impossible for negotiations to take place in a conducive climate.""Demands"

The demands to be presented to the TPA included:

* The dismantling of black local authorities, coloured and Indian management authorities by the end of December;

* The establishment of one city and one tax base;

* The immediate end to power cuts in townships;

Minister told 'people to aid cops - witness"

It was a well-known fact in Clémont that KwaZulu Deputy Cabinet Minister Mr Bekizwe Jamile encouraged people to co-operate with police and other authorities, the Maritzburg Supreme Court heard yesterday.

This was heard during the cross-examination ofabinet Eric Nkabinde, a witness in the trial of Jamile and his co-accused, Mr Mzi Gqobane.

Jamile (39) and Gqobane (19) have pleaded not guilty to five charges of murder, seven counts of attempted murder and three charges of incitement to murder.

Nkabinde has been branch commander of the Kwa Dabele Police Station, which serves the Clémont area, since October 1987.

Under cross-examination by Jamile's defence counsel, Mr Gideon Scheltema, he agreed that Jamile was criticised severely in United Democratic Front circles for his appeal to people to co-operate with police (Proceeding). - Sowetan Correspondent
Middle-range homes hard hit

CHARLOTTE MATHEWS

PROPERTIES in greater Johannesburg, Randburg and Sandton in the R185 000 to R450 000 range have been the hardest hit by high interest rates, the economic downturn and political instability.

According to research done by Aida Holdings' national franchising arm, property values in this range declined by 7% over the last six months.

"The trend for middle-income professionals is to buy down, which is underpinning the market below R185 000," Aida chairman Aida Geffen says.

"Rising living costs, expensive petrol and uncertainty as to what form the new SA will take have adversely affected the middle market."

She says house prices in the R450 000 to R1m range are still buoyant because these buyers have more disposable income and are not affected by the cost of living to the same extent as the mid-range buyers.

But there is still resistance at the top end of the market, especially for houses of R2m and upwards. Aida recently sold a 12 000m² property in Sandton for nearly R3m, but it had been on the market for a year.
Shopkeepers try to end boycott in Kroonstad

KROONSTAD shopkeepers are taking the lead in attempting to resolve a consumer settled boycott. Papapanous said he had met the boycott implementers, the Moaeng Democratic Crisis Committee, on Wednesday after electricity and water supplies were cut by the Kroonstad town council after residents had boycotted service charge payments.

A meeting between shopkeepers and the Kroonstad Town Council was due last night and the 11-day-old Papapanous said he hoped the boycott 'has had its effect' to make progress towards a compromise. - Sapa
Shopkeepers try to end boycott in Kroonstad

KROONSTAD - shopkeepers are taking the lead in attempting to resolve a consumer boycott, Papapanous said he had met the boycott organisers, the Moekeng Democratic Crisis Community, and they agreed to try and cut off the Kroonstad town council after residents of the nearby Moekeng township, after electricity and water supplies were cut off, the Kroonstad Town Council, after residents of the upward, had boycotted shops.

"A meeting between shopkeepers and the Local store owner-Kroonstad Town council was due last night and that the 11-day-old Papapanous said he hoped boycott has hit shops to make progress towards a compromise," Sapa
Govt 'preparing for violation of civil rights'

There were signs that President F W de Klerk and his government were attempting to prepare public opinion for the violation of civil rights, ANC deputy leader Nelson Mandela said last night.

Mandela, addressing the Foreign Correspondents' Association in Johannesburg, said it was universally accepted that various means of political expression, including public meetings, rallies and non-violent resistance, were aspects of freedom of speech.

While the media's freedom of speech was recognised, the same could not be said of the people's right to assemble, hold meetings and processions, and stage mass demonstrations.

He said a regime accustomed to authoritarian behaviour needed time to grow accustomed to democratic practice.

He said it had been accepted that the interface of extra-parliamentary and parliamentary activities was essential for the unfolding of democratic politics.

Mandela said it would be foolish for anyone to align themselves with government's attempts to curtail these rights.

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**CROOKES BROTHERS LIMITED (CBL)**

**INTERIM REPORT 1990/91**

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**Shopkeepers attempt to end boycott**

KROONSTAD shopkeepers are taking the lead in attempting to resolve a consumer boycott.

Residents of Maaseik township started the boycott after the Kroonstad Town Council cut electricity and water supplies.

Maaseik residents have been boycotting service charge payments.

Kroonstad store owner Greg Papapapanous said yesterday that he had met the boycott organizers, the Maaseik Democratic Crusade Committee, on Wednesday and they had agreed to try and find ways of ending the boycott.

A meeting between shopkeepers and the Kroonstad Town Council was due to be held last night.

Papapapanous said he hoped that progress towards a compromise would be made.
Township strife a threat to talks

B

The government and African National Congress negotiate anything else, they may have to agree on ways to run townships for the next few years. If they don't, they may be unable to negotiate anything else.

Township conflict between ANC-aligned civic groups and the authorities has become the major threat to national negotiations. The ANC and many cívics call for "mass action" to overthrow the local government — and township councils in particular. The government insists that councils will continue until a new local government system is negotiated.

Continuing rent and service charge boycotts threaten to collapse township administrations — and prompt electricity, water and sewage cuts which deplete township life. These conflicts have triggered violence which may escalate, making a national settlement difficult, if not impossible.

The government now demands that the ANC stop "mass action" if prisoners are to be released and cívics are to return. A stalemate could develop that will delay or halt negotiations.

This is a far cry from three months ago when it seemed that negotiation between cívics and the authorities would end boycotts, avert service cuts, and end agreements to manage townships until a new city government system is negotiated. Talks on ending boycotts had begun in small townships in several. There were settlements. In some, there was agreement on interim arrangements allowing township administration to continue. Provided cívics gained a say in how it operated.

In September, an agreement ended the Soweto boycott and established a forum to handle conflicts until a new system is in place. Some believed it would be followed by agreements in other townships and the conflict would end.

The opposite happened. Most agreements in other townships have collapsed and cívics greeted the Soweto accord with demands for stepped-up mass action.

Many in the ANC and the cívics saw the Soweto agreement as a compromise because it allowed existing local governments to remain. They want them scrapped and replaced with interim bodies elected in a non-racial poll.

But they knew that other cívics were not strong enough to negotiate similar agreements and make them stick.

Soweto's cívic is one of the few in the Transvaal which represents an organised constituency; it has a chance to compromise. If it has to compromise, it faces a chance of taking township residents with it.

Perhaps because it represents a constituency, the Soweto cívic had negotiated with the authorities and was ready to do so. It had framed demands and decided which it could compromise on.

The other cívics aren't ready. They are used to denouncing apartheid, not framing concrete policies and strategies. This explains why some agreements have collapsed. Cívics who negotiated them weren't strong enough to ensure that residents would honour them. Some also made them without consulting residents — or realising the implications. When these became clear, the deals collapsed.

Many cívics have reverted to rhetoric and protest because they are too strong to negotiate, but because they are too weak.

If negotiating a transition is left to individual cívics, the conflict won't be settled. Decades of poverty and poverty have left too many people weak to negotiate now and this won't change quickly. This is why the government is unlikely to achieve a change in local activists' strategies by demanding it.

It assumes that cívics could change from mass action to negotiation if they want to. But they may be choosing mass action because they are too weak to choose anything else.

They may choose something else only if structures are created which offer them gains if they take part in local elections — and the prospect of major losses if they don't.

Structures are needed which formalise local negotiation and give cívics a share in decision making. We now know that, in most areas, they can't be created by local negotiation.

The government, the ANC and the cívics have an interest in a stable journey from the old local government system to the new. But they insist the journey can begin on their terms.

The government wants existing structures to remain because this shows it is in control. It wants councils to stay because it sees them as allies who share an interest in mounting local majority rule. The ANC wants the structures and councils to go because it wants to show it is in control and that stability is only possible if the government conceives local majority rule now.

But neither side is strong enough to prevail.

The government has found that, in many townships, it cannot ensure that councillors remain in office. Where they have resigned — or been removed by force — it has not replaced them. Its present stance weakens it because it sends a signal to local activists that, if they want councils to go, they will have to force them out.

The ANC and cívics cannot remove some township councils — still less can they remove white councils. Their current strategy is doing little to strengthen them.

So both sides have an interest in compromising and in agreeing on ways to manage the local transition.

If the process begun by those two earlier minutes is to continue, it may need a third minute, which includes the cívics, and agree on how townships will be run until a new system is in place. It may have to be negotiated nationally. But it will have to give grassroots groups a key role in the arrangements which are agreed — or the weakness which caused the stalemate will continue.
SIR - The Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation (Asro) claims to represent everybody, but it does not.

Members were not democratically elected.

In view of their allegiance with the ANC and UDF, they obviously represent only their membership and are trying to make all residents automatic members and supporters of their organisations.

They claim not to be doing this, but they cannot fool all the people.

There are many people in our township who have different ideologies and are members of different political organisations. A civic organisation should be absolutely apolitical. Therefore any decision Asro takes must be in consultation with all residents and political organisations.

For instance, the present consumer boycott has been imposed on the masses. The people took no part in the decision.

Asro had no mandate from residents and should not try to involve us all.

Asro should disband so that an apolitical civic organisation can be formed to represent everybody.

WORRIED RESIDENTS
Atteridgeville
THE R2-bilion allocated by the Government for socio-economic development should be used where the need was greatest.

It should not be used to subsidise houses costing more than R10 000 to R12 000, said Aida Holdings chairman Ms Aida Geffen.

In a statement, she said the funds should be used for the majority of urban blacks who earned between R500 and R800 a month.

“I believe the acute housing shortage in this country and the squatter problem is a time-bomb on the verge of exploding.”

Ms Geffen said it made no sense to subsidise black housing in the R20 000 to R30 000 bracket at the expense of the majority who could not even afford repayments on bonds of R10 000.

She said the belief that basic dwellings could not be built for less than R15 000 had been disproved at Orange Farm earlier this year where 3 500 houses were built at a cost of R8 500 each.

The houses consisted of an outer brick wall with tiled or steel roof, no plastering or ceilings and a single dividing wall.

One water tap was shared by 10 houses and pit sewerage would be used until water-borne sewerage was installed.

Eskom had undertaken to bypass the various municipal authorities and enter into direct supply contracts with house-owners at Orange Farm, Ms Geffen said.
Rent arrears demand sparks Soweto row

GREATER Soweto traders and community-based organisations are to hold an important meeting at the Jabulam Standard Bank Hall tomorrow at noon, to discuss rent arrears.

Many business people are claiming they have been asked to pay arrears by City Councils over the past few weeks.

The president of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mr Phlemon Maketha, yesterday said the meeting will formulate a letter of demand from the council authorities regarding the payment of rent arrears.

He claimed that business owners have received letters to pay arrears, despite the fact that the Transvaal Provincial Administration had agreed to scrap rent arrears in the townships.

"We are surprised by this move and need an explanation from the authorities."

Meeting

Meanwhile, the South African Long Distance Transport Association (Saldta) is to hold a meeting at the Rand International Hotel, Johannesburg, at 10am, to discuss the escalating number of road accidents involving minibus taxis in the past months.

'All spaza shops' and hawkers are invited to a meeting at the Easi-Bys-Nite Club in Kantele, tomorrow at 10am.
Lift curfew first, Vlok is urged

By MONK NKOMO

THE Attendgeville-Saulville Residents Organisation yesterday called on Minister of Law and Order Mr. Adriaan Vlok to lift the dawn-to-dusk curfew before they could negotiate with the Transvaal Provincial Administration to resolve the rent boycott.

Acting general secretary Mr. Simon Tshidi said the resignation of councillors in Attendgeville last week had paved the way for an interim solution to the boycott that started on April 1.

He said plans were underway to form a committee comprising officials from Attendgeville, Mamelodi, Landum and Boksburg to negotiate with the Pretoria City Council for a single municipality in Pretoria.

"But the Minister of Law and Order must lift the curfew he imposed on November 11 before negotiations can start," Tshidi said.
Military truck hits, kills man

A 27-YEAR-OLD man died at Kalafong Hospital after being knocked down by a military truck in Atteridgeville last Sunday.

Mr Godfrey Mabena, of Saulsville, died hours after the funeral of two youths - Lucky Fatlane (19) and Prince Makhoba (19) - who were both shot by police.

Mr Johannes Maphoka (54) was seriously injured after being shot by four policemen on Saturday.

Mrs Rose Mabena told Sowetan yesterday that her nephew was knocked down at the corner of Ramokgopa and Mhlanga streets about 3.15pm.

He was rushed to the hospital but died a few hours later.

By MONK NKOMO

Family

A spokesman for lawyers representing the Mabena family said they may take legal action.

An SADF spokesman in Pretoria yesterday confirmed the incident and said a military board of inquiry would investigate the matter.

The Atteridgeville Saulsville Residents Organisation yesterday condemned the activities of security forces which have allegedly claimed three lives in the township in a week.

"It is clear the security forces are not interested in the maintenance of law and order but are actually promoting conflict," Mr John Ramatsui, Arso's publicity secretary, said.

Mrs Mabena said her nephew would probably be buried on Saturday.

He is survived by his wife Glory, and a five month-old son, Sipho.

3 000 died violently this year

MORE than 3 000 people have died this year in the country's worst ever political violence, the South African Institute of Race Relations has announced.

Commenting on its latest report on political fatalities released yesterday, the institute said the 1990 death toll was "the grimmest ever."

In the first 10 months of the year 3 038 people died in political violence, an average of 10 a day.

This dwarfs the daily average of 3.25 deaths over the same period last year.

The report noted that between September 1984 - when the present cycle of violence first erupted - and the end of last month, 8,577 had died.

More than a third of those killed died this year.

Whereas most fatalities had resulted from security force action in the early stages of the conflict, clashes within the black community now accounted for most casualties.

Renewed fighting at the weekend claimed 40 lives - including 19 men killed at Zonk'iswe on the East Rand and two policemen shot in Port Elizabeth.

The bodies of Sergeant Johan Gerber (21) and Constable Cornelius de Wet (22) and an unidentified man were found in Zwele on Monday - Supra.
Anglo helps pay township's water bill

WATER supplies were restored to Welkom's Thabong township yesterday after Anglo American helped to bail out the cash-strapped township.

The township was without water for 24 hours as authorities put pressure on the 196,000 strong community to step up payments for water bills. At least R800,000 is owed to the Goldfields Water Board.

Local civic organisations, councils and the corporation reached an agreement on the issue at a meeting yesterday afternoon.

Anglo American gold and uranium division GM Adrian du Plessis said last night Anglo had a "direct and material interest in the resolution of conflicts affecting our workplaces". Anglo's Freegold mine operation employs about 2,500 Thabong residents among its 100,000 employees.

Du Plessis said Anglo was present at the negotiating table and "was able to bring a little to the table which may have helped the principal parties involved in reaching a settlement".

He would not give details of Anglo's role.

Sapa reports that a source in Welkom City Council said Anglo had agreed to financially bail out the township "at another meeting" on Tuesday.

Welkom Mayor Alwyn Rohrs said civic leaders had pledged to pay R10,000 daily and to establish extra paying points in the township to offset the more than R800,000 owed to the water board.
Many heeds
Pretoria call
for stayaway

THOUSANDS of people in Mamelodi, Pretoria, stayed away from work yesterday in remembrance of the 14 people who were shot dead by security forces during a rent protest march on November 21, 1985.

Scores of residents, mostly youths, attended the commemoration service at HM Pigeon Stadium where speakers called on local councillors to resign.

Mr Bheki Khoza, who chaired the meeting, paid tribute to civic leader Mr Stanza Bopape, who went missing about four years ago after being arrested by police.

He also called on Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan to bring to book the killers of Dr Fabian Riboro and his wife.

City Press reporter Elias Maluleke was turned away and barred from reporting yesterday’s events by a group of youths and local civic leaders who accused him of “bad reporting and distortion of facts.”

Wreaths

The procession, led by priests, marched through the streets to lay wreaths on the graves of 13 of the 1985 victims. The 14th victim, Mr Thabo Makola, was buried in Mabopane.

The procession then went to the stadium where speakers blamed town councillors for the deaths of the 14.

Police kept a low profile and monitored the proceedings from their cars.

Mr Lazarus Mzwayne, chairperson of the Mamelodi Peoples Delegation, said the resignation of Mr Zikhali Ndizi from the council last week “is not enough - he must face the consequences of what he did.”

Other speakers at the service were Mr Dan Mmule of the Pan African Congress and Mr Mos Chikane of the African National Congress.
Ignore rent demands, says SCA

By Stan Hlophe

The Soweto Civic Association (SCA) has advised members of the Greater Soweto Chamber of Commerce to ignore letters from the Soweto Town Council which warned them to pay their rent arrears.

SCA president Isaac Mogase told the meeting yesterday that in terms of the accord reached between the SCA, the council and the Transvaal Provincial Administration, all rent arrears would be written off, including those of traders.

The council has written to businessmen demanding payment.

Mr Mogase urged businessmen not to make agreements, as they could be binding.

He appealed to traders to become affiliated to the SCA by aligning themselves to street committees. He asked traders not to donate money to youths in the township unless called on to do so by the SCA.

Soweto baker China Ngema asked the SCA to protect businessmen from vandalism — the hijacking of vehicles by youths who committed crimes in the name of "the struggle."

Mr Mogase said the civic association and chamber should convene an anti-crime conference to address the issues.
Residents fight to restore power

THE Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation has lodged an appeal against the Pretoria Supreme Court's recent decision to dismiss their application challenging the local city council's severing of electricity supplies in the township.

By MONK NKOMO

Mr Justice Daniels dismissed Asro's application on November 1 and ruled that the council's action in disconnecting the power supply was sanctioned by its by-laws. Residents could only claim the reconnection of the electricity supply upon payment for that service, the judge said.

Asro's attorney, Mr David Bam, yesterday confirmed that they had filed an application for leave to appeal either to the appellate division or the full bench of the Pretoria Supreme Court against the judgment of Daniels. No date has been set for the hearing.

The application seeking an order directing the Atteridgeville Council to restore the electricity supply was brought by Asro and Mr John Legong, a resident. The respondents were the Atteridgeville and Pretoria City Councils and the Administrator of the Transvaal.

In his judgment, Daniels said, "It is an unfortunate state of affairs and one can only trust that the parties involved would be able to resolve the problem and to compromise their differences in an orderly manner."

"It is not court's function to resolve those difficulties. The parties ought to do so themselves in a responsible and considerate manner."
JOEY Schectman is a former police
man who runs a private security con-
pany and claims to have "no problems
at all in my family."
After hearing reports that his security
company, Prem Security, has been
some of the toughest in town for the
past couple of years, we were
looking for a chance to talk to him.
He had worked for Van Lennep-
burg in Park Moos, but the only
unacco...
The 10 toughest landlords and their running battles with tenants

SLUM LORDS

By GAVIN ENS

After a two-month investigation of nearly fifty ramshackle buildings, the Weekly Mail names ten landlords as we consider the toughest in ‘grey area’ Jo’burg.

1. ERIC JOOSIE

A half of what Eric Joosie’s Malvern tenants have to say is true, but we’re dealing with a punchy puncher.

Eric’s supposedly 60 black tenants at Belair Flats—are one of several buildings in the area and they tell us that at around 10pm on the 27th of November Joosie had walked around with a gun on each hip and banged on their doors in an angry search for victims breaking the building’s new look.

He kicked my door like a girl’s heels in his black, - as though he was looking for a fight,“he’s one that never has to be named.

When he found that Denvin Biddle had been playing cards with friends in the room, Joosie had a fit and then went when he found that Denvin Biddle had been playing cards with friends in the room.

“Even if your girlfriend stays over with her parents, she has to pay an extra R3.50 a month. This is because she was hot water, and no child is allowed.”

This room pays R3.50 for her small bachelor flat. He says there is never enough hot water, which means they can only wash clothes on Sundays.

Two residents of a flat in Allendale Court—a young boy and a dead rat—had told us that it can’t allow 10 people in a room only with one bathroom.

Another tenant told us he paid R2.75 for a room with no electricity, no bathroom, no hot water, a cockroach on the ceiling, and only one naked light bulb.

If you break any of the rules you get thrown out. So if you have visitors, you get no notice, and you don’t get any money back,“he said.

Biddle said he had been allowed back into his flat five days after being thrown out, because the tenants’ organisation, Action Joosie, threatened to evict him.

Biddle’s flat is a single room of three rooms, with a four-income, with an apartment, for which he pays R2.75 per month.

“I don’t know why we pay so much there are three tenants in the building who pay between R2.00 and R1.50 per month,” he said.

As a member of the Joosie Property Management, one tenant said he paid R6.00 for a bachelor flat.

Several attempts to interview Joosie were unsuccessful.

It took us two weeks to the office of Joosie Property Management before manager John Law was reached. He confirmed that Eric Joosie owned the building, and explained that why he had adopted the new decor.

“Joosie is to keep the lights on and water bill down. It costs us R2.50 a month. If you don’t have it, they’ll call the police, and it’s all a hassle.”

2. GLAULHO CERESI

This man is the owner of one of the worst disgusting buildings in Johannesburg.

Allendale, on Sophiatown Road, Roode, is an old building that one would expect to find in one of the ugliest neighbourhoods. A proper view shows other tenements.

The building stands from a dense, dead rats and rust. There are holes in the floor and the ceiling is caving in to the knocked and broken, there is no electricity and gas from the broken water pipes is seen all over.

According to a source, the building and the ceiling is caving in to the knocked and broken, there is no electricity and gas from the broken water pipes is seen all over.

A few years ago, Ceresi said that the building is a Tony Photon (very below) who, according to the tenants’ law, knocked the building and then failed to pay the bond, estate, rate and taxes.

Ceresi obtained judgment against Photon and then sold the company on to Joosie and Acorn.

For a whole, the block catcher for the building was the head tenant, Paul van Wijk (see below), but his partner was in prison in 1999.

“Tell Allendale for Ceresi and he won’t come join us a pair of put in any money. Just wanted to even the tenants,” said van Wijk, who accuses Ceresi of overcharging him for months’ salary.

Early last year the building a 90 tenants all found themselves out of the government after deciding to reduce their own rents.

Ceresi is currently involved in a court case where his tenants claim to evict the tenants in order to repair the building. The tenants are arguing that he has evicted them this night by failing to fulfill tenants promises in the past. The dispute is likely to be decided next year.

Tenants are paying R500 rent for their triple rooms, while the owners want between R200 and R300.

If the building and requires services, we will be prepared to pay in short recall. said John, one of the tenants representatives.

He said Ceresi’s was a ‘very rude, in the tenants, that he sometimes carries and ‘tells people around’.

John said the tenants recently discovered that Ceresi had been the landlord, because Van Wijk had previously told them he owned the building.

In an inter telephone interview, Ceresi said that the following, that ‘We had told the tenants at Mr Photon, who is...”

TO PAGE 6
To Labour Party Keynote Address

The context is unclear. It appears to be a speech or address, possibly related to politics or labor issues, but the text is not legible. The layout suggests it might be a page from a newspaper or magazine. The content seems to be a mix of fragmented sentences and bullet points, which makes it difficult to extract meaningful information. The text includes some symbols and numbers, which are not clearly interpretable.
Dangerous, says TPA
Illegal power link up

SOMETHAN MAND
Complaints over SAP action

MEMORANDA were handed in to Dobsonville, Soweto police stations and post offices after a peaceful march on Saturday, complaining about SAP action and poor postal services.

Dobsonville civic association leaders also wanted to hand over a memorandum to the local town clerk, calling for the resignation of councillors, but he was not available.

Sapa
Plea to Vlok over curfew

By MONK NKOMO

THE Albertonville-Saulsville Residents' Organisation meets the Minister of Law and Order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, in Pretoria this morning to discuss the possibility of lifting the dawn-to-dusk curfew in the township.

The civic body also wants the lifting of unrest curbs imposed in the Pretoria township on November 11, said acting general secretary of Astro, Mr Simon Tshidi.

Unrest area

Vlok introduced the 9pm to 4am curfew and declared the township an "unrest area" following a weekend of violence in which two youths were shot dead, allegedly by police, and houses of several town councillors and former town clerk Mr Solly Ramalila petrol-bombed. A number of shops were also damaged.

"We think the curbs are unnecessary and, in fact, they inconvenience people," Tshidi said.
Eskom takes tough stand in talks with townships

TOWNSHIP electricity arrears have soared to R96m, and at least 21 of 36 affected areas face possible legal action from Eskom should negotiations to break the payment deadlock fail.

Eskom spokesman Johan du Plessis said yesterday the corporation was not prepared to write off any arrears, and that would be a non-negotiable item in any agreement reached with indebted township administrations.

"So far negotiations have not delivered the desired results, but we will continue negotiations in our attempt to recover the outstanding money," he said.

Du Plessis said although 12 townships had been summoned and legal action against a further nine was in the pipeline, Eskom would still strive to negotiate a solution.

Negotiations in some areas were going well. Du Plessis said the amount of arrears was a figure which rose and fell according to payments of outstanding accounts.

"It was R70m a couple of weeks ago and dropped to about R69m. Now it's up to R96m."

WILSON ZWANE reports that residents of the East Rand township of Vosloorus could have a "dark Christmas", according to mayor Morris Simakela, unless they paid an interim R60 a house.

Vosloorus has an electricity debt of about R5m and, according to Simakela, Eskom had already summoned the town council.

"We appeal to the community to pay an interim rate of R60 for November and December so we can pay Eskom," Simakela said.

Of that R60, R40 would be for electricity and R20 for other municipal services.

Kutlabo, also on the East Rand, owes Eskom about R6m. Mayor McDonald Mohlana said residents had started paying interim monthly rates of R45 (for electrified houses) and R10 (for unelectrified houses).

Eskom had sent the council a letter of demand.

Sapa reports that the situation in Kromstad's Mookgopong township, where the NP-controlled local council cut off all water supplies on Friday, was reported to be tense yesterday.

Township residents have vowed to continue a consumer boycott of white businesses in Kromstad until water supplies are fully restored.

In another development, the Atteridgeville-Saulsville Residents' Organisation (Asro) was due to meet senior TPA officials last night to discuss crucial issues, including the possibility of the writing off rent arrears.

Asro official Simon Tshidi said they were also going to discuss the repayment of R20,000 by former town councilors who, it is alleged, used the money illegally to erect security fences around their homes, and the implementation of interim rates for electricity, water and other municipal services.

Atteridgeville is without electricity.

As only three councillors remain there, Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough is expected to declare early next month on an administrator to take charge of Atteridgeville town council affairs.

Local ANC official Ahe Nkomo has welcomed the appointment of an administrator, saying it would "pave a way for the resolution of the rent crisis".

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LINDEN BIRNS

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R100 000 in art for Jo'burg council

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JANIA LEVY

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PAID Clerk

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L. A. LEVY

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The Johannesburg City Council has spent R100 000 on a dozen contemporary SA art works to be hung in the...
Mrs Flora Gumede of Central Western Jabavu examines the damage caused by the storm on Sunday.

**Storm damage in townships**

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI
Own Correspondent

AT least eight houses, seven of them in Soweto, had their roofs blown off as stormy rains ravaged the Transvaal at the weekend.

The widespread rain has brought at least slight relief to some of the Northern Transvaal drought areas.

Soweto and Pretoria residents were yesterday mopping up after the storm which blew off roofs, uprooted trees, and brought down power lines.

Mrs Elsie Moloi, a Central Western Jabavu pensioner, said the destructive storm was sudden and frightening.

She said: "We were so frightened as our roof lifted off and water rushed into our living room.

"It was completely chaotic. My garage is totally damaged. Its walls are cracked and the roof is destroyed. Where will I get the money to repair it? Even the ceiling caved in and we had to support it with a pole and bricks to keep it from falling on top of us," she said.

In Pretoria and Oukasie township, Bats, there were many reports of fallen trees and power failures.

A spokesman for Verwoerdburg town council said no much damage was reported in the area.

The weather bureau says it is too soon to describe the drought as "broken", but there can be no doubt ranch brought welcome relief to the city, and to farmers throughout the Transvaal in particular.

A weather forecaster said the system was clearing from the west. However, a new trough was developing in the west and this could bring with it thundershowers in the western parts today, spreading gradually eastwards later in the week.
Soweto accord row: businessmen excluded

SOWETO businessmen would have to pay arrears dating back to 1986 because the Greater Soweto Accord wrote off only debt incurred on residential units, a signature to the accord said yesterday.

Diepmeadow Mayor Moses Khumalo, whose area is one of the three Greater Soweto councils that had a R516m rent arrears debt written off by the accord in September, said business people and hostel dwellers were never part of the talks that led to the accord.

A ceiling of R72,50 a month was placed on the total bill for services and electricity until December 1990. Saying the clause concerning the write-off and the flat rates specifically referred to residential areas, not business sites, Khumalo added: "It would be ridiculous to allow a businessman to pay R23 a month and give him a maximum of R72,50."

Former Soweto Chamber of Commerce president Makana Tshabalala said the accord applied to black business people as well as they had always been part of the population.

"When there are stayaways we close. We have suffered all the way with the people. We cannot allow ourselves to be cut off from them when it comes to accords of this nature," said Tshabalala.

Civic's Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) vice-president Kgabisi Mofunkutu said the accord covered all arrears incurred, irrespective of business sites or residential units.

"We won’t tolerate a breach of the accord. For councillors to isolate business people indicates that they are selective in their service to the community."

"We are surprised that the councillors are attacking the business people."

Mofunkutu, whose organisation has been campaigning for the dissolution of the black local authorities system, said: "But we find there is no point in engaging in verbal exchanges with the councillors as they are on their way out. They must all have resigned by November 30."
Daveyton wins electricity reprieve

BULK electricity supplies to Daveyton township on the East Rand will not be cut off during the Christmas season, due to an agreement reached between the township’s city council and the Daveyton Interim Committee.

The announcement was made yesterday by negotiations mediator Dawie de Beer, who said the agreement was “valid until January 18 next year and will allow the parties to continue negotiations on other issues without the interruption of the electricity supply.”

Both the council and the interim committee had agreed to call on residents to pay their accounts in accordance with an interim arrangement so the council could maintain basic services, he said.

Businesses would have to pay their full accounts once Eskom had certified the accuracy of their electricity meters.

De Beer said Eskom had agreed to investigate strategies for testing the meters at residential dwellings and that once they were certified accurate, metered consumption would have to be paid by domestic consumers.

The Daveyton City Council had agreed not to take legal action for the non-payment of arrear accounts until the end of January next year while bona fide negotiations took place, De Beer said.

Meanwhile, the health situation in Emamooli township near Bethal has become critical after the suspension of water and electricity services to the township by the CP-controlled Bethal council, Sapa reports.

A local doctor told Sapa an outbreak of cholera and typhoid was imminent and raw sewage was flowing into a nearby river.

However, Bethal Medical Officer of Health Adam Engelbrecht told Sapa he was unaware of any sewage problems.

PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz
KRUGERSDORP Residents Organisation has distanced itself from rumours in neighbouring Kagiso township that a consumer boycott is to take place there from tomorrow.

KRO publicity secretary Ms Nomvula Mokhonyane said in a statement yesterday that although the organisation supported mass action, it had not yet decided on a boycott. "We are still discussing a boycott with the other community structures in the township," she said.

Mokhonyane added that in negotiations on service charges between the KRO and the Transvaal Provincial Administration, Eskom and the Regional Services Council, all parties had agreed that the talks should be "conducted in good faith."

"Terms of reference were agreed on and it was decided to divide the problems into two categories: short-term and long-term. All the principal people in charge of services undertook not to cut off or take any legal action against any member of the community for arrears."

She said that during the negotiations, which were held on Wednesday, it was agreed that residents who had electricity would pay an interim flat rate of R45 as of the end of December. The charges would be paid at the council offices and the KRO would be provided with information on the money received. - Sapa
THE LANDLORDS SURVEY: THIS WEEK WE LOOK AT SOME OF THE BIGGER AGENTS

WHEN African National Congress cultural boss Barbara Masekela arrived home in September after more than 20 years in exile she found getting accommodation in a "grey area" was not easy for a black.

United Democratic Front official Neil Morrison was helping her to find a flat and he assumed that he would have no problems in Berea/Yooville — a "grey area".

"I went to the biggest agency in the area, Zulbergs, and saw signs up advertising scores of flats and houses. So I went around with Barbara to the letting department and spoke to a woman there.

"She assumed we were a couple and became very stiff and said: 'Our landlords do not let to black people.' I asked whether this applied to all the buildings they controlled and she confirmed it did.

"Then the owner, Hyrne Zulberg, came storming out of his offices and said: 'Just leave please, get out, we don't let to black people. I don't want to get into a political conversation with you', and then went back into his office."

A couple of weeks later Weekly Mail reporter Glenda Daniels (who is classified Indian) and her flatmate Susie Nkomo got a letter under their door at Celebes Mansions in Natal Street, Yooville (where Zulbergs are the agents), purporting to be from "the owners of Zulbergs".

It said: "We want you Indians and blacks out of this flat. You know this is a white flat we don't want trouble. We have got a letter from the owners, and they don't want you to have Indians and nonwhites in places you don't belong. Please get moving."

A major letting agency in Johannesburg's largest 'grey area' has a whites-only policy.

By PHILIPPA GARSON

Grey areas? No, it's Group Areas

A major letting agency in Johannesburg's largest 'grey area' has a whites-only policy.

By PHILIPPA GARSON

"Zulberg said it was "highbrow confidential" how many blocks of flats they let in the city, but added that the "exist in almost every part of Johannesburg".

"Zulberg told us he did not send the letter and it probably came from white tenants in the flat. But he added: 'We would have used an official letterhead'."

"We work under the Group Areas Act, so we can't let them in. Actually we let the flat to a white man. We keep to the Group Areas Act. We don't victimise people, but we are certainly going to get them out. We stick to the Group Areas Act. We uphold it."

"Zulberg is one of the largest letting agencies in the area. In a follow-up interview, Zulberg said it was "highbrow confidential" how many blocks of flats they let in the city, but added that the "exist in almost every part of Johannesburg".

"I'm a law-abiding citizen. If the laws in this country are to be obeyed, this is the way it has to be."

"We take instructions from the owners, and we will not break the law even if the owners were prepared to ..."
All are welcome at these flats. (Whites only)

One of the ironies of property letting in this country is that it is the small slum landlords, some of whom are openly racist, who defy the Group Areas Act, while the bigger landlords often apply a whites-only policy.

GAVIN EVANS and PHILIPPA GARSON report

Prospective tenants at buildings controlled by Africa's biggest letting agency are handed a glossy brochure which includes "A word of welcome", but many inhabitants of JH Isaacs-controlled apartments are made to feel most unwelcome — especially if they are black.

"Isaacs has a history of not letting black people in," says Cas Colvada of the tenants' organisation Actistop. "When we challenge this their response is that they are just upholding the law and that it is illegal to let black people in under the Group Areas Act. Despite the fact the state is no longer applying the law and has made it clear it will be repealed next year."

A JH Isaacs representative, who asked not to be named, explained: "We are not a political organisation. Many non-whites have gained access to our buildings via whites — by that stage it is too late, what can we do? But we don't break the law.

"If a black person does move in via a white person, well, whether we take action depends on many factors such as the attitude of the landlord, over-crowding and objections of other tenants.

"I'm not saying there are no non-whites in any of our buildings, but the buildings are run in accordance with the law. We are purely agents, not landlords, and as a group we are probably the biggest in the southern hemisphere."

In the course of our investigation we visited several Isaacs buildings where the tenants had a host of complaints. Two of these were Constantia buildings in Koeh Stock, Joubert Park and For-tesque Mansions in Yeoville.

At Constantia, one black tenant, who asked not to be named, told us: "I pay R523 a month for a three-room flat and the conditions are terrible."

"When you move in you get one month to paint the flat, rent-free, but signs denouncing condition s in the building."

At Fortesque Mansions a group of tenants recently presented a petition at the JH Isaacs head office, setting out a string of grievances.

Their anger is directed primarily at landlord Manuel Peseta, but they blame Isaacs for doing nothing to im-prove the situation.

Tenants say conditions include blocked drains, faulty wiring, hot water shortages, leaky plumbing, toilet geysering and wet ceilings.

When one tenant approached Peseta about her meagre water supply, she said he replied that since she was a very small person she did not need much water. Another got an electric shock as a result of an overflowed geyser.

Earlier this year, the then-caretaker of the block,Jason Aarons, sent letters to the tenants about the situation to the North Easter Tribune, but after attempts to spur the authorities into action failed he resigned.

He was then served with an eviction notice, supposedly to make way for a new supernendant.

Contacted by The Weekly Mail, Peseta commented: "They are all mad."

"It is in the papers. We have had a lot of trouble putting in new pipes. They say it is not the truth, you must believe it." - Peseta

Tenants claim there is no attempt to rectify the situation, and point out that Isaacs have common business interests in Madeira with Peseta.

The JH Isaacs representative said: "The fact that we are dealing with the Peseta family in Madeira has no bearing on Mr Peseta as such. His attitude towards the building has remained unchanged for 15 years before our involvement."

On the conditions in the flat the Isaacs representatives stressed they were Peseta's agents and acted on his instructions.
Two different worlds: The landlords and the tenants

Landlords Mrs HP Martin and her son Dr Ian Martin live in a mansion in Johannesburg's prestigious Houghton Drive, drive a Rolls-Royce each, and own, say some, "nearly half of Kensington."

However, their tenants live in a world apart, and when they heard that The Weekly Mail was investigating the city's landlords, several phoned us with a string of complaints. The trail they set led us to a city councillor, the Rent Board, ratepayers' associations, the council's health department, several Martin-owned buildings, and finally to Martin Manor, the Martins' Houghton mansion.

We focused on two properties where the tenants were most angry.

No. 58 Roberts Avenue, Kensington, is a rambling house which has been subdivided into upstairs' and downstairs units, an outside cottage, a basement room and a shed. We spoke to none past and present tenants, none of whom had a good word to say.

Ewan Potgieter is an electrician who lived there until earlier this year, and was also paid to do electrical work for the Martins.

"When I moved in the place was totally unlivable. It was in terrible condition — holes in the walls, filthy, in need of a paint, the electricity buggy. They gave us some paint and said if we fixed it up ourselves they would let us off half a month's rent. So we painted, fixed the plugs and wiring, put up pelmets and so on. But they still freaked out when one room wasn't painted because they hadn't given us enough paint.

"Later they said if we painted the outside they would let us off half our deposit, but we worked out it would have cost at least R1 500 — more than our whole deposit. In fact in labour time alone we had spent more than 10 times the deposit on the inside alone. "In several of the buildings Mrs Martin owned the electricity was illegal. In one building a woman got shocked in her bath because of faulty wiring, in another there were no earth wires."

"I did electrical work for her cheaply, but she didn't pay me for the work I did in May or June, because she told me she hadn't been paid rent at some of the flats I worked in."

Another former tenant, Denise Walters, said when she moved in "a lot of stuff was broken and I had it fixed and had the whole place carpeted, but haven't been paid a cent."

Sub-editor Christian Stephen, who recently moved out, said the electricity for the property had previously been in the name of the Martins.

"The Martins' Houghton mansion. "They then said the tenants must take it over, but we objected. One day it was just cut off, so I was forced to get the electricity in my name and administer it for the whole block, which meant I lost a lot of money when people left without paying," he said.

Businessman Nicholas Chetwin, who also moved out after an ongoing row with the Martins, said that "twice she tried to put up rents because interest rates went up, which is illegal. In my second year there she put up rents by R50 and backdated it, but we complained and she backed off."

At the time Martin was quoted by the Bedfordview Edenvale News as saying the accusation of no hot water was "absolute rubbish."

However, Padayaschee thought otherwise and issued her with a notice. "She compiled before we needed to prosecute, so the situation was rectified." After numerous attempts to contact Martin at her home (which also serves as an office) we visited her at Martin Manor, introduced ourselves and requested an interview.

Shortly after the discussion began she ordered our photographer off her property but went on to answer several questions before terminating the interview.

On Roberts Avenue Mansions she had this to say: "I don't know who these tenants are who make allegations. They were all Portuguese and now they've all moved out. "They were paying R253 for a bedroom, balcony, kitchen and bathroom, and as for the hot water, some used R4 to R6 a day." "We're paying R150 a day for work done, she confirmed that he had done electrical work for her but added, "he stole one of my cupboards" (which Potgieter denies)."
Township sewage flows into spruit leading to Vaal

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau 3/12/90

BETHAL — Raw sewage from Emzinoni township, where doctors report an outbreak of dysentery, is flowing directly into a spruit which eventually leads into the Vaal Dam.

Emzinoni administrator Neels Malan said he was “very much perturbed” about the growing health hazard.

The crisis comes three months after the Government stopped bridging finance to townships involved in rent and service boycotts.

Sewage from Emzinoni (population 40 000) began seeping into the nearby Blesbokspruit two weeks ago when Bethal’s Conservative Party town council cut water and electricity to the township for failure to pay bulk service arrears.

After 10 days without water, two Bethal doctors reported an outbreak of dysentery and gastro-enteritis among township residents. They pleaded with the Bethal council to restore the water supply before a major outbreak of diseases such as typhoid and cholera swept the township and other communities.

“If dysentery gets into the river you’ll never stop it because people are using that water for their personal needs all the way downstream to the Vaal, and beyond,” one doctor warned.

Four days ago the water service was reconnected after a private donation of R15 000. This will pay for a supply until Wednesday.

Mr Malan said there was no chance of reconnecting the township’s electricity in the near future and that without power, sewage could not be pumped up to the treatment station. This meant all the township’s sewage was flowing out of manholes near residential areas and into the Blesbokspruit.

Mr Malan asked local industries to consider lending Emzinoni two large generators “to avert a worsening health crisis”.

The newly appointed administrator disclosed that Emzinoni was technically bankrupt.

“The township has debts of R2.2 million, of which R500 000 is owed to the Bethal council.”
Authorities are adamant on switch-offs

ORGANISERS of rent boycotts in Transvaal townships had to accept responsibility for deteriorating conditions after services were cut because of non-payment, Transvaal Provincial Administration liaison services director, Mr Piet Wilken, said yesterday.

Three townships, Emzinoni near Bethal, Maokeng in Kroonstad and Tumaholo in Parys have had water cut by white municipalities.

The situation in Emzinoni has reached crisis proportions with an outbreak of dysentery.

An ANC spokesman said the only alternative left to communities was mass action such as consumer boycotts.

A Johannesburg Health Department spokesman said earlier that in terms of the Health Act, municipalities which cut water and waterborne sewerage to townships could be breaking the law.

A spokesman for the Free State provincial authority said the water cuts to Maokeng and Tumaholo were not their concern.
Police show the ‘whole picture’ behind video

THE ANC’s video showing alleged police collusion with Inkatha-supporting Zulus at Zonkezwe was yesterday described as “a distortion by omission” by Law and Order Ministry spokesman Capt Craig Kotze.

Kotze, accompanied by SA Police public relations head Brig Berme Mostert and Vosloorus Unrest Unit chief Maj Han Kilian, addressed journalists and ANC members at a Pretoria briefing. He distributed photographs showing “the whole picture of events” which took place on November 12 in the shanty town.

The photographs, taken by a police photographer, showed how at least two Casspars were used to transport delegates from the Xhosa and the Zulu factions of Zonkezwe to joint negotiations where Kilian acted as mediator.

They also showed police disarming both groups prior to the negotiations.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok said in a statement released by Kotze that the ANC had “apparently wilfully” given out a distorted version of events by not showing “or even subsequently admitting” that Xhosa representatives also attended the peace negotiations.

Kotze and ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma argued about the police translation of a chant sung by armed Zulus on the video tape. Kotze said it was a peace chant, which stated that “the war is over”, but Macozoma said the chant was a war song proclaiming that the battle of Blood River would be fought again, against the Xhosas.

In reaction to ANC calls for the police to identify the negotiators, Kotze said he could give the name of only one of the Zulu men, Elias Mazabuko — whose infected and shot body was discovered by the police on the morning after the negotiations — and that Mr Madiba from the Xhosa delegation.

When asked to name more of the delegates to the talks, Kotze said neither side had wanted individual members to be identified “and made into targets as happened with Mazabuko”.

Replying to queries on why the police had not released the photographs earlier, Kotze said they had been processed only after the police were sure they constituted “hard evidence”.

PETE DELMAR reports that Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi said he “deplored and condemned the vicious smear tactics of the ANC”.

He accused the ANC of “a hideous bit of propaganda” by producing a video tape with “ingeniously contrived scenes and commentary to make propaganda”. No Inkatha member would ever sing an Inkatha song containing the name “Gaitha”, as happened in the video, Buthelezi said.

“On the other hand, it is policy of the ANC leadership to use that pet name of mine — not as a sign of endearment, but to belittle me,” he said in a statement.
Black housing market still strong

By Frank Jean, 5/2/90

While there has been a withdrawal by some contractors from the black housing market because of the persistent unrest and a reported reluctance by building societies to grant home loans in the sector, there remain viable pockets of white activity.

An indication of the constant demand, notwithstanding violence and uncertainty, is seen in the operations of Rabie Property Developers which reports impressive sales figures in all 12 of its housing projects.

Dave Harris, Executive Director of Rabie, says "In Dobsonville we have sold more than 400 homes in the past six months and are building at the rate of 13 a week.

"Our capability and that of our sub-contractors are being explored to the limit."

"In Protea Glen Gardens, where we began selling only seven weeks ago, we have already sold more than 100 houses."

"Pinpointing the prerequisites of operations in black housing, Rabie's Transvaal manager, Henk Booyse, says these must include a highly strategic land purchasing policy, a high-quality finished product and in-depth training of sales teams."

"Sales technique (12 7)"

"The salesman should be able to answer all questions which a home buyer is bound to have," he says.

"This extends to information about financial implications of home ownership and details about services provided by local authorities."

"People today also have to be familiar with employer and State subsidies."

Commenting on the reported resistance from building societies, Mr Harris says the public has either been misinformed or has misinterpreted remarks by Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs Herman Kriel.

"It is simply not correct to say that mortgage finance is not available," says Mr Harris.

"We are currently able to arrange finance for our buyers through several national financial institutions, including building societies and pension funds.

"What has happened is that the institutions have reviewed their qualifying criteria and are looking for a measurable injection of a man's own equity as a mark of sincerity and good faith."

Houses which Rabie sold in some of its earlier developments on the Witwatersrand are now being resold at prices as much as 40 percent higher than the original purchase price two years ago.
Tembisa power to stay on, says mayor

By Abel Mabelane
East Rand Bureau

Power supply to rent-boycotting Tembisa residents will not be cut off, despite a Supreme Court judgment ordering the local council to pay Eskom a R4 million electricity debt, according to mayor Solomon More.

On Monday, the Tembisa Town Council distributed notices by helicopter appealing to residents to pay a flat rate rental of R75 a month for people who had electricity and R25 a month for those without.

Tembisa Residents Association (TRA) president Albert Tlame said the deadline for the council to resign had long passed.

Mr Tlame said talks between the TRA and TPA over the rent issue had deadlocked and the council's rent demand was therefore 'irrelevant'.
Sewage problem blamed on funding

STREAMS of unsanitary effluent were running in the streets of Thokoza on the East Rand because of the lack of funds to repair a damaged sewerage pump station, Thokoza administrator Gert Muller said yesterday.

"We hope to get the necessary funds from residents, but I cannot say when that will be as it is presently difficult to get all the interested parties together because of the unrest situation," Muller said.

He was concerned that sewage flowing through the streets would pollute water and cause health hazards.

Unless funds could be generated to pay the private refuse removal firm contracted by his administration, there could be no refuse removals in Thokoza this month, he warned. Alternatively, the firm might agree to scale down its services.

Katiehong mayor McDonald Mhlanga said sewerage was a problem in his council. Sewage was running in the township's streets as a private company hired by his council to repair sabotaged sewerage pipes and remove refuse was intimidated about two months ago.

"The council has to send its employees in to render services. I don't know how we'll cope because of the lack of funds. The monthly flat rates that residents pay are far from sufficient," he said.
KwaGuqa light go on again

KWA Guqa residents rejoiced on Wednesday night as 'electricity' was reconnected to the township for the first time in three weeks.

"It's like Christmas," said one resident.

The township's power was switched on after the Highveld Regional Services Council made a R1 million payment and gave guarantees to the Witbank Town Council to cover KwaGuqa's R1.3 million services debt.

RSC chairman Paul Broedryk said the R1 million was a soft loan which was repayable.

Residents reported extreme hardship during the blackout, with students having to study for examinations by candlelight and housewives unable to buy economic quantities of perishables without refrigeration.

Meanwhile Witbank town has been in the grip of a crippling consumer boycott since the switch-off.

One businessman said his turnover had been down 80 percent and he had not hired any students this year because of the boycott.

Meanwhile KwaGuqa People's Delegation spokesman Jackson Mthembu hailed the agreement as "a victory for the community."

SowetanReporter
Groups to seek end to boycott

Devyton and Waterville residents have appointed two joint working groups to assist with negotiations between the two city councils to end rent and service boycotts.

Earlier an arrangement was reached between Eskom and the two city councils avoiding a cut in electricity supplies to the towns. However, electricity to individual consumers is still being cut. — Staff Reporter.
Forum aims to improve life in Middelburg

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

MIDDELBURG — A community-based forum, believed to be the first of its kind in the country, has been set up to solve problems and improve life for all communities in Middelburg.

Representatives on the apolitical Middelburg Informal Regional Planning Forum (MIRPF) include the local civic association, industries, miners, the local Chamber of Business and Sakekamer, churches, Cosatu, the SAP and an unemployed workers' association.

The forum, which was launched yesterday, had recently solved Mhluzi township's rent and electricity payment crisis. Through funds raised by the forum's foundation, further blackouts were prevented.

Under the forum's auspices, township residents have now agreed to pay a flat-rate of R68 per electrified household until February.

Mhluzi Residents' Organisation spokesman, Godfrey Maseko, said the forum was being viewed seriously by other towns facing similar problems.

He believed the concept could be used as a bridging approach for the country's problems.

In a statement, the forum said its foundation had already embarked on a campaign for funds for community projects and job creation in the region. Big businesses, churches and individuals had already donated.

A key to the forum's success was the grassroots support from township organisations and the link it forged between them and employers in town.
Hope over boycott

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has approved plans to upgrade Tshikota township in Louis Trichardt, thereby boosting chances of an end to the consumer boycott of the town.

Announcing this yesterday, Zoutpansberg Chamber of Commerce chairman Mr Brink Schlesinger said he was awaiting a letter from the TPA which would be handed to the consumer boycott committee.

The upgrading of the township is one of the central demands of the boycott committee.

By MATHATHA TSEDU

Tshikota, situated about 2km from Louis Trichardt, was built in 1960 when the freehold area of Masangan was demolished.

Resident of the township in 1981 and removed from the township in 1981 and resettled, along tribal lines, at Vleesfontein and Waterval, both about 30km from the town.

Only a small community of Sotho-speaking people and hostel dwellers remain in Tshikota.

The CBC has demanded that sewerage, electricity and roads be installed so that people in the two new areas wishing to go back could do so.

Schlesinger said he had informed the CBC about the TPA decision and hoped progress could be made in the deadlock talks over the boycott.

He said many employers had laid off staff as turnouts had fallen by up to 80 percent.

Schlesinger would not say how many workers had been laid off but cited a hardware shop that had retrenched 20 of its 24 employees.

CBC spokesman Mr Magwedza Mphaphuli said his committee was still awaiting the letter from the TPA.

The CBC was due to meet last night to discuss the boycott and decide on its next move.

Attack

The boycott started on November 28 after the attack on Sunday school children in the town four days earlier.

Other demands of the CBC include the opening of the central business district to all races, the opening of public facilities and an end to alleged harassment of trade union members by police and employers.
Switch on or face boycott, warns ANC

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

The ANC has warned that a consumer boycott will begin in the Conservative Party-dominated Eastern Transvaal next week unless essential services are immediately reconnected to affected townships.

"There is a deafening call by members on the ground for a blanket regional consumer boycott and other forms of mass action," said the ANC's Eastern Transvaal publicity secretary Jackson Mthembu.

Disrupted

He said the lives of residents in most Highveld townships had been disrupted since the Transvaal Provincial Administration cut township subsidies by up to 80 percent in September.

CP-controlled town councils had cut supplies of either water, electricity or both when residents were unable to pay mounting arrears.

Bethal's eMznom Township has been without electricity for a month, Carolina's Stlobela township for two months and Bronkhorstspruit's Sithobe Township for four months.

Waterfall Bowen's eNgwenya township has had no electricity, and water has been severely rationed, since October.

He said that part of the problem was the refusal of most CP councils to recognize and meet civic associations.

The ANC's recent Eastern Transvaal regional congress had taken decisions on how these councils should be dealt with and details would be announced next week, he said.

Mr Mthembu said ANC members were also unhappy about the TPA's intransigence.

"Seemingly the TPA wants to force people to acknowledge its authority and control over the masses. But the people are fed up. "Unless the TPA changes its strategies and stops this nonsense of undermining the black communities, then the Government has only itself to blame for whatever mass action results."

Crippling

Mr Mthembu said the ANC wished to remind businessmen that the organisation had only suspended the crippling consumer boycott held throughout the region in August.

"We suspended the consumer boycott as a means of testing the honesty and integrity of those people who were involved in deliberations, especially the TPA. But obviously they have been found wanting in these respects, and as such our members are saying we must resume the consumer boycott and all other forms of mass action with immediate effect," he said.
Hough: ANC must honour its pledge

PRETORIA — Transvaal Administrator Danie Hough yesterday called on the ANC to honour its undertaking to ensure eastern Transvaal residents resumed payment for rents and services and to stop calling for such boycotts. A statement said he wanted to remind the ANC of its undertaking, made on September 26, to stand in for losses incurred as a result of non-payment of rents and service fees to local authorities in the eastern Transvaal.

"In the eastern Transvaal an agreement was reached between the ANC, the TPA and other parties on August 12 1990. As part of this agreement the ANC undertook to ensure that residents resumed payment for rents and services — the response has been very slight."

Attempts to blame the Transvaal Provincial Administration and CP-controlled councils for hardships experienced by blacks in the eastern Transvaal were "far-fetched".

Hough was reacting to a statement by ANC eastern Transvaal publicity secretary Jackson Mthembu published in a Johannesburg newspaper.

Mthembu had warned that the ANC would call for a consumer boycott in the CP-dominated eastern Transvaal if essential services to affected townships were not reconnected immediately.

Hough said intimidation and coercion of people into withholding payments or joining consumer boycotts could not be reconciled with democracy and the freedom of choice that democracy was supposed to guarantee.

TIM COHEN reports ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said last night he had no knowledge of the undertaking referred to by Hough. — Sapa.
Cast reacts to 'Press frenzy'

THE Civic Association of Southern Africa yesterday said its campaign for the resignation of councillors would "not develop into a reign of terror against councillors" as claimed by sections of the Press.

Cast criticised some papers for their "frenzied reaction" to the organisation's resolution to intensify the campaign.

Cas Coovadia of Cast said: "We must question the role of the press in this regard. They appear to be assisting the State in sowing division in communities and aiding and abetting friction.

"It is black councillors and management committees rather than Cast who are one of the causes of violence in townships and their continued existence exacerbates the violence."

He said Cast has always espoused peaceful and non-violent pressure since its launch and had continued that tradition since the intensification of the campaign on November 7.

On Cast's legitimacy, he said: "We have no hesitation in going to our people to test our legitimacy. We are prepared to invite the press and Government to such meetings and the people can respond to the question of Cast's legitimacy."
Deadline for rent boycott

A clash is looming between residents of Toekomsrus and their management committee over the rent boycott in the West Rand township.

The boycott was called in August this year to force the resignation of the management committee and the reduction of rent.

Members of the Toekomsrus Crisis Committee yesterday said efforts to hold negotiations with the local municipality hit snags when the two parties disagreed about delegates.

The TCC demanded that its delegation include a representative of the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal but the Randfontein Town Council was prepared to meet only with Toekomsrus residents.

Letters giving residents seven days to pay off their arrears or face court action were received by a few residents last week.

A meeting to discuss the letters will take place tomorrow at the Toekomsrus Civic Hall.

Mr Billy Reed, town secretary of the Randfontein council, said his council had conceded 'to some of the residents' demands - but not to such ridiculous calls as the resignation of the management council.

'You cannot get the MC's to resign because 10 percent of the residents want them to, these people were democratically elected by the majority and some people are unhappy because they are under the influence of certain elements'.
Vleifontein taps run dry

VLEIFONTEIN township, home of about 5,000 people, has been without water for two weeks following a drying up of boreholes because of drought.

Residents have been walking up to 5km a single trip to beg for water at nearby white-owned farms, where they pay R7.50 for 25 litres.

A strong smell of unflushed toilets hangs over the small township, situated about 30km from Louis Trichardt. Taps dried up on November 26, residents said.

The director-general for water affairs, Mr. MB Steyn, said the level of water in boreholes supplying Vleifontein had gone down.
**Vlei’ taps run dry**

**Sowetan Correspondent**

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Political foes join forces in ‘miracle’ forum

SOMETHING so unusual is happening at the Eastern Transvaal home of South Africa’s stainless steel industry that Archbishop Desmond Tutu cannot believe his eyes.

Not only does it have the ANC’s blessing, but local Conservative Party councillors actually wish it success.

What is this “miracle” that had somehow got two implacable political foes to agree? It is the “Middelburg Forum”, a local initiative which has brought together a whole range of community organisations, from civic bodies and town administrators to businesses, churches, trade unions and the unemployed.

The purpose? Nothing other than to create a better Middelburg for all its people, says those behind it.

Already it has successfully solved Mhlanzi township’s recent services crisis. Further blackouts were prevented when the forum covered outstanding electricity arrears, giving the community a breathing space to work out an affordable flat rate for the next few months.

Create jobs

A high percentage of residents are now paying for their services and forum officials believe the local “lights and water” issue will be a thing of the past by early next year.

The money used to pay the electricity arrears had been earmarked to start “Pots for Africa”, a project which would create jobs for up to 100 unemployed.

The Middelburg Forum, now up and running for six months, is being watched and marvelled at in high places throughout the land, especially as Middelburg is not the sort of town where you would expect to find a dynamic community initiative starting up.

Let no one be fooled, the town’s council is as right-wing as they come. Black children are charged R5 for a dip in the local pool and black students are asked to fork out R250 if they want to study in the town’s library.

Yet it has given birth to a project that transcends entrenched barriers and has drawn former political foes into a co-operative alliance working for the benefit of everyone.

“Our goal is simply to bring about a better Middelburg for all its people,” says Brian Wegerie, forum facilitator and a director of Middelburg Steel and Alloys.

“We believe our forum is a beacon of light and hope for the country. We want to encourage Nelson Mandela and FW de Klerk, what they are doing at their level is also cascading down to grass-roots level.”

The forum has an interesting history. It all began in May after demands for jobs by a Cosatu-backed group of the town’s unemployed. Meetings were set up with local industry.

Initially hostile, the focus of the meetings was to see how business could assist in resolving the unemployment problem.

As co-operation grew so did the realisation the issues involved were greater than unemployment. It was also apparent that it was beyond the capabilities of big business and the unemployed to solve these problems on their own.

Cosatu’s Abe Mathebula says the forum had been mostly well accepted by the black community. “However there are those who are critical and want to see tangible results, so we are working very hard.”

He believes the forum has the potential to predict and solve problems and avoid crises situations.

Brian Wegerie says there has been a remarkable amount of support from the white community.

“Even the chairman of the town’s management committee, CP councillor John Carlisle, has said he hopes the forum works.”

Survived

“Mr Wegerie said during November the forum had faced its toughest test when Mhlanzi township erupted in violence after police had stopped an illegal protest march. A week-long stayaway resulted.

“The stayaway almost blew the forum out of the water, but we survived. In fact we’ve become stronger. People have said this is exactly what we need a forum.”

An umbrella body has been set up on which representatives from all sectors of the community sit.

Says the local civic association’s Godfrey Maseko “I feel this forum presents a real alternative to the ANC and the government do not have the solution yet, but we the people at grass-roots level are working to find one for them.”
New deal for townships

TALKS ON REPLACING SYSTEM

31 administrators

These 82 councillors face a bleak Christmas after the Civic Associations of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) decision to step up efforts to unseat them.

Mr Len Dekker, Deputy Director-General of Community Development in the Transvaal Provincial Administration, said the administrators had already been appointed to run townships where the remaining councillors did not form a quorum.

Mr Dekker said meetings had been held to try to find a solution to the problems facing township residents and the TPA. The last meeting was held in Johannesburg where a number of proposals were discussed.

Mr Dekker explained the TPA had no problems with residents calling on councillors to resign. “Residents have a democratic right to call on councillors to resign, but the councillors must be replaced through a democratic voting system.” He said he was against the scrapping of the present local authorities system. “We should reform the present system rather than do away with it.”

Services in the townships where councils had collapsed had not been affected. The appointed Administrators had the same powers as fully constituted councils and made sure services continued.

Mr Cas Coovadia, Cast’s assistant general secretary, said: “We are calling on councillors to resign because the people they purport to represent were not consulted when they were elected.”

NO UPLIFTMENT

“The history of their conduct shows they’ve done nothing to uplift living conditions of residents. They’ve also been corrupt.”

Mr Coovadia described the BLAs as extensions of State machinery “which continued to oppress the people they claim to represent.”

The question of who should replace the BLA was still being debated. There were a number of proposals being considered.

“One proposal is that an administrator be appointed after consultation with the civics and TPA.”

He explained that civic associations would remain independent of local authorities and political organisations but should be consulted before any system of local authorities was decided upon.

SECOND PHASE

Mr Coovadia said during the second phase of the campaign (under the theme of “Black Christmas against councillors, management committee members and violence”), local civic associations would individually embark on one or more of these actions:

- Boycotting councillors’ businesses
- Isolating councillors and their families from the community
- Marches to councillors’ homes to demand their resignations

“In some areas on the West Rand, civics have also decided to embark on a wider consumer boycott against white-owned businesses.”

He said, although Cast would support actions by local civics, the organisation would not call for a regional boycott.

79 RESIGNATIONS

Mr Coovadia said that of 189 black councillors and Indian and coloured management committee members in the areas represented by 40 civic associations in the southern and western Transvaal, 79 had resigned since the campaign began on November 9.

“The situation will be reassessed in mid-January and we will consider regionalising our campaign.”

Six councillors have died in “first strike attacks” in the first seven months of 1990, says the latest South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) report. One councillor was necklaiced.

An average of two attacks on black city councillors were mounted daily. There were 67 attacks on the homes of black town councillors.
Dying, if need, for his community

WHAT kind of man would risk his life and that of his family plus damage to his property for a position in a black local authority?

"It is the kind of man who has the interest of the community at heart. It is the man who is prepared to do everything, including dying, for the welfare of the people he leads," says M J Khumalo, mayor of Diepmeadow who is one of the few councillors who have refused to resign from black local authorities.

Mr Khumalo, asked why he would not resign, said he would only do so when he was convinced that a better town council would replace his — "the people who replace us must serve our community as loyally as we do."

Mr Khumalo, a long-serving Diepmeadow councillor before being elected mayor this year, said councillors also agreed that local authorities, based on race, must go.

"We've agreed that this racist system must go. However, we are also saying that, until the black authorities are done away with, we should be allowed to continue serving the community. It's no use asking us to resign because we will probably be replaced by a (white) administrator who will not be elected by the masses," Mr Khumalo said.

He dismissed the threats as undemocratic. "And I'm not saying this out of arrogance — but from my convictions."

Mr Khumalo's Diepmeadow Town Council still has all its 20 councillors intact. So does the Soweto City Council.
Indian residents say angry CP take

They helped the

A Pool Full of

PROAGANADA?
Timberframe plan to tackle homes crisis

NOVEL low-cost timberframe housing schemes are to be introduced into areas of Crossroads, Witwatersrand and Tembisa townships from early January, SA Lumber Millers' Association (Salma) marketing manager Mike Richards said at the weekend.

The cost of these timberframe homes was relatively low, starting in the R500 to R2 000 range — the same price paid for the existing shacks.

There were two sizes of shack — five by three metres and six by four metres. The structures would take the form of an open room which could later be modified or separated by a partition, Richards said.

"The timberframe homes will be built on a modular basis so they can be upgraded or expanded at very little expense," he added.

For this price, the consumer would either be taught how to cut the wood and assemble the shack, or it would be supplied in a panel form that could be erected immediately.

A low-pitched tile roof or a deck tile roof (using Marley tiles or something similar) would be included, as would steel windows and wooden doors.

An advantage of the scheme, Richards said, was that the consumer would be trained to erect the structure.

The consumer could then turn the knowledge into a business by becoming a shack-builder, Richards said.

However, a problem existed among black consumers as they had aspirations of masonry-type houses, which were not viable at the price they could initially afford, Richards said.

The three communities had been approached and educated concerning the viability of timberframe housing. He said Salma had assessed the requirements of the majority of consumers The demand for this type of housing ranged from 200 to 2 000 in each of the areas.

The claim that the SA climate was too harsh for timber structures was not true, Richards said.

Proof of this was that a number of perfectly sound timber houses were still to be found in Pilgrims Rest and Johannesburg.

The timber was treated at a mill and then, as with any house, regular maintenance was required, Richards said.

"Timberframe structures are undoubtedly one of the most competitive forms available for quality low-cost housing," he concluded.
Tambo calls for intensified struggle against apartheid

JOHANNESBURG. — ANC president Mr Oliver Tambo told the crowd at his welcoming gathering in his home town of Wattville, near Benoni, yesterday to intensify the struggle against apartheid and to prepare to take full control of their lives.

"Let us hasten the dawn of freedom by intensifying the struggle — we must leave the enemy no quarter," Mr Tambo said to a ululating crowd of about 1 500 at Wattville Stadium.

Mr Tambo had just completed a day of reunions with family and friends in Wattville, where he lived before his 30 years of exile.

He said his return had come at one of the most tragic phases in the history of the country.

"The violence that apartheid has unleashed on our people with blind fury has claimed countless lives in Natal."

He also expressed his sorrow to the families of victims of "the ruthless slaughter which has claimed over 3 000 lives since June."

Earlier he "officially opened" Tamboville — an informal housing settlement — as well as the land marked for his house to be built in the township early next year.

Both ceremonies were marked by Mr Tambo's cutting of black, green and gold ribbons while crowds sang, danced and shouted "Viva Tambo."

Mr Tambo was accompanied by his wife Adelaide, his two daughters, his son, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

Tamboville was officially given to squatters and proclaimed an informal housing settlement after negotiations between the Wattville Concerned Residents' Committee and the Benoni town council earlier this year.

The council has provided water and mobile toilets and the area is extremely clean. There are not many residents yet.

Mr Tambo is expected to travel to his birth-town of Bizana in Transkei later this week — Sapa
**Asro offers interim flat rate**

By MONK NKOMO

THE Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents' Organisation, in an effort to end the rent boycott, has offered to pay an interim monthly flat rate of R50 for each business, R20 per house and R8 for each hostel inmate.

Mr Simon Tshidi, Asro's acting secretary, yesterday said they presented the offer to senior officials of the Transvaal Provincial Administration at a meeting on Monday to discuss ways and means of ending the rent boycott that started on April 1 this year. The newly-appointed Administrator of Atteridgeville, Dr Ernie Jacobson, also attended the meeting.

Tshidi said the interim offer was for the payment of essential services while real negotiations on affordable rent were continuing with the TPA.

He said the TPA were considering the offer and their response was expected at a meeting tomorrow. Another issue on the agenda will be the scrapping of all rent arrears since April 1 this year.

In another development, Asro were due to meet with the Laudium Management Committee yesterday to discuss the resignation of its members from “apartheid structures.” Tshidi said they were also going to discuss the occupation of Lotus Gardens, near Atteridgeville, by local residents.

The area popularly known as "Dairy Farms," was proclaimed an Indian residential area seven years ago over the protests of the Atteridgeville Council.
Eskom aims at aiding Evaton

THE giant electricity company, Eskom, has pledged to conduct a feasibility study with the aim to install electricity on business sites in part of Evaton township, popularly known as "Parktown," next year.

However, the survey will also include thousands of residents, who have made representations to the Evaton Town Council for the installation of power which they say is vital in the developing South Africa.

This was explained by Eskom's southern Transvaal development areas manager, Mr Paul O'Connor, at a meeting attended by a delegation of businessmen and the Evaton Town Clerk, Mr Myburgh, in the township this week.

He said that Eskom wanted to provide electricity to everybody. However, the cost of supplying it was too high. They would conduct a survey to find out how many residents needed it.

They would also consider building a substation which would in future service the rest of the townships, he said, adding that the research would probably start in January next year.

"The meeting came about as a result of complaints by businessmen that they spent thousands of rands in buying diesel to operate their refrigerators and other gadgets in the wake of a hike in the price of fuel. Businessmen also said that their shops have been looted, robbed and burgled because they did not have electrical devices which could help curb the high rate of crime in the township. Streets were not lit. There were few high mast lights.

Mr Don Mashumi said that Evaton - probably one of the few areas where blacks still have freehold rights - was the oldest residential areas in South Africa which did not have electricity. "It is the dark city of the Vaal Triangle," he said.

He said that surround-
Cool relief

A GROUP of Carolina businessmen have clubbed together R6,000 to pay for nearby Silobela township's water supply over the festive season.

Silobela's water was due to have been disconnected by Carolina's Conservative Party-controlled council yesterday because of mounting service arrears.
R6 000 offer to keep taps open

By Therese Anders
Highveld Bureau

CAROLINA — A group of Carolina businessmen has offered R6 000 to maintain Silobela township’s water supply over the festive season.

Silobela’s water was due to have been disconnected by Carolina’s Conservative Party-controlled council yesterday because of mounting service arrears.

The township, which owes the council R120,000 in service arrears, has been without electricity since October.

Silobela’s administrator, Manie van Vuuren, said the businessmen had told him they found it totally unsatisfactory that township residents would be without water over Christmas.

“Tight attitude was that to cut water just before Christmas was a bad decision.

“They wanted to buy some time, then early next year we can look at the problem and see if it can’t be solved,” he said.

Mr van Vuuren conceded that there might be other motives for the payment.

The ANC had threatened to launch a consumer boycott of white Carolina businesses this week if services continued to be disrupted.

Also, said Mr van Vuuren, the local commando, of which most businessmen were members, would then have been called up to guard water pumps over the Christmas period.
Lenasia (123)
angered
by water
cut-off

Municipal Reporter

Residents of Lenasia South who have been without water since 8.30 am on Tuesday are furious that they were not warned of the water cuts and no alternative supply was provided by their Local Government Affairs Council.

One resident said he had to go 22 km to a relative so he and his family could bath and collect drinking water.

"We received no notification from the council and no water tanker has been around to our house or any of our friends."

When he complained, he was told a water tanker had been sent out.

"That is not true," he responded.

A spokesman for the LGAC engineers' department said a major blockage in the drums had resulted in water having to be cut. Workers tried until the early hours yesterday to correct matters and were back at 7 am.

He said no water tanker had been sent. The council hoped to have water restored by yesterday afternoon.
Campaign against councillors hots up

THO Civics Association of the Southern Transvaal (Cast) would step up pressure next week on black councillors and coloured and Indian management committee members to resign. Cast vice-president Kgabas Mosunkutu said yesterday.

The campaign, which would run from Monday until January 1, would involve the boycott of councillors' businesses and an exclusion of councillors and their families.

"Specialised action" had begun in Kiplingtown, Edenfield and Eldorado Park, and soon there would be marches to collect resignations from management committee members. Petitions were being circulated in Kagiso and a consumer boycott, was planned at Toekomrus.

Councillors for Khuma, in Potchefstroom, resigned after rubbish was thrown at their houses, he said.

Sapa reported that Cast general secretary Sam Ntuli said the campaign could include occupation of Johannesburg City Council chambers on January 7. Cast would not apologise for mobilising people to remove elected local government officials who were "mitigating against genuine resolution of township problems".

Fear and disruption of services in townships were related primarily "to govern-

 Campaign's continued attempts to legitimise discredited and unrepresentative councillors and management committees"

President F W de Klerk's statement that local government had to be reviewed urgently was proof that mass action was producing results, he said.

Cast president Moses Mayekiso said the organisation was working with the TPA on alternative local government structures, and was liaising with ESKOM on power supply cuts in townships.

A national "civic" could be in place by the middle of next year, following a planned national consultative conference in March. Government's proposed alternatives for local government would be rejected even if they were good because they had not been negotiated, he said.
Thokoza residents to boycott white business

ANGRY Thokoza residents yesterday announced a total boycott of white-owned businesses in nearby Alberton.

The move followed the residents' “black” Christmas. Electricity supplies to the township were cut at the beginning of December. 

Thokoza Civic Association president Sam Ntuli said there would be a march on the Alberton Town Council offices on January 1.

The East Rand township was without electricity following its failure to raise funds to settle an electricity debt with the Alberton Town Council.

Power was cut after the township's administration failed to raise R1.7m to settle the electricity debt, administrator Gert Muller said.

Ntuli told a press conference in Thokoza yesterday the action against the Alberton council would be maintained until there was clarity on the R70 the residents paid for September and October.

Saying the civic association had proposed a R40 interim payment, he added “The residents refuse to be intimidated into paying for the Thokoza Town Council's maladministration and demand that the council should account for the R70 paid for September and October.”

He called on the Alberton council to investigate Thokoza’s finances over the past three years.

The civic association demanded that Alberton start talks on the implementation of one non-racial council.

This is the second power cut to hit Thokoza in four months. The first was on September 13.

“I cannot say when the rent crisis is going to be resolved and it has been difficult to get interested parties together to...
Alexandra housing plan is opposed

THEO RAWANA

The Alexandra Town Council has announced that it plans to sell 3600 houses in the township, but the plan has drawn strong opposition from the powerful Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO).

Mayor Prince Mokoena said yesterday the council would sell the properties — some of which accommodated nine households — to tenants under a freehold title.

However, ACO president Moses Mayekiso said the council had no right to sell property. He said it had lost a Supreme Court case last year after attempting to sell a resident's house.

The Supreme Court had barred the council from selling land when it ruled in favour of Samuel Mothoa, who had contested the sale of his house.

Mayekiso warned that the council was "taking people for a ride" because the ACO, the TPA and the council were still negotiating the sale of old houses.

Mokoena said the offer to buy would be made to the tenant who had been there the longest — waiving a ruling that the tenant needed the approval of other occupants.

The tenants would be given 90 days to raise the money, after which the person with the next longest occupancy would be approached.

Mokoena said the properties would not be under the 99-year leasehold scheme, but under freehold. Between 3% and 5% of properties in Alexandra were already owned under a freehold title, he said.
THE anti-councillors campaign of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal, which was supposed to reach a climax between Christmas and New Year, seems to have met with limited success.

Little activity has been reported in the Transvaal, the main target area.

Commented Cast's assistant general secretary, Cas Coovadia: "The unfortunate thing about the struggle is that everybody seems to go into recess over the festive season."

Activists would take place in some areas before January 1, he said, and the campaign would again be stepped up by mid-January.

However, the campaign has been largely successful since it was "intensified" on November 7.

Since then, 100 of the remaining 189 councillors had resigned in the target areas of 41 civic associations, said Coovadia.

Eight councils had either collapsed completely or had been left without quorums due to the resignations. Those were Lekoa, Kanana, Musina, Atteridgeville, Tokoza, Khuma, Ikageng and Mamelodi.

Some of the activities reported over the festive season included:

- In Mamelodi, 10 councillors are said to have resigned after residents had marched to their houses to demand their resignations.
- In Tokoza, residents will boycott white Alberton businesses in protest against the cutting of electricity.
- In Khuma, outside Potchefstroom, residents had dumped garbage at the homes of councillors. Six councillors had resigned.
- In Eldorado Park, deputations of between 10 and 20 residents had gone to the houses of the six management committee members to demand their resignations. Five management committee members had promised to report back to residents.

* In Kagiso, block committees had started a door-to-door petition, asking residents whether they wanted the councillors to resign. It appeared that the "overwhelming majority" of residents were in favour of their resignation, Coovadia said. - Sowetan Correspondent
Festivities affect CAST campaign

By Esme van der Merwe
Political Reporter

The anti-councillors campaign of the Civic Associations of Southern Transvaal (CAST), which was supposed to reach a climax between Christmas and New Year, seems to have met with limited success.

Commented CAST's assistant general-secretary, Cas Covadja: "The unfortunate thing about the struggle is that everybody seems to go into recess over the festive season."

Activities would take place in some areas before January 1, he said, and the campaign would again be stepped up by mid-January.

However, since the campaign's inception, 100 of the remaining 163 councillors had resigned in the target areas of 41 civic associations.

Eight councils had either collapsed completely or had been left without quorums due to the resignations, he said.

Some of the activities reported over the festive season included:

- In Mamelodi, 10 councillors are said to have resigned after residents had marched to their houses to demand their resignations.
- In Eldorado Park, deputations of between 10 and 20 residents had gone to the houses of the six management committee members to demand their resignations. Five management committee members had promised to report back to residents.
- In Kagiso, block committees had started a door-to-door petition, asking residents whether they wanted the councillors to resign.
Boycott 'could wreck talks'

Staff Reporter 28/12/90

The Transvaal Provincial Administration yesterday accused the Tokoza Civic Association of calling a boycott of white business in Alberton in order to distract the people from their own shortcomings.

The boycott began on Wednesday.

In a statement yesterday, TPA acting deputy director-general Jan van der Walt said a boycott of business in Alberton could wreck fragile negotiations to have Tokoza's electricity reconnected.

"This foolish tactic is an attempt to distract the people's attention from the civic association's direct responsibility for additional misery and inconvenience which they are now suffering," he added.

The TPA and the administrator of Tokoza hoped to resume negotiations early next year with a view to ending the rent boycott and promoting the concept of nonracial government under a new constitutional dispensation, said the statement.

Most businesses in Alberton polled by The Star yesterday said the boycott had not yet affected sales.

Pick 'n Pay spokesman David Jennings said "We have many customers from Vosloorus and Katlehong who are not taking part in the boycott."

The branch manager of Checkers in Alberton, Joshua Thenejekwayo, said he was not even aware of the consumer boycott.

A spokesman for OK Bazaars said the boycott had not affected her branch at all.

Business was slow yesterday morning at the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet and manager Gerit Grobbelaar blamed the boycott.
For the
People of
Tshikota

By ELIAS MALALELE

AFTER an eight-year struggle 58 families in Tshikota township, adjacent to Louis Trichardt, have won their battle against forced removals.

The town that Tshikota would remain a black township and be upgraded — after years of neglect — resulted in the defiant residents toy-toying in the rubble-filled sections already bulldozed by the authorities.

Now, however, residents are demanding that Tshikota be merged with Louis Trichardt to form a free settlement area with a single democratically-elected municipality.

The 58 families began the struggle for their right to stay after the Conservative Louis Trichardt Town Council decided in 1982 that Tshikota should be closed to black residential dwelling and that residents should be resettled in the homelands of Grashukho, Lobelo and Venda.

Many families had already been forced to move before the 58 families decided to hold out.

The victory celebration for the families, the remainder of a once-thriving community of about 10,000 people, was the result of hard bargaining and protest action.

Tshikota was given a new lease of life this month when the government overturned the council’s 1982 decision to resettle residents and demolish the township.

A daunting task awaits the residents in reviving their township, though Tshikota is a mass of rubble, without infrastructure.

The Louis Trichardt council has already demolished many houses, churches and clinics. There are no spare fields or recreation facilities, residents use communal taps, there is no electricity and the bucket system is still in use.

According to chairman of the Tshikota Residents’ Committee, Lazarus Legong, 35, the town council had earmarked Tshikota for a white resettlement area. Tshikota and Louis Trichardt are divided only by a street.

Legong, a school principal who defied the Department of Education and Training by spearheading the anti-eviction campaign and was transferred from Tshikota as a result, said trouble between residents and authorities started in 1984 when families were divided according to their ethnic groups.

“Shangaan, Pedi and Venda were living side by side in harmony before the division,” said Legong.

Children, too, were divided in schools when the authorities established schools for all three groups.

Tshikota was established in 1957 in terms of the Black Consolodation Act, and residents came from all over looking Louis Trichardt from the north.

Forced removals in Tshikota started in 1979 when over 7,000 people were moved to Vleifontein, about 27km from Louis Trichardt, before Vleifontein was incorporated into Venda.

Legong and Venda were later moved to HaTshikota near Vleifontein, Shangaans to Winterveld and Pedi to Seebe. Bullock was then moved in and flattened all empty structures — but the 58 families refused to budge.

“We formed the Tshikota Residents’ Committee to oppose the move,” said Legong.

The committee tried without success to resolve the dispute in the Transvaal Provincial Administration. They were instead given an ult...
BUSINESS DAY, Monday, December 31 1990

Alex land row just one
more chapter in a saga

The furor over the proposed sale of 3,600
old stands in Alexandra is one more episo-
dee in a saga that has spanned 32 years of
the township's 78-year history.

The Alexandra Civic Organisation (ACO)
has locked horns with the Alexandra Town
Council over its plans to sell the stands —
some of which accommodate nine families
— on freehold title to tenants who had been
there the longest.

ACO president Moses Mayekiso cont-
tends that the council has no right to sell
property on which more than one family
resides, in fact no right to sell the property
at all since it is still a subject of negotia-
tions between ACO, the TPA and the
council.

Settlement of the original owners of
the stands began in 1958 when the Peri-
urban Health Board took over as adminis-
trator. Previously the township was run by
a health committee.

"In 1961 the then manager of Bantu
Administration of the board, C H Kotze,
said the board was buying black-owned
property in Alexandra as part of a plan to
buy it into an area exclusively for Afri-
cans employed in the suburbs north of
Johannesburg.

"Most of the stands were worth about
£1,400 with improvements, Kotze said
"I don't think many of the stand-owners
who have sold get the whole £1,400 or so
into their pockets. Most of them have
bonds and other charges on the proper-
ties," he added.

"The stands were bigger than most in
African townships, but many were grossly
overcrowded. Policy was to lease the
houses to blacks from Johannesburg's
northern suburbs, not to sell them," Kotze

According to one newspaper report,
when the board took over Alexandra in
1958 there were about 96,000 people living
on 4,15 morgen — an area that could hardly
house 40,000 on a sound family basis.

The board began the removal of blacks,
mainly tenants, to Meadowlands in Febru-
ary 1959 and then to Deerpark and finally
to Tembisa.

By 1961, 6,653 families — a total of 34,354
people — had been rehoused at Meadow-
lands and Deerpark.

The Native Resettlement Board pro-
vided free passage to the new homes and
the Peri-Urban Board supplied a day's ra-
tions on the day of removal.

By 1965 the government had made it clear it
planned to turn the township into a single-
sex hostel complex.

It was commonplace for landowners to
receive letters from the board offering to
buy their properties — giving them 30 days
make up their minds and submit claims
for compensation.

By 1965 the population of Alexandra had
been reduced to about 11,000. The board
had pledged that the removal would be
completed by 1970. By 1969 families were
being moved at the rate of 15 a day.

But now the population has swollen to
about 120,000 through the influx of squat-
ters and the sprouting of hostel complexes.

Alexandra was granted a reprieve in
1972, and in 1977 township administrator
Steve Burger offered properties for sale.
The Alexandra Town Council, which came
into office in 1988, continued with the drive
to sell the old properties.

\[Image\]
Hostel men reject fence

By SOPHIE TEMA

INMATES of the Mapetla Hostel objected loudly this week when they were fenced in with razor wire. "We are not animals, so why must we be caged in?" they said.

Soweto divisional commissioner of police, Gen J Swart, had to be called in when inmates complained about the razor wire placed around their premises as a protective measure.

Police Liaison officer, Lt-Col E Tienle Haigryn, explained that fencing was one of the measures taken by the police in Soweto to stop violence between hostel dwellers and residents in the townships and to bring peace and stability to the area.

But an angry hostel spokesman asked newsmen: "Why must we be fenced in? Why don't the police fence in those people across the road who are the ones who have been causing all the trouble?"

"Why treat us as if we are not part of South Africa? Are we the scabby sheep of the community? We feel we are being discriminated against simply because we live in a hostel."

After a long discussion with some of his colleagues, a hostel spokesman complained to police that township people were treating them with contempt.

"Right now, we keep to ourselves in the hostel, but we are being provoked by the people from the townships because whenever they go past they hurl insults at us. They also sing derogatory songs about us," he said.

"We will not tolerate this type of behaviour from people who come looking for unnecessary trouble."

Haigryn said: "The razor fence was placed around the Mapetla Hostel firstly to prevent hostel dwellers from going into the area to attack residents, and also to protect hostel dwellers from being attacked."

"There will only be one entrance to the hostel. It will be controlled by the SAP."

Haigryn said the SAP decided to start with the Mapetla Hostel where trouble started.

An "Operation Clean-up" was also conducted in townships on Friday to clear the roads on which barricades were erected during the violence.

Azapo meeting

THE Soweto branch of Azapo will hold an emergency meeting of its members today from 2pm at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Pimville Zone 3.

The meeting will focus on Azapo's National Council and on the peace initiative mounted to stop violence on the Reef.
Inkatha steps in to block
Kagiso hostel demolition

By ELIAS MALULEKE

INKATHA is seeking an urgent interdict against the Kagiso Council over moves to demolish a hostel to make way for family units.

Deputy mayor M1 Sengqura said the council had been prevented from demolishing the hostel by the interdict.

"We will wait for the final decision from the government but will continue upgrading the Extension 10 hostel into family units because the project was started before the violence," he added.

The council decided on the demolition last month following violence between residents and Inkatha supporters in hostels.

Sengqura said the notice was issued early this month when the council was due to demolish the hostel Khosa has been arrested under Section 29.

"Most of the legally registered hostel tenants had already left and were staying at the Durban Deep mine hostel near Roodepoort when Inkatha lawyers issued the notice to restrain the council," he said while the council was negotiating with Inkatha lawyers, the government had been drawn into the issue and would be deciding its position.

In the East Rand townships of Thokoza, Katlehong and Vosloorus steps have already been taken to demolish the hostels and the issue is being tabled in the Tembisa and Daveyton council meetings this month.

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Hostel fears mount after cash demand

TENSION is mounting at Soweto's Diepkloof Hostel where Inkatha members last week distributed letters to dwellers instructing each to contribute R5 to a fund before the end of this month.

The fund was established after an Inkatha Freedom Party meeting at the hostel a few weeks ago.

It will provide, among other things, legal assistance for members of the party with failed to comply with the request may be "identified and dealt with accordingly."

"We do not know what will happen to people who do not pay. We're in a Catch-22 situation because if we don't pay, we might be seen to be against Inkatha," said a member of Inkatha.

"If we do, we would be seen to be endorsing the policies and the deeds of its members."

It is very clear that they want to control all the hostels. We may even be made to join the party against our will," said a dweller who refused to be identified.

Another dweller said a friend, who lives at Dube Hostel and is not a member of Inkatha, had vacated his room after Inkatha had allegedly requested everyone at the hostel to donate R100 towards a fund.
Jouberton power supply restored

THE Klerksdorp Town Council has restored power to Jouberton township after an agreement with the local civic association was not party.

The council said in a statement yesterday it had reached agreement with the Jouberton Community Information Society, representatives of tax associations, and other members of the community, and bulk services were restored last Friday until 4pm tomorrow "on condition that accounts rendered are paid to such an extent that the bulk supply account of the Klerksdorp council can be paid".

The Jouberton Civic Association boycotted the meeting.

The council of the East Rand township of Randfontein in a statement yesterday "payment of not less than 20% in each category should be made by Friday, November 16, a further 25% by the 25th and a further 25% by November 30. Otherwise the supply of electricity will be terminated between the hours of 6am and 8am and again between 4pm and 8pm daily."

Meanwhile the Daveyton Town Council was yesterday reported to have threatened power cuts for residents who failed to pay accounts.

Reports quoted council spokesman Joe Moropa as saying services would be cut to defaulters from today.

Protest stay leaves Pretoria streets empty

PRETORIA, Nov. 13

PRETORIA'S streets, offices and shops were virtually emptied of blacks yesterday as the majority of residents from surrounding townships stayed away in protest against electricity cuts in Atteridgeville and Saulsville townships and in support of the reincorporation of Bophuthatswana into SA.

**Taxis**

Shops operated on skeleton staff, while some restaurants were reduced to serving only liquid refreshments in the absence of kitchen staff and supplies.

A Sabinet spokesman said no taxis were on the streets yesterday.

Sabinet members, he said, were part of the community and heeded the call by the various progressive organisations.

Secondly, it would have been uneconomic for taxis to be on the streets when there were no customers coming.

A Putco were prevented from running.

There were complaints that the taxi's shops were closed by the Atteridgeville Organising Committee of the ANC.

The act against the supplies to the taxi industry to be on the streets.

Five killed, two hurt in 'faction' fight

Five people were killed and two injured in clashes between Xhosa and alleged Inkatha factions at Zonkizwe, an informal check settlement south of Kriel on the Amandla Road.

Police liaison officer Capt Ida van Zeeuw said yesterday police discovered five bodies yesterday morning. Two of the deceased had been shot and the other three hacked to death.

Police also found an injured man who had been shot through the chin, but his injuries were "not serious".

By yesterday afternoon police had moved into the settlement to restore calm and had disarmed warring sides. Van Zeeuw dismissed as "utter nonsense" claims that police had disarmed Xhosa residents while supplying arms to the Inkatha.

A priest said he went to Zonkizwe yesterday after hearing complaints that men claiming to be from Inkatha broke up a residents' meeting on Sunday. He said a man was stabbed. The same man returned yesterday and killed others, he said.
A concerted drive to force the collapse of black local authorities would begin with marches in southern and western Transvaal towns, the Civic Association of Southern Transvaal (Cast) announced yesterday.

Cast spokesman Moses Mayekiso told a news conference in Johannesburg that a recent conference of affiliated civic associations gave his organisation a mandate to announce the beginning of mass action to mobilise people towards effective change.

In the wake of electricity and water supply cuts to townships recently, the civic associations had stepped up pressure for the resignation of black councillors and, under the umbrella of Cast, have seen a number of them leave their posts.

Mass action in the form of protests, isolation of councillors and boycotts against their businesses would be embarked on, with the immediate goal of getting all black councillors to resign by November 30.

Pressure on white councillors would soon follow to work for one city, one tax base, Mayekiso said.

Coloured and Indian management committee systems had to go by the end of December.

Tax base

The reasons for the mass action were given as the continued existence of the black local authorities and coloured and Indian management systems, and the cutting off of electricity supply to many black townships.

Another reason was the lack of appreciable movement towards the establishment of one tax base per city.

Gerald Reilly reports the TPA yesterday listed nine townships hit by, or threatened with, power and electricity cuts.

They are Stilfontein (Carolina), Kwa-Guga (Witbank), Engwenya (Waterval Boven), Atteridgeville in Pretoria, Zithobeni in Northern Transvaal, Tswesisiang (Wolmaransstad), Botleng (Bloomfield), Kapkale (Leeu-deringstad) and Jouberton (Klerksdorp).

A TPA spokesman stressed the administration was not responsible for power and water cuts. This was done by the bulk suppliers.

Negotiations had been held or would be held later this month with about 20 other black townships on the issue of mounting unpaid service charges and possible power and water cuts. Included were Kagiso (Krugersdorp), Alexandra and Evaton (Vaal), Jouberton and Wesselton in the eastern Transvaal.

The spokesman said it was difficult to determine at any one time how many towns had been blacked out because the situation fluctuated.
16 die as rent dispute flares into fighting

By SANDILE MENCHENA

At least 16 people died in Zonkizizwe, Katlehong, this week when a dispute over a rent boycott exploded into violence.

Now the violence threatens to grow into a new ANC-Inkatha war, according to residents.

Residents have expressed concern over the renewed fighting in the area.

“We thought peace had returned to the people and we were disappointed that this has to take place just before Christmas,” said Agnes Khumalo, 65.

Already a wave of panic has spread through the area with residents fleeing their homes after a series of dusk attacks by assailants armed with AK-47s.

“Stunned survivors of the new wave of violence described the past week as a “living hell” and have sought refuge in surrounding areas of Palm Ridge, Natalspruit Hospital and nearby police stations.

Scores of others have escaped into houses of relatives and friends in Thokoza, Sebokeng and Natalspruit.

Zonkizizwe – which means “all nations” – was tense this week as residents returned to the area in daytime to salvage whatever possessions they had left behind.

The outbreak of violence followed a community gathering last Sunday when alleged Zulu-speaking men attacked residents.

This follows a dispute over joining the rent boycott.

East Rand TPA spokesman Tom Botha said a faction in the community wanted to engage in a rent boycott and not pay for water and sewage services.

“Apparently some of the residents were unwilling and said they did not want to be part of self-serving political groups in the area,” said Botha.

Water-tanker drivers were intimidated and could not go into the area.

“It was impossible for us to move in and things only got better under police escort,” said Botha.

Residents said a rent-office employee, Khehla Petros Maduna, was shot and killed after he had defended the call from a faction not to pay rent.

But Botha said Maduna’s killing could have been a personal issue.

Residents said the rent dispute was being overtaken by tribal prejudice and Zulu-speaking men had pledged to attack non-Zulus in the area.

A Swazi-speaking man who asked not to be identified told Cts Press he spent a night on his shack roof on Tuesday after groups of Zulu-speaking men went on the rampage.

“I heard sounds of gunfire and saw them shoot randomly,” he said.

Men who were not Zulus only escaped because it was dark and they could not be spotted.

He said he was fleeing in fear of his life and could not return to his shack until the fighting subsided.

Late this week it was tense in Zonkizizwe and hundreds of shacks had their curtains drawn and windows shut.

Zonkizizwe was established last August and has a population of about 80,000. Many of the residents escaped the recent Reef war that claimed 999 lives in Katlehong and Thokoza.
HUNDREDS of metalworkers have fled hostels in the PWV area following tensions sparked by a continuing Inkatha recruitment drive.

This is according to Alfred Woodington, co-ordinator of the National Union of Metalworkers' "crisis unit", set up recently to deal with ethnic/political conflict among the union's members.

The disclosure comes against the backdrop of violent conflict at Iscor hostels in Vanderbijlpark, in which three people have died in three separate attacks in the past week.

Numsa suspects a "mini-commando" is operating out of the disused kwaMadala hostel, where a small number of Inkatha supporters fled in July. Their numbers have swelled to 600, half of whom are not Inkatha supporters.

Ethnic/political violence has spread from Iscor's Natal collieries to the Reef, reports

DREW FORREST

Iscor employees, Numsa suggests unemployed workers were bussed in from kwaZulu

Two of the attacks have been on workers at Iscor's kwaMasize hostel, where the Inkatha fugitives were originally housed. "We see this as an extension of events in the Natal collieries," Woodington said.

"The aim is apparently to get all Inkatha supporters to resign from Cosatu."

Woodington said 300 of the Iscor hostel fugitives have quit the union.

On the broader problem, he said:

About 200 workers, some Zulu, some Xhosa, had been displaced following hostel conflict in Tembisa.

About 100 workers had quit hostels in the Benoni area. Tensions were running high in the Vosloorus hostel.

Local organisers had managed to contain problems in the kwaThema hostel, but some workers may have moved to the Tembisa squatter camp.

Some hostel dwellers were displaced in West Rand townships, while members had been threatened and their houses attacked.

Woodington said serious problems were not currently being experienced on the shopfloor.

In a statement this week, Numsa said Iscor had tried to portray the Vanderbijlpark violence as a tribal clash, but believed it had enabled management to "take a hard line in wage negotiations and retrenchments without fear of effective strike action".

A key demand is for the immediate removal of non-employees from the kwaMadala hostel, and Iscor's Piet du Plessis said every effort was being made to do this.

Iscor had in principle agreed to a union proposal for an independent investigation of the violence, but wanted clarity on its terms of reference.

The company also favoured the idea of mediation to resolve differences between the two hostels.

Iscor is to appoint an outside investigator to probe National Union of Mineworkers allegations of management complicity in conflict at its Durban and Hlobane collieries in Natal.
**Numsa wants govt involvement**

**R4bn plan to replace hostels with houses**

THE National Union of Metalworkers of SA (Numsa) has proposed a R4bn joint Cosatu/ANC/SACP/government plan to replace urban single-sex hostels with housing units integrated into surrounding communities.

Numsa general secretary Moses Mayekiso disclosed yesterday that the proposal was being discussed by Cosatu, which had approved the plan in principle, although many key details still had to be finalised.

It is understood the plan has also been put to Seifsa, which, together with Numsa and other unions administers the Metal Industries Group Pension Fund (MIGPF), whose assets amount to nearly R4bn.

Numsa has proposed that pension funds, primarily the MIGPF, provide up to a quarter (R1bn to R1.5bn) of the total project budget.

Numsa has proposed an additional R1bn each be sought from Jan Steyn's Independent Development Trust; central government and a consortium of building societies and finance houses.

The plan was devised during the township violence in August and September.

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**Hostels**

Research still needed to be done to estimate the number and type of housing units required. Questions of land availability, township layout and infrastructural services and other issues were mentioned.

Mayekiso said the proposal was still no more than bare bones, and matters like precise financial arrangements, including return on investment for participating pension funds, would have to be devised by participants.

A Seifsa source said it could not comment immediately as the two officials involved in the matter — director Brian Angus and industrial relations specialist Dave Carson — were out of the country.